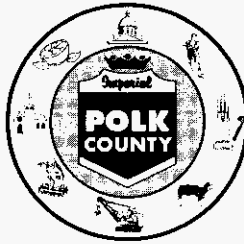


100330-WS



DISTRICT CLERK CENTER
10 DEC -2 AM 7:21

330 W Church St
Drawer BC01
P O Box 9005
Bartow FL 33831-9005
(863) 534-6050
Fax: (863) 534-7655
Ed.Smith@polk-county.net

Edwin V. Smith
Commissioner, District 3
Chairman

Board of County Commissioners

November 23, 2010

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee FL 32399-0850

Ref: Polk County Resolution No. 10-174 (Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc., PSC – Docket 100330)

Dear Commissioners:

The Polk County Board of County Commissioners recently adopted Resolution No. 10-174 (attached) which encourages the Public Service Commission to deny, delay and/or minimize the pending rate increase requested by Aqua Utilities of Florida, Inc. (PSC Docket 100330). While Polk County is respectful of the Public Service Commission's regulatory responsibilities and the sensitive circumstances involved in adjudicating such matters, we strongly feel our current statewide economic conditions warrant serious consideration to delay or deny this request.

On behalf of those citizens of Polk County who will be negatively impacted by the magnitude of these rate increases, the Polk County Board of County Commissioners respectfully requests your careful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Edwin V. Smith, Chairman
Commissioner, District 3

Bob English
Commissioner, District 1

R. Todd Dantzer
Commissioner, District 4

Melony M. Bell
Commissioner, District 2

Sam Johnson
Commissioner, District 5

WDB:cs
attachment

- c: Rep. Seth McKeel
- Rep. Kelli Stargel
- Rep. John Wood
- Rep. Baxter Troutman
- Rep. Mike Homer

- Sen. Rhonda Storms
- Sen. Paula Dockery
- Sen. J.D. Alexander
- Jim Freeman, Interim County Manager
- William Beasley, Interim Deputy County Manager
- Gary Fries, Utilities Director

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

09699 DEC-2 0

RECEIVED - FPSC
10 DEC -2 AM 9:18
COMMISSION
CLERK

RESOLUTION No. 10-174

A RESOLUTION OF THE POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS URGING THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO DILIGENTLY FULFILL ITS ROLE OF ENSURING THAT FLORIDA'S CONSUMERS RECEIVE SOME OF THEIR MOST ESSENTIAL SERVICES — ELECTRIC, NATURAL GAS, TELEPHONE, WATER, AND WASTEWATER — IN A SAFE, AFFORDABLE, AND RELIABLE MANNER DURING ITS REVIEW OF THE AQUA UTILITIES RATE CASE DOCKET 100330, "APPLICATION FOR INCREASE IN WATER/WASTEWATER RATES IN ALACHUA, BREVARD, DESOTO, HARDEE, HIGHLANDS, LAKE, LEE, MARION, ORANGE, PALM BEACH, PASCO, POLK, PUTNAM, SEMINOLE, SUMTER, VOLUSIA, AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, BY AQUA UTILITIES FLORIDA, INC."

WHEREAS, Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc., provides water and/or wastewater services to Polk County citizens via its Breeze Hill, Gibsonia Estates, Lake Gibson Estates, Orange Hill/Sugar Creek, Rosalie Oaks, Sugar Creek/Orange Hill, and Village Water utility systems; and

WHEREAS, Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc., is seeking to increase its water and wastewater rates through Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) Docket 100330, "Application for Increase in Water/Wastewater Rates in Alachua, Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Lake, Lee, Marion, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Polk, Putnam, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia, and Washington Counties, by Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc.;" and

WHEREAS, the PSC exercises regulatory authority over utilities in one or more of three key areas: rate base/economic regulation; competitive market oversight; and monitoring of safety, reliability, and service; and

WHEREAS, our nation is going through one of the most difficult economic times in its history, with the national unemployment rate hovering around 10%, and Florida's unemployment rate as of June 2010 being approximately 11%; and

WHEREAS, despite signs of economic recovery at the national level, economic conditions in cities, towns, and villages across the country continue to worsen; and

WHEREAS, it appears that Social Security recipients will not receive a cost of living increase for the second year in a row; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Polk County Board of County Commissioners that:

- 1) The Public Service Commission aggressively examines Aqua Utilities, Florida, Inc., rate case Docket 100330 and deny, delay, and/or minimize the requested rate increase in light of the fact that the Commission recently granted Aqua Utilities, Florida, Inc. substantial rate increases in Polk County.
- 2) The Public Service Commission, in addition to its current standards, consider the economic times citizens are facing, and further consider when possible delaying rate increases until they are absolutely necessary.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 16th **DAY OF NOVEMBER 2010.**

ATTEST:

RICHARD M. WEISS, Clerk

By: Freida L. Wade
Deputy Clerk N. 31



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Edward V. Smith
Chairman