

BRUNSWICK REGIONAL WATER & SEWER H2GO
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY JULY 26, 2023

OFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ronnie Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.; a quorum was present. The assembly cited the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Present from the Board of Commissioners were members Ronnie Jenkins, Chairman, Barry Laub, Vice Chairman, Rodney McCoy, Secretary, Commissioners Steve Hosmer, and Bill Beer. Present from H2GO was Bob Walker, Executive Director-Administration, Russ Lane, Assistant Executive Director-Operations, Ken Brown, Finance Officer, Brenda Thurman, Customer Service Manager, Stephanie Blair, Communications Director, Dave Pinette, Human Resource Officer, and Deana Greiner, Clerk to the Board. Also present was attorney Steve Coble.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA:

Chairman Jenkins opened the floor for any adjustments to the agenda, Mr. Walker requested moving the Executive Session after Public Comments. Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to approve the agenda as amended; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Laub made the motion to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the June 21, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the July 5, 2023, Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented. A vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Commissioner Beer mentioned an email he received from a customer in Brunswick Forest; he said the email was very complimentary. Commissioner Beer explained the customer had a leak that we detected and was happy with the service he received from the customer service staff and field staff. Commissioner Laub mentioned that he was still dealing with complaints on the water pressure in Compass Pointe. Commissioner McCoy mentioned that a while back he was trying to see if the discharge water from the RO Plant could be used for a splash pad in the Belville Park; he said he has found out that this would not be feasible because the State classifies the discharge water as the same classification as reclaimed water.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Jenkins opened the floor for public comments.

Charlie Gartland: 5039 Stoney Pointe, Brunswick Forest: Mr. Gartland inquired about allowing cell phone carriers to put antennas on the water tower in Brunswick Forest; he said this would provide the area will better cell phone service.

Mr. Walker stated that we are currently under contract with AT&T to have cellular antennas placed on the water tower; he said that Verizon declined but would possibly revisit the idea later.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Beer made the motion for the board to enter executive session to discuss Consultation with Legal Counsel, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3); and Contract Negotiations, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(5); a vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Laub motioned for the board to return to open session; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

It was said there was nothing to report out of the Executive Session.

OLD BUSINESS:

None discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annexation Resolution: Criteria Development: Mr. Walker presented to the board a petition for annexation from Criteria Development; he explained that previously this property had been petitioned for annexation from the previous owner however, the sale of the lots went through between the time of our board approving the previous annexation and having it filed. Commissioner McCoy made the motion to approve the Resolution to annex the parcels owned by Criteria Development as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

DOD: Compass Pointe Ph 3 Harbor Cove Mr. Walker presented to the board the deed of dedication for Compass Point Phase 3 Harbor Cove; he stated that everything was complete, and the paperwork was in order. Commissioner Laub made the motion to approve the deed of dedication for Compass Pointe Phase 3, Harbor Cove as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

RO Plant Update: Mr. Walker reported to the board a summary of the plant's first month in operation; he stated the plant processed over 100 million gallons of water. Mr. Walker said we were running on average 3.8 MGD with a peak demand at 4.8 million gallons. It was said our plant can run up to 6 MGD. Mr. Walker stated that it appeared that the alternative day irrigation policy was helping to spread the usage over the course of the week. There was a brief discussion on the smell and taste of the water. It was said that so many people have been drinking bottled water for so long that naturally the RO Water will taste and smell different.

H2GO Staffing Request: Mr. Walker informed the board that he had been sending the justification forms in for each proposed hire; he explained where these jobs were needed and that they would not be hired all at once. It was said the plan was to bring in the new positions over the next 6 to 12 months. It was said that the most needed positions were the engineer and the procurement specialist.

Proposed H2GO Operations Complex-Architectural/Engineering RFQ Responses: Mr. Walker reported to the board that he has received two RFQ responses for the H2GO Operations Complex-Architectural/Engineering; he said one was from John Thompson who we have worked with previously and one was from Becker Morgan Group. Mr. Walker explained that both RFQs referenced the same subcontract engineers for electrical and mechanical. Mr. Walker explained that the biggest difference was that John Thompson's RFQ added space allocation study and cost estimate analysis. Commissioner Laub made the motion to move forward with the proposed H2GO Operations Complex, hiring John Thompson for architectural/engineering services as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Membership Request-Cape Fear Council of Governments (CFCOG): Mr. Walker explained that with SB750 passing the senate that H2GO can look into setting up voting districts; he explained that the districts should be determined by an outside party. Mr. Walker explained that he has contacted Cape Fear Council of Governments; he said they have helped others, including Northwest in setting up voting districts in the past. Mr. Walker explained that for us to use their services we would need to become an affiliate member. The board briefly discussed this; it was said that as a member we would have access to valuable resources. The board generally agreed to move forward with this item. It was that Mr. Walker will have them give a formal presentation at the next board meeting.

Truck Bids: Mr. Walker presented to the board several truck bids; he explained that we were looking to purchase two trucks and four SUVs. It was said that the bids came in \$8000 less than budget. Commissioner McCoy made the motion to purchase the vehicles as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-OPERATIONS:

Distribution System Water Sampling Mr. Lane reported to the board that he has completed the first round of sampling requirements from the State; he explained that the THMs levels were the best they have been in 20 years. Mr. Lane reported that the PFOAs and 1-4 Dioxane were non-

detected. Mr. Walker mentioned that he had talked to the County's water plant operator and was told that the County's levels were at 1 for THMs and we were less than 0.05.

Compass Point Booster Pump Update: Mr. Lane reported that the engineers have submitted all applications to the State and the paperwork was under review. Mr. Lane said that everything was unhooked from the Brunswick Forest site; the concrete slab was ready; the materials would be delivered and onsite by the end of the week. Mr. Lane explained that we were basically waiting for the State to give us the permit to build. Mr. Lane also explained that Duke Energy had to get an easement from themselves in order to give us power to the site; he said that we were planning to have generators in place as a backup.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-ADMINISTRATION:

It was said that Mr. Hook was out on vacation.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Check Register- June 1-30, 2023: No comments were made regarding the check register.

June Financial Summary: No comments were made regarding the June Financial Summary. Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to have the monthly financial statement posted on the H2GO's website; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

There was a brief discussion regarding grinder pumps; it was said that we no longer provide grinder pumps; that it was the developer/builder's responsibility to purchase grinder pumps. It was said that we were still first point of contact when there was an issue and that we do have a few pumps on hand for emergency situations. Mr. Walker mentioned that we were working with DEQ to set requirements of the developers for long term maintenance agreements on grinder pump systems to put some of that maintenance back on the developers. It was said that developers still needed to follow our specifications.

Ordinance Closing of Various Capital Project Funds: Mr. Brown presented to the board a budget ordinance closing out various capital project funds; he explained that these projects were completed, and we needed to close them out to put any left-over monies back into the general fund. Commissioner Beer made the motion to approve the budget ordinance closing of various capital project funds as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Communications Update: Mrs. Blair explained to the board that included in their packets was a google review and a review of the social media commentary.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Mr. Coble stated that he had nothing to report in open session.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Walker stated that sometimes there is a lot of backup information that the board needs to make decisions; he mentioned the various emails he had sent and asked if the board found it helpful. The board generally agreed that it was helpful and asked Mr. Walker to continue sending them updates. The board also asked that staff explore ideas for paperless agenda packets and or reduce the amount of printer materials.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

Chairman Jenkins announced the next Regular Board Meeting to be August 16, 2023, at 6 p.m.; he said the meeting will be located at Belville Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:


Commissioner Laub made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m., a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.



Ronnie Jenkins, Chairman



Rodney McCoy, Secretary



Deana Greiner, CMC Clerk to Board



Date of Approval