

**BRUNSWICK REGIONAL WATER & SEWER H2GO
SPECIAL REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021**

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, Steve Hosmer, Vice Chairman, Rodney McCoy, Secretary, Bill Beer and Barry Laub, present from H2GO was Bob Walker, Executive Director, Scott Hook, Finance Officer, Russ Lane, Assistant Executive Director, Tyler Wittkofsky, Public Information Officer, Brenda Thurman, Customer Service Manager, and Deana Greiner, Clerk to the Board. Also present was attorney Steve Coble.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of May 11, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Approval of June 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

Approval of June 30, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes: **Commissioner Laub made the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Commissioner Beer reported that he received some good comments regarding Mr. Walker from a developer recently; he thanked Mr. Walker for working hard and doing a good job keeping our customers happy. Commissioner Laub expressed that he was pleased to see our commissioners re-running for election this year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Jenkins opened the floor for public comments.

Francine Ameri, 119 Basin St: Mrs. Ameri expressed her dissatisfaction with the sewer non-meter fee of \$54. Mrs. Ameri felt the fee was too high; she said the fee is higher than what she would be paying in usage if she had metered sewer. Mrs. Ameri asked that the board reconsider this fee.

OLD BUSINESS:

None discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sewer Non-Meter Rates: Mr. Hook explained that our rate for sewer non-meter used to be \$35; he said it was increased when we did the rate study. Mr. Hook explained there were only about 50 customers involved; he said it would not hurt H2GO to lower this fee. **Commissioner Beer made the motion to reduce the sewer non-meter rate to \$35; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Irrigation Meter Removal and Reinstall Policy: Mr. Walker explained to the board that Leland had a different rate structure for irrigation than what we have; he said that with our rate structure we charge a base fee regardless of usage. Mr. Walker explained they did a random audit of several Brunswick Forest accounts; he said if someone used their irrigation at least seven months out the year, our rates for the year come out cheaper than what Leland's rates were. Mr. Walker explained there were several customers who don't use irrigation at all and these customers are not wanting to pay the base fees. Mr. Walker said current policy requires a customer to cut and cap their line to avoid base fees; he explained some customers were asking if we could just not charge the base fees and keep their meters. Mr. Walker said staff recommendation is keep policy as is. He wanted to bring it up to the board to see if something should be done differently. Discussion ensued. The point was brought up that some HOAs require irrigation. The general consensus was to leave policy as is. There was a brief discussion on cutting and capping irrigation. It was said that there was now an instructional video posted on our website. There was a brief discussion on billing and the fact that the first bill received included 76 days. It was said customers were having a hard time realizing that the first bill is not a true depiction of a normal bill. There was a brief discussion on whether or not it would be feasible to set up a satellite office for Brunswick Forest. It was said by the time we could set anything up the issues would be mostly resolved.

Rules & Regulations for Operation of Water System, Section 3.14-Improvement Guarantees

Rules & Regulations for Operation of Sewer System, Section 6.5-Improvement Guarantees: Mr. Walker explained that currently our policy is to only accept Cash Bonds; he explained that he has amended the policy to include Letter of Credits or some sort of Surety Bond. Mr. Walker stated that Mr. Coble has reviewed the policy. There was a brief discussion on the difference between a cash bond and letter of credit. **Commissioner McCoy made the motion to accept the proposed changes to the Water and Sewer Rules and Regulations as presented; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Brunswick Forest Annexation Petition Mr. Walker presented to the Board the petition for annexation of Brunswick Forest. It was said that there were 388 signatures verified as resident free holders. It was said this made up the required 15% to present to the State Health Commission. There was brief discussion on educating the public on this issue; specially information on the special election; information on why it's showing up on their ballot. **Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to accept the petition to annex Brunswick Forest as presented; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution 2021-07-01 Annexation of Territory commonly known as Brunswick Forest: **Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-07-01 Annexation of Territory commonly known as Brunswick Forest as presented; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Brunswick Forest Annexation—Next Steps It was said that once our board accepts this petition, a joint public hearing with the State Health Commission will be scheduled; then the commission will vote to accept; then the county commissioners must vote to hold a special election.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Walker stated he had nothing to report.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Lane stated he had nothing to report.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Check Register, June 9, 2021 thru July 7, 2021: No comments nor questions were made regarding the check register. Mr. Hook stated he had nothing to report.

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT:

Mr. Wittkofsky stated he had nothing to report. The board wanted to know where things stood with advertising the RO Plant. It was said that we were scheduled to have an ad in the North Brunswick Magazine in their Fall Edition.. It was said that Mr. Walker and Mr. Wittkofsky wanted to wait until the building went up so they could use it in the background for the Business Break on WECT; they are planning to feature us in their Business Break segments. It was said that billing inserts started this month. Mr. Wittkofsky stated that copies of all the billing inserts were included in the communication plan.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Mr. Coble said he had nothing to report in open session.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Commissioner McCoy wanted Mr. Walker to look into the pros and cons of developing district voting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Beer made the motion for the board to enter executive session at 6:27 pm 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 Hosmer motioned for the board to return to open session; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.

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

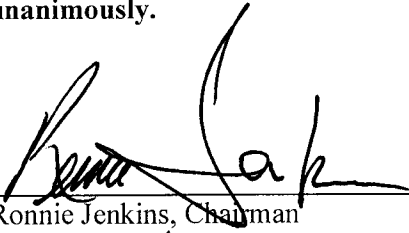
ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

Commissioner Beer made the motion for the board to cancel the regularly scheduled board meeting for July 20, 2021; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.

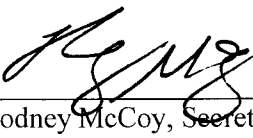
Chairman Jenkins announced that the next Regular Meeting would be held on June 15, 2021 at 6:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:


Commissioner McCoy made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm, the motion carried unanimously.



Ronnie Jenkins, Chairman



Rodney McCoy, Secretary



Deana Greiner, CMC Clerk to Board



Date of Approval