

**BRUNSWICK REGIONAL WATER & SEWER H2GO
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022**

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, Bill Beer and Steve Hosmer, present from H2GO was Bob Walker, Executive Director, Scott Hook, Finance Officer, Ken Brown, Assistant Finance Officer, Jared Glick, Asset and CIP Manager, TJ West, Safety 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. Hook requested to remove the auditor's report from the agenda. Mr. Walker requested to add introduction of our new Communications Director to new business. Commissioner Hosmer requested to add discussion on a promotion related to community pools. **Commissioner Laub made the motion to approve the agenda as amended; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Beer made the motion to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the March 15, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, the March 29, 2022 Special Board Meeting Minutes, and the April 6, 2022 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes. A vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Commissioner Beer relayed a message of gratitude from one of his neighbors in reference to us fixing a leaking hydrant.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Jenkins opened the floor for public comments.

Harold Matthews: Crofters Point HOA: Mr. Matthews addressed the board with his concerns regarding the fact that his neighborhood consisting of 25 homes have failing septic systems. Mr. Matthews explained that he had reached out to Mr. Walker two years ago regarding this issue; he explained that there was a resident that needed something quickly done at that time because their septic had failed. Mr. Matthews explained that work was done to resolve the issue and he explained that it was his understanding that work would be completed so that others could hook on later. Mr.

Matthews explained that when he went to Mr. Walker this time that Mr. Walker began telling him there would be fees and cost that would have to be paid by all the residents and the residents would have to be annexed into the Town because of their ILA. Mr. Matthews expressed that he felt this wasn't right and that things should be what was told to him two years ago; that they could get a completed system without all the extra fees and annexation. Mr. Matthews asked the board for help in getting a completed septic system for his community.

Mr. Walker explained to the board that two years ago he was approached by a resident whose septic failed; he explained that it was suggested they install a grinder pump. Mr. Walker explained that he told them at that time that if the rest of the community would commit to the system then they could finish; he said no one came forth until now. Mr. Walker explained that we are in a very different situation since two years ago; with price increases and supply issues; he explained that we should handle this with a special assessment just like we have done with every other area. The ILA was mentioned; it was suggested that since this issue started before the ILA that it may not be required to be annexed.

OLD BUSINESS:

2022 Board Meeting Schedule Revised: Mrs. Greiner presented to the board a revised board meeting schedule; she explained that the Town of Leland was going to be renovating their Town Hall and the Council Chambers would not be available beginning in June. Mrs. Greiner explained that she reached out to the Town of Belville about using their facilities; she said that in order to do so we would have to consider changing our meeting day to Wednesday. **Commissioner Laub made the motion to approve the revised 2022 Board Meeting Schedule as presented; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.** The question was asked about the Town of Leland's meetings and Mrs. Greiner explained that they were moving all their meetings to the Cultural Art Center.

NEW BUSINESS:

Introduction of New Communications Director: Stephanie Blair: Mr. Walker introduced to the board our new Communications Director, Stephanie Blair; he said Mrs. Blair will start on Monday. The board welcomed Mrs. Blair to the H2GO family.

Deed of Dedication: Pinnacle at Mallory Creek: Mr. Walker presented to the board the deed of dedication for Pinnacle at Mallory Creek; he said all was in order for this deed of dedication to be approved. **Commissioner McCoy made the motion to accept the deed of dedication for Pinnacle at Mallory Creek as presented; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution 2022-04-01 to Amend Personnel Policy Article VI Employee Benefits: Mr. Hook presented to the board the Resolution 2022-04-01 to Amend the Personnel Policy Article VI Employee Benefits; he explained that this was to add the provision of H2GO paying for a portion of the employee's spouse and or dependent's insurance premium. Mr. Hook said this benefit would not be effective until July 1, 2022. **Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to approve the Resolution 2022-04-01 to Amend Personnel Policy Article VI Employee Benefits as presented; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

NCDEQ AIA Grant Application-Water Resolution 2022-04-02:

NCDEQ AIA Grant Application- Waste Water Resolution 2022-04-03: Mr. Walker presented to the board Resolution 2022-04-02 and Resolution 2022-04-03 for the NC DEQ AIA Grant applications for Water and Waste Water. Mr. Walker explained that these grants would help in our mapping needs, our assessment needs of evaluating new service areas, tracking maintenance and repairs of assets, and helping us reduce redundancy in our distribution/collection systems. Mr. Walker explained that these resolutions were needed for the application which was due by May 2, 2022. **Commissioner Laub made the motion to approve both the NCDEQ AIA Grant Application Water Resolution 2022-04-02 and the NCDEQ AIA Grant Application Waste Water Resolution 2022-04-03 as presented; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.** There was a brief discussion on grants. It was said the challenge we face is that many of the grants available are based on distress and risk; it was said H2GO was not distress nor at any kind of risk. It was said that given we recently took over the Town of Leland's utilities, some of which were in need of attention; that we were trying to use that to our advantage.

Adoption of Revised Construction Development Standards & Specification : Mr. Glick presented to the board a set of revised construction development standards and specifications for the water distribution and collections system; he explained that this was something we have been working on for two years. Mr. Glick explained that staff and the Wooten Company has been working together to clean up old verbiage so that there would be a clear understanding and consistency. **Commissioner Beer made the motion to approve the Revised Construction Development Standards & Specifications as presented; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Promotion related to community pools: Commissioner Hosmer wanted to ask if the staff could come up with a policy/promotion for community pools; he was referring to apartment complex pools and HOA pools. Commissioner Hosmer explained that he thought it would be a good idea to offer one free pool fill up for those community pools that wanted to change out their old water for RO Water. Commissioner Hosmer explained that in return the pool entity would need to display a sign for a set period of time that would say something like RO Water provided by H2GO. The board briefly discussed this idea. It was said that this would only apply to community pools. It was also mentioned that communities that offer salt water pools will have to put salt back into their pool; that we would only supply water.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

RO WTP Update: Mr. Walker reported that the membranes had been delivered; he said the well pumps were on schedule for May, the generator switches will be in in June, and there was no confirmation yet on the BFD drives. Mr. Walker said overall things was moving forward and on track.

Safety Officer's Report: TJ West: Mr. West reported to the board that H2GO was now over 3900 days of no loss time accidents; he explained that he has implemented monthly safety workshops for the employees. Mr. West explained that these classes will give our employees their needed hours for continue education training required for their various licenses. Mr. West explained that he has also implemented a new vending machine system that allows him to monitor check in and check out and use of various PPE and other safety related supplies.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

It was said that Mr. Lane was out on vacation; there was nothing to report.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Check Register-March 14, 2022 thru April 13, 2022: Mr. Hook asked the board if they had any questions regarding the check register. It was asked who was Carolina Civil Works; it was said they were one of the contractors working on the RO Plant. It was asked who was Kingdom Cars; it was said we bought a couple of used low mileage trucks because we could not get new ones. Mr. Hook explained that the new trucks have been on backorder for over a year and the dealer ended up canceling our order.

FY2021-2022 Fund 50 Budget Ordinance Amendment Mr. Hook presented to the board a FY2021-2022 Fund 50 Budget Ordinance Amendment; he explained that this was needed due to all the growth in the area. Mr. Hook said we are processing more and more new applications every day; he said with more revenue comes more expenses. **Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to approve the FY2021-2022 Fund 50 Budget Ordinance Amendment as presented; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Adopting Budget and Rate & Fee Schedule for FY2022-2023: Mr. Hook explained that the board needed to set a public hearing for the FY2022-2023 Budget and Rate and Fee Schedule. **Commissioner McCoy made the motion to set a public hearing for the FY2022-2023 Budget and Rate and Fee Schedule to be May 11, 2022 at 6 p.m. at Leland Town Hall; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

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

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Hosmer congratulated staff on all their hard work; he mentioned that he had read an article about struggling utilities. Commissioner Hosmer said there were many utilities that are not prepared for all the growth, the increase in material costs, the supply issues, etc.

Commissioner Laub mentioned Mr. Stewart's comments from the last meeting; he wanted to clarify that Brunswick County was in fact in an area prone to drought conditions. Commissioner Laub stressed the importance of educating the community on why we have the policies we have.

Commissioner Beer asked about there being any grants available. Mr. Walker explained that there are grants out there; he explained that the challenge with us is that we are too sufficient in our operations. Mr. Walker said that most of the grants goes to struggling utilities who are in distress and are at risk. It was said that we are trying to work with the Town of Leland to see if and what we could apply for.

Mr. Walker mentioned that maintenance staff has come back and reported many customer in Brunswick Forest have changed their timers on their irrigations; he said most customers are getting on board with the new policy.

Members of the board expressed that there hasn't been a lot of complaints recently; it was said that they felt the general community understood all that was going on.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

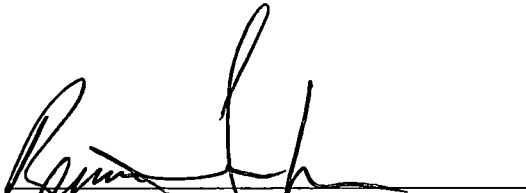
It was said there was nothing to report out of Executive Session.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

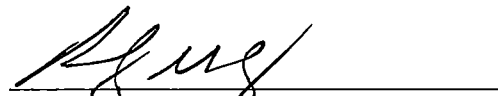
Chairman Jenkins announced the next Regular Board Meeting to be May 11, 2022 at 6 p.m.; he said the meeting will be located at Leland Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:


Commissioner Laub made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm, the motion carried unanimously.



Ronnie Jenkins, Chairman



Rodney McCoy, Secretary



Deana Greiner, CMC Clerk to Board

5-11-22

Date of Approval