

BRUNSWICK REGIONAL WATER & SEWER H2GO  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER ,15 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, Scott Hook, Assistant Executive Director-Administration, Ken Brown, Finance Officer, and Stephanie Blair, Communications Director, Jennifer Philips, Lead Accountant, Brenda Thurman, Customer Service Manager, and Deana Greiner, Clerk to the Board. Also present was the attorney, Steve Coble.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA:

Chairman Jenkins opened the floor for any adjustments to the agenda. Mr. Walker requested to add an update on the ASR Phase 3 Injection Test to his report. Mr. Brown requested to add a discussion on the Purchase Policy to his report. Commissioner Beer made the motion to approve the agenda as amended; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the October 18, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. A vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Members of the board expressed their excitement for the RO Plant Ribbon Cutting tomorrow, November 16, 2023, at 3 pm. Members of the board congratulated Commissioner Hosmer and Commissioner Laub on their re-election to the board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Jenkins opened the floor for public comments. No other patrons were present.

## OLD BUSINESS:

None discussed.

## NEW BUSINESS:

*Deed of Dedication Sessoms Way*

*Deed of Dedication Brunswick Forest: Ph2 Sec 6*

*Deed of Dedication Brunswick Forest: Ph 9 Sec 3*

*Deed of Dedication Brunswick Forest: Ph 9 Sec 4*

*Deed of Dedication Brunswick Forest: Ph 9 Sec 4B*

*Deed of Dedication Brunswick Forest: Ph 9 Sec 5*

*Deed of Dedication Brunswick Forest: Ph 5 Sec 5-B2*

*Deed of Dedication Jackey's Ridge*

Mr. Walker presented to the board eight deeds of dedication. Mr. Coble pointed out that two of the deeds of dedications did not reference the lot numbers on the plat maps correctly; he said it was Brunswick Forest Ph 9 Sec 3 and Jackey's Ridge. Mr. Coble suggested that the board approves these deeds of dedication contingent upon making those corrections. It was said that the other deeds of dedication were all good.

Commissioner McCoy made the motion to approve the Brunswick Forest Ph 9 Sec 3 deed of dedication and the Jackey's Ridge Deed of Dedication contingent upon getting the corrected lot numbers referenced; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Commissioner Beer made the motion to approve the Sessoms Way Deed of Dedication, the Brunswick Forest Ph 2 Sec 6 Deed of Dedication, the Brunswick Forest Ph 8 Sec 4 deed of dedication, the Brunswick Forest Ph 9 Sec 4B deed of dedication, and the Brunswick Forest Ph 9 Sec 5 Deed of Dedication, the Brunswick Forest Ph 5 Sec 5-B2 deed of dedication as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

*Jackey's Ridge Bond Release* Mr. Walker explained to the board that he received a request from D.R. Horton to have their bond released for Jackey's Ridge in the amount of \$729,375. Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to release the bond for Jackey's Ridge to D.R. Horton as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

*RO Plant Update:* Mr. Walker reported that the month of October was similar to September in that the RO Plant average daily demand was 3.4 MGD; he said our peak demand day was at 3.8 MGD.

*ASR Phase 3 Injection Testing:* Mr. Walker explained that the injection test started on Monday; and they were injecting at a higher rate than expected. Mr. Walker said this will

shorten the injection time to 45 days. Mr. Walker explained that once the injection time was completed, the water will sit in the aquifer for 30 days; he explained that they will be injecting up to 3 million gallons and then taking out up to 2 million gallons. Discussion ensued on ASR Well operations. It was said that ideally water would be injected during the winter months when demand was at its lowest and it would be removed during the summer months when demand was at its highest. Mixing zones were discussed; it was explained that you remove around two thirds of what you put in. It was said the ASR wells were important; it would help lengthen the life of the RO Plant. It was said that it will take roughly two years to have the ASR wells fully operational.

#### ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-OPERATIONS:

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

#### ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Hook stated that he had nothing to report.

#### FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

*Check Register- October 1-31, 2023:* The check for the generators was noted; it was said that we now have all the generators needed.

*October Financial Summary:* There were no comments regarding the October Financial Summary. Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to approve the October Financial Summary for publication on the website as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

*Purchase Policy:* Mr. Brown presented to the board revisions to the purchase policy; he explained that this was only for the board's review. Mr. Brown said that this item would be up for discussion/approval in the December meeting.

#### COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

*Communications Update:* Mrs. Blair explained to the board what she had included in their packets; she said they should have the social media analytics, a recap of any Google reviews and social media posts. Mrs. Blair said that a few news articles about H2GO were also included in their packets. Mrs. Blair reminded the board of the ribbon cutting ceremony, tomorrow, at 3pm.

Commissioner Hosmer mentioned that he is still approached with the question of whether the water is safe to drink. It was said that we should be careful how we give that answer. Mrs. Blair explained that there is a link on the website's home page that directs customers straight to all the information regarding our water quality. There was a brief discussion on customers' complaints about the taste of our water. Mrs. Blair explained that she handles these complaints individually; she suggested we not put information out there that could

spark more negativity. It was said that most of the time, a simple one on one conversation will solve many of these complaints.

#### ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

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

#### INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Beer wanted to clear up a complaint he was given; he explained that a customer had complained about one of our employees dropping trash on the side of the highway. Commissioner Beer explained that in fact it was our employee stopping to pick up someone else's trash; he sent kudos to staff for doing the right thing.

It was suggested that once a month we spotlight an employee; give recognition of some sort; awarding them for their efforts.

It was suggested that we had Human Resources to our agenda; that we add a report each month from the Human Resource Director.

Christmas Bonuses were mentioned. It was suggested that the board gives each employee a one-time bonus of \$500. **Commissioner McCoy made the motion to give each employee a onetime bonus of \$500.** Discussion ensues. Mr. Brown explained that all bonuses must go through payroll and that the IRS requires this to be reported as income. Mr. Brown explained that he was looking into the payroll software to see how such a bonus could be processed in the most beneficial way to our employees. There was the question of whether the board should up the amount to compensate for taxes. It was said the purpose of the bonus was to give the staff a little extra at Christmas to show appreciation; it was said that for it to continually increase year to year would refute that purpose. **A vote was called, the motion was carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to up the amount to \$600 per employee. A vote was called, the motion failed with a vote of 2 yeas from Commissioner McCoy and Commissioner Hosmer and 3 nays from Chairman Jenkins, Commissioner Beer and Commissioner Laub.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Laub 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.

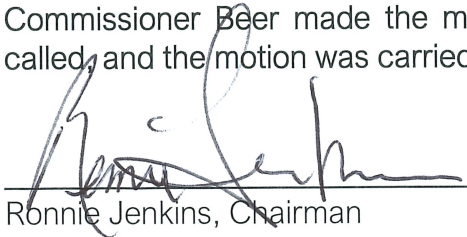
It was stated that there was nothing to report out of the executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

Chairman Jenkins announced the next Regular Board Meeting to be December 4, 2023, at Belville Town Hall at 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Beer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m., a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

  
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Ronnie Jenkins, Chairman

  
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Rodney McCoy, Secretary

  
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Deana Greiner, CMC Clerk to Board

12/4/23  
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Date of Approval