

**BRUNSWICK REGIONAL WATER & SEWER H2GO
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 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, Bill Beer and Steve Hosmer, present from H2GO was Bob Walker, Executive Director, Russ Lane, Assistant Executive Director, Scott Hook, Finance Officer, Brenda Thurman, Customer Service Manager, 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. No adjustments were made. **Commissioner Laub made the motion to approve the agenda as presented; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

It was said that Commissioner McCoy was absent due to a death in the family.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the January 18, 2022 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. A vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Members of the board expressed their condolences to Chairman Jenkins and to Commissioner McCoy for their recent loss of family. Chairman Jenkins thanked the board for flowers and calls.

Commissioner Beer thanked the staff for their quick response in correcting an issue on the website concerning the minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Jenkins opened the floor for public comments.

Mr. Bion Stewart addressed the board with his comments concerning the backflow letter and newly adopted irrigation policy. Mr. Stewart expressed he felt that much of what was being imposed was not adequately distributed to the public; he expressed that there was no input allowed from the public

regarding the policy. Mr. Stewart expressed that he felt the public was being blindsided in that they were given no notice that such a policy was even coming; he said the common perception of H2GO was that they were bullies. Mr. Stewart expressed that the letter given was inadequate in that many customers would not even read it; feeling that it was simply a routine backflow notice. Mr. Stewart expressed that the board needed to re-evaluate their future communications to the public, provide more education, and allow for more public input.

OLD BUSINESS:

None Discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

John Thompson Architectural Services Proposal: Mr. Walker presented to the board John Thompson's Architectural proposal for upgrading H2GO's administration offices; he explained that the proposal included the structural, plumbing, and electrical drawings; and it included the bid packages for subcontractors. Mr. Walker said the total architectural fees for this was proposed at around \$173,000; he said the projected construction cost would be around \$1.5 million. Mr. Walker explained the scope of the project saying that it would nearly double the office space. Mr. Walker said it was staff's recommendation to accept this proposal; he said design services could be done by the end of April, it could go out for bid by July and start construction in September. Overall this project is expected to take about a year to complete. There was a brief discussion regarding costs. Mr. Walker said our project is unique in that our office has to function while construction is going on; he said there are 7 employees who will be displaced to temporary offices. After a brief discussion the board decided they wanted to see more than one proposal before making a decision. **Commissioner Laub made the motion to table the John Thompson Architectural Service Proposal for the office expansion project. A vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Wooten Task Order 43 Amendment-Surveying Services for Well Sites 6, 7, and 8: Mr. Walker presented to the board the Wooten Task Order 43 Amendment-Surveying Services for Well sites 6, 7, and 8. Mr. Walker explained that the State has completed and approved site evaluations for these three areas. Mr. Walker said that with the growth in this area that land will be harder to find; he said he wanted to go ahead and seek purchasing offers for these sites. Mr. Walker said they won't be needed for wells until we expand to 8 million gallons a day. Mr. Walker explained the benefits of having the easements in place in that will help the Town of Leland access their green space in that area and it will allow additional access to Seabrooke. Mr. Walker said this is an amendment to Task Order 43; he said the total cost of the amendment is \$110,500. It was said this does not include drilling the wells. It was said this was for surveying so that we can use the survey maps to approach the property owners for acquisition of the properties. **Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to approve Wooten Task Order 43 Amendment-Surveying Services for Well Sites 6, 7, and 8. A vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mungo Homes Performance Bond-Mill Branch at Spring Hill Subdivision: Mr. Walker presented to the board a performance bond from Clayton Homes doing business for Mungo Homes for Mill Branch at Spring Hill. Mr. Walker explained that the performance bond will allow them to sell lots and build homes concurrent with installing infrastructure. Mr. Walker said this bond will be our insurance for completing the infrastructure if for some reason the developer went belly up. It was said the bond was for \$165,831 which included a 25% allowance/contingency.

Commissioner Beer made the motion to approve the Mungo Homes performance bond as presented. A vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

RO WTP Update: Mr. Walker explained about an issue with the final well site; he said there was a discovery the well was out of plumb causing the hole to be unusable. Mr. Walker said they were abandoning the well and drilling a new one 40 feet out. It was said this new well is being drilled at Skipper's expense. Mr. Walker said that Contract 3 of the RO Plant should be complete within the next two to three weeks; he said this was the raw water lines and finished water lines. Mr. Walker said that at the RO Site they had a good month; he explained they were about to switch out the well pumps and improved the delivery time down to four weeks. Mr. Walker said the roof is installed on the main building; he said the calcite tanks are set. Mr. Walker said testing should start in May. There was a brief discussion on the pumps; it was said they are a little more expensive but just as reliable.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Lane stated he had nothing to report.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Check Register-January 1, 2022 thru February 10, 2022: No comments were made regarding the check register. Mr. Hook said the new software was working great; he said it was much better than the old software.

FY2023 Budget Workshop Meeting: Mr. Hook asked the board if they could set a budget workshop meeting at the end of March. **Commissioner Hosmer made the motion for the board to meet on March 30, 2022 at 10am, at H2GO for a budget workshop meeting. A vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT:

RO Plant Communication Update: It was said that Mr. Wittkofsky was out due to health issues. Mr. Walker said that Mr. Wittkofsky was following his communication plan and a bill insert regarding irrigation was scheduled to go in this month's billing.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

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

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Water quality was mentioned and how we would transition from County water to RO Water. It was said the start of the plant will coincide with our peak demand time; it was said this will help in flushing out the system and turning over the water in the pipes. It was said the flushing process will be similar to our yearly flushing when the County converts their treatment process.

The question was asked if the RO Water would eliminate the issue with rings in the toilet. It was said that the rings are caused by Serratia bacteria; it was said this bacteria is caused by climate not by water quality. It was also said that the bacteria was not harmful.

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

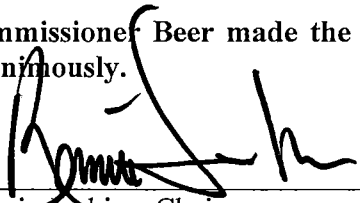
It was said there was nothing to report out of Executive Session.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

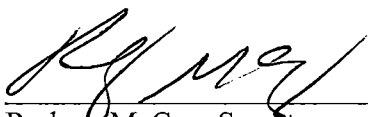
Chairman Jenkins announced that the next Regular Meeting would be held on March 15, 2022 at 6:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Beer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm, the motion carried unanimously.



Ronnie Jenkins, Chairman



Rodney McCoy, Secretary



Deana Greiner, CMC Clerk to Board

3/15/22

Date of Approval