

BRUNSWICK REGIONAL WATER & SEWER H2GO
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 17, 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, Russ Lane, Assistant Executive Director, Scott Hook, Finance Officer, Ken Brown, Assistant Finance Officer, Brenda Thurman, Customer Service Manager, Stephanie Blair, Communications Director, 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. Hearing no adjustments; **Commissioner McCoy made the motion to approve the agenda as presented; a vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Laub made the motion to approve the consent agenda which consisted of the July 20, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. A vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Commissioner Laub mentioned that Commissioner Hosmer had toured the plant; stating that it was now enclosed.

Chairman Jenkins reported that he was in Savannah, Georgia and met with someone there who knew of Leland and had heard about our Reverse Osmosis Plant. Chairman Jenkins said he found the conversation to be very good.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Jenkins opened the floor for public comments.

No patrons were present to give comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Policy on Pool Adjustments: Mr. Walker explained that Commissioner Hosmer wanted to revisit this item; he reminded the board that Commissioner Hosmer had to leave early during the previous meeting and wanted to add to the policy that was approved. Commissioner Hosmer stated he wanted to add to the policy a sign display requirement for the community/public pools. It was said that the signs would serve as a reminder of the good things H2GO was doing such as the RO Plant. There was a brief discussion on how “public,” “semi-public,” and “community” pools would be defined. Mr. Coble stated his suggestion was to use the term “community” pools and let staff use their discretion. It was said this policy would be made effective as soon as the RO Plant is operational. Mr. Walker said he will make the appropriate changes and bring this policy back for approval at the next board meeting.

Return of Bellamy Place Performance Guarantee to DR Horton: Mr. Walker explained that this project was now complete and that we needed to release the cash bond back to the developer. **Commissioner Beer made the motion to return the Bellamy Place performance guarantee back to D R Horton as presented; a vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Deed of Dedication: Seabrooke Phase 4A:

Deed of Dedication: Seabrooke Phase 4B: Mr. Walker presented to the board two deeds of dedication for Seabrooke Phase 4A and Seabrooke Phase 4B; he said all was complete and found to be in order. **Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to accept the Deed of Dedication for Seabrooke Phase 4A and the Deed of Dedication for Seabrooke Phase 4B as presented; a vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Grinder Pump Policy Revised: Mr. Walker explained to the board the history of our Grinder Pump policy and the reasons why we had to keep changing the policy; he explained the latest version required the building to pay us; we would order their grinder package and store at H2GO until the build was ready for installation; the builder would install the basin and control panels and H2GO would install the pump. Mr. Walker explained that because of supply issues and the high demand from builders that it was becoming problematic to keep track of the all the orders. Mr. Walker presented to the board a new policy that would give the builders the responsibility to order and keep track of their own grinder packages. It was said that the builders would be responsible for ordering and installing according to our specifications. Discussion ensues. It was said that any orders that have been made and are still outstanding will be honored; and anyone currently under a two-year warranty period will be honored. It was said no new orders will be made after September 1, 2022. It was suggested that on page 25, that we strike out item #2 completely; on page 25 we strike out the word “new” on item #3, and on page 27 we strike out paragraph number 22. Commissioner Hosmer questioned item #19 on page 27. Mr. Walker explained that when someone signs up for services, the provision of service gives up a blanket easement to access someone’s property to fix a problem.

Commissioner Beer made the motion to approve the resolution to amend the Grinder Pump Policy as discussed; a vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

SDF True-Up Policy Mr. Walker explained that DEQ approved H2GO a flow reduction rate for calculating SDFs; he explained how these SDFs are calculated using DEQ standards. Mr. Walker said the standards are conservative in terms of what these places use; he expressed that he doesn't want to over charge these developments. Mr. Walker explained that if someone presents historical data from a similar entity that they are allowed to use those numbers for calculating SDFs. Mr. Walker presented that this policy would allow for the revised calculation; however, it would also require that the usage be evaluated after a set time; he explained that if it was found more usage on average was being used than what was calculated then they would be charge the difference. It was said that if the usage came back less that there would be no refund given. It was said this true-up calculation would be optional; they can either pay the standard fees or use the true-up option. Discussion ensues on how SDFs are calculated. **Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to approve the SDF-True-Up Policy as presented; a vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Area Annexation petitions outside corporate boundaries: Mr. Walker explained that there were a few areas in our service area that are not annexed into our district boundaries; he said we were working on notifying these customers to let them know they can annex into the district. It was said the only benefit is to give them voting rights.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

RO WTP Update: Mr. Walker reported to the board that the line for Compass Pointe was under construction; he said they were going to directional drill pipe under 74/76 in October. Mr. Walker mentioned the 24-inch line under Jackey's Creek; he said the pipe failed and they had several issues with getting new pipe in. Mr. Walker explained that a company in Texas was shipping in the pipe as no cost to us; he explained that they plan to install the new pipe using a pipe bursting method. Mr. Walker reported that 9 of the 10 well pumps were on site and good; he said the last one should be delivered first of September. Mr. Walker explained that the BFDs for the well pumps were supposed to be delivered in June; however, we have only received 5 out of 10. Mr. Walker explained about an issue that we have worked out using our in-house electrician. Mr. Walker said this item should be checked off in September. Mr. Walker reported on the well site distribution panels; he explained that because of supply issues they had to change the type of panels being used. Mr. Walker said these panels should be in, in September. It was said that there would be generators at each well site and there would be one big enough to power a small city located at the RO Plant. Mr. Walker explained that the progress meetings for the RO Plant are transitioning from construction to testing; he explained the testing process. It was said the testing process will allow time for the operators to get familiar with everything and get any bugs worked out before fully going online.

Mr. Walker reported that they plan to have public campaigns started in October.

Mr. Walker updated the board on the office renovations; he said the plans was about 90% complete and they hope to send it out for permitting in September and hope to have it out for bids by the end of the year. It was said construction will take about a year.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Lane reported that he nothing to report.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Check Register- July 13, 2022, thru August 10, 2022: No comments were made regarding the check register.

July Financial Summary: Mr. Hook pointed out that this month showed a loss of \$2.2 million; he explained that had to do with the lawsuit payout; and due to our annual debt payments.

FY2023 Fund 50 Budget Ordinance Amendment: Mr. Hook reported that the budget amendment was to cover the Gregory Poole Road Improvement project; he said our share of the project was around \$200,000. **Commissioner McCoy made the motion to approve the FY2023 Fund 50 Budget Ordinance Amendment as presented; a vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.**

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Communications Update: Mrs. Blair stated she had nothing to report. It was mentioned that the Brunswick Beacon was the only newspaper to report on our 4000 days of safety. Mrs. Blair explained that she is working on building more relationships with different media outlets to help get our messages out. Mrs. Blair explained that there is scheduled repairs to some manholes in Magnolia Greens that will require some road closures; she said she is working with the Town of Leland's Communications Director on getting this information out.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

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

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Hosmer brought up the idea of taking over storm water. Members of the board expressed their concerns. It was said that we should leave it alone and let the County and the Towns deal with storm water.

Commissioner Hosmer suggested having a workshop to evaluate the organizational structure of H2GO. After a brief discussion the board decided to schedule a workshop in October. **Commissioner Laub made the motion to schedule a workshop meeting to discuss the organizational structure of H2GO on October 26, 2022, at 10 am; located at H2GO; a vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.**

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 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.

Commissioner McCoy made the motion to approve paying the Town of Belville one half of the legal fees owed to the Town of Leland as awarded by the Judge; a vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

Chairman Jenkins announced the next Regular Board Meeting to be September 21, 2022, 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 8:25 p.m., a vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.



Ronnie Jenkins, Chairman



Rodney McCoy, Secretary



Deana Greiner, CMC Clerk to Board



Date of Approval