

BRUNSWICK REGIONAL WATER & SEWER H2GO  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY APRIL 19, 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, Scott Hook, Assistant Executive Director-Administration, Russ Lane, Assistant Executive Director-Operations, Ken Brown, 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 none a motion was called. Commissioner Beer made the motion to approve the agenda as written; 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 March 15, 2023, Regular Board Meeting Minutes and April 10, 2023, Budget Workshop Minutes as presented. A vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Commissioner Laub expressed that he had hoped more people would be in attendance given all the negative comments that have been circling around. Commissioner Beer mentioned the Pine Harvest repair; he said it was completed and done very well. Commissioner Beer said that from his neighborhood there have been more positive comments and people showing understanding. Commissioner McCoy mentioned an email he received about putting ads on our website; he cautioned the board of spam like emails. Commissioner Hosmer expressed that he felt most people are understanding of our RO Plant; he said the information is out there publicly for anyone to see and because of this it helps keep misinformation from spreading. There was a brief discussion on public perception; overall the board was pleased with the work being done in trying to keep our customers informed.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Jenkins opened the floor for public comments.

Mark Newman, Compass Pointe: Mr. Newman thanked the board for putting out the meeting information, he said he was surprised to see there weren't more people in attendance. Mr. Newman explained that he was a district advisory representative for Compass Pointe; he asked the board if there were any backup plans in place for emergency water supply. Mr. Newman also asked if we had consulted any other communities who have switched water treatment to reverse osmosis.

Joann Levitan, Brunswick Forest: Mrs. Levitan address the board with her concerns about the pumps that failed in the RO Plant start up; she asked the board if there could be more information put out regarding those pumps in terms of if they were tested before they were sent. Mrs. Levitan said she felt this information would help with public perception in Brunswick Forest.

## OLD BUSINESS:

*Membrane Sharing:* Commissioner Beer asked if we have looked into membrane sharing with other entities. Mr. Walker explained that it would be almost impossible because the membranes are unique to our water quality and treatment process. Mr. Walker said that we did in fact have one spare membrane.

## NEW BUSINESS:

*Deed of Dedication: Ploof Road/Chappel Loop Parcel:* Mr. Walker presented to the board a deed of dedication for a parcel on Ploof Road/Chappel Loop; he said that Mr. Coble and staff have reviewed it, and all is in order. **Commissioner Beer made the motion to approve the deed of dedication for Ploof Road/Chappel Loop Road Parcel as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

*Deed of Dedication: Beckington Ph 1A Lots 1-12, 78-85*

*Deed of Dedication: Beckington Ph 1B Lots 13-77, 96-143:* Mr. Walker presented to the board a deed of dedication for Beckington Ph 1A Lots 1-12, 78-85 and a deed of dedication for Beckington Ph 1B Lots 13-77, 96-143. Mr. Coble had pointed out that the documents he reviewed were not yet signed. It was said the signed documents were received and ready for approval. **Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to approve both deed of dedications for Beckington contingent upon Mr. Coble final review and approval; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

*Deed of Dedication: Jiffy Lube:* Mr. Walker presented to the board a deed of dedication for Jiffy Lube. It was said this deed was written a little differently because it was only for sewer services. Mr. Coble stated that the document seemed to be in order. It was said that this could be approved, however; we were still waiting for original signed documents. **Commissioner McCoy made the motion to approve the deed of dedication for Jiffy Lube contingent upon staff receiving the original signed documents; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

*RO Water Treatment Project Update:* Mr. Walker began his update by clarifying the fact that whenever he says or has said "we" he is referring to the Contractor so to speak; he said H2GO is the owner, not the contractor of this project. Mr. Walker explained that the contractor is MB Khan; and they have several subcontractors under them. Mr. Walker explained that where H2GO has engaged themselves in some of the processes; he said it was to assist. Mr. Walker said that as owners, we are not the ones in control of buying and sourcing materials; that would fall under the contractor. Mr. Walker stated that H2GO is not directly responsible for the construction of this project. Mr. Walker explained that last July, 10 well pumps were received, 3 of which were received damaged; he said the subcontractor took pictures, documented the damage, and returned them. One motor was beyond repair; one of the motors the leads were replaced, and one they couldn't find anything wrong. Mr. Walker stated that the three that failed were the three that were shipped damaged. Mr. Walker explained that the failed motors could have compromised the pumps; he explained that each was being pulled and evaluated as to why these components failed. Mr. Walker said they have now asked the motor, the pump, and the VFD manufacturers to provide us with all data sheets related to these components.

Mr. Walker explained in terms of public information; he said with some things it is sensitive because we don't want to compromise the security of our well sites and the plant.

Mr. Walker stated that we have 9 well sites and 4 of them are operative; he explained that we are taking these extra steps to ensure that we won't have bigger issues when the plant becomes operational. Mr. Walker said he wants to give the operators the best start possible.

## ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-OPERATIONS:

Mr. Lane stated that he had nothing to report.

## ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-ADMINISTRATION:

Mr. Hook stated that he had nothing to report.

## FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

*Check Register- March 1-31, 2023:* There was a brief discussion on refund checks; it was said that refund checks are given when an account was finalized and there was an over payment on their last bill.

*March Financial Summary:* Mr. Brown explained that he added a 3<sup>rd</sup> column to show where things were with the budget. It was suggested that this financial summary be posted on the website. **Commissioner McCoy made the motion to have the monthly financial statement posted on the H2GO's website; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.**

*Set Public Hearing for FY2023-2024 Budget:* Commissioner Laub made the motion for the board to set a public hearing during our next regular meeting scheduled for May 17, 2023, to hear comments regarding the proposed FY2023-2024 Budget; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

*Recommendation for auditing services for FY2023-2024* Mr. Brown presented to the board quotes for auditing services for FY2023-2024; he recommended that we hire the lowest bidder, Thompson, Price, Scott, and Adams for \$17,500. It was said that we had worked with them before, that they also do the Town of Leland's audit, and that the price was per year. Commissioner Laub made the motion to hire Thompson, Price, Scott, and Adams for auditing services based on the proposal as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

#### COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

*Communications Update:* Mrs. Blair informed the board that included in the agenda packet was the monthly summary from social media; she said this included some of the commentary from next door. Mrs. Blair told the board about us hosting a tour at the Wastewater Treatment Plant; she said it was a Brunswick County Leadership course through the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Blair said everyone had a good time and they learned a lot about how the plant worked; she said they also talked a little bit about the RO Plant and water conservation. Tours and educational events were mentioned, Mrs. Blair said that she was working towards this, however, getting the RO Plant started up was our focus now.

#### ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

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

#### INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Hosmer explained that there was an environmental watchdog group that was planning on taking on the EPA; he explained that the EPA only regulates 27 PFOAS and there are another 27 PFOAS that are found in our water not regulated. The Safe Drinking Water Act was mentioned; it was said that it's something that needs to be addressed. Chairman Jenkins mentioned people asking about their wells; he said a lot of people are concerned with this.

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


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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

Chairman Jenkins announced the next Regular Board Meeting to be May 17, 2023, at 6 p.m.; he said the meeting will be located at Belville Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 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

5-17-23

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Date of Approval