

BRUNSWICK REGIONAL WATER & SEWER H2GO
WORKSHOP MEETING
WEDNESDAY JULY 5, 2023

OFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ronnie Jenkins called the meeting, located at H2GO, to order at 10 a.m.; a quorum was present. The assembly was led in 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, Operations, Scott Hook, Assistant Executive Director, Administration, Ken Brown, Finance Officer, Dave Pinette, Human Resources Director, Stephanie Blair, Communications Director, and Deana Greiner, Clerk to the Board.

FY 2023-2024 BUDGET/PROPOSED ORGANIZATIONAL CHART/NEW HIRE POSITIONS:

Members of the board had questions on the proposed hiring of 10 new positions. The question was asked if there were enough employees today to get things done. Mr. Walker stated no. Mr. Hook explained that with the employees we have today that only the important, high priority things are being done; he explained that there wasn't much room for employees to plan and work on what's upcoming. It was said that there are currently 53 employees and staff are requesting a 25% increase. Members of the board expressed concern about adding so many employees at once; it was said that we should be cautious in expanding our operations too quickly. Mr. Hook explained that our operations were about three years behind; he explained part of the issue went hand in hand with the lack of office space. Mr. Hook said we weren't actively hiring because we didn't have office space to accommodate the positions. It was said that with the Waterford Office and plans to expand/build new offices that we could start hiring the needed positions.

Discussion ensued. Commissioner Hosmer mentioned the Urgent Important Matrix; he explained that the matrix had four boxes labeled Urgent, Non-Urgent, Important, Non-Important; Commissioner Hosmer explained how the matrix was used in prioritizing tasks; he said it was apparent that staff was saying they are only handling or able to handle the Urgent box. The question was asked if staff could look at the proposed positions and prioritize them; which ones were necessary and which ones could be considered later. There were questions about whether all the proposed positions had to be in-house rather than outsourced, and full-time rather than part-time.

Members of the board wanted to see more justification for the proposed positions before deciding. It was said that there needed to be more workshop meetings and planning sessions so that the board can be better informed on operations and staff needs.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS; TRANSITIONING FOCUS FROM RO PLANT:

Mr. Walker listed several Capital Improvement projects that he felt would be next on our agenda; the items listed were as follow:

- Testing of the ASR Wells
- Waterline loop from Grayson Park to Goodman Road to Highway 87 back to Compass Pointe; he said this would be part of the Criteria Development and Logan Development near Malmo Loop.
- Waterline loop from Brunswick Forest to Grayson Park through Bishop's Ridge.
- Construction of well sites 6, 7, & 8; with wellsite 6 happening as soon as possible
- Establishing the proposed Reclaimed Water System
- Regional lift station near Jackey's Creek
- Proposed WWTP expansion; whether we continue partnering with the County or building a satellite no discharge plant near the Malmo Loop developments; it was suggested that another reclaimed water system could be added with that option.

COMPASS POINTE:

The board decided that discussion on this item was best suited for the executive session as it pertained to legal consultation and contract negotiations.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments made.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO CONSULT WITH LEGAL COUNSEL; PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3) AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(5):

Commissioner McCoy made the motion for the board to enter executive session to consult 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 was carried unanimously.

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

There was nothing to report out of the executive session.

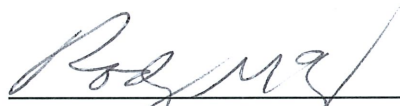
It was said that Compass Pointe was our #1 priority at this time. The board also decided they would set up another planning workshop meeting sometime in September; to be determined at the next regular board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Laub made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m.; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.



Ronnie Jenkins, Chairman



Rodney McCoy, Secretary



Deana Greiner, CMC
Clerk to the Board

7/26/23

Date of Approval