

**BRUNSWICK REGIONAL WATER & SEWER H2GO
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021**

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, Steve Hosmer, Vice Chairman, Rodney McCoy, Secretary, Bill Beer and Barry Laub, present from H2GO was Bob Walker, Executive Director, Scott Hook, Finance Officer, Russ Lane, Assistant Executive Director, Tyler Wittkofsky, Public Information 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. Mr. Lane requested to add discussion on the County change over in their water treatment to his report. Mr. Hook requested to add a data sharing agreement to his report. **Commissioner Beer made the motion to approve the agenda as amended; a vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

This item was not voted on.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

Commissioner Laub mentioned that he was able to tour the plants with Mr. Walker; he said he was really impressed with everything. Commissioners Beer and McCoy mentioned they attended a candidate forum. It was said there was a lot of misinformation being put out and that we were being put in a negative light. Commissioner McCoy mentioned a leak at his house, he expressed that he was impressed with staff that came out. Commissioner McCoy said the staff demonstrated good work ethics and held a good attitude. Commissioner Hosmer reported that he toured the Belville WWTP; he said he was impressed with the enthusiasm of the staff and contractors that were working there. Chairman Jenkins explained that with him working at the school that he was able to speak with a lot of parents in the community; he said mostly people are asking when will we have the RO Plant in operation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Jenkins opened the floor for public comments.

No comments were given.

OLD BUSINESS:

Brunswick Forest Annexation Special Election: Mr. Walker reported that the Public Health Commission has accepted our petition to annex Brunswick Forest into the district; he said Brunswick County Board of Commissioners has accepted our petition to annex Brunswick Forest and the Board of Elections is preparing the ballots for a special election. It was said the residents of Brunswick Forest will vote during this year's election to either annex or not annex into the district.

NEW BUSINESS:

Amend H2GO Rules and Regulations for Operation of Water System, Section 3.3 (d)-Protection of Remote-Read Metering Antennas: Mr. Walker explained to the board that we were having an issue with customers wanting to cover up their meter boxes with mulch. It was said that the flex net system cannot read the meters when there is something covering up the antenna. Mr. Walker presented to the board a tiered fine schedule for when a customer is found in compliance to this rule. There was a brief discussion on this; it was suggested that there be an educational campaign sent out regarding this issue explaining why it was important and what was expected before making this effective. **Commissioner McCoy made the motion to approve the amendment with the following changes; 1st offense is given a warning; 2nd offense is given a \$50 civil fine; 3rd offense is given a \$100 civil fine; effective date will be January 1, 2022. A vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution 2021-09-01: Resolution to Eliminate Fluoridation from Water Treatment System: Mr. Walker presented to the board a resolution that would eliminate fluoridation for the water treatment system. It was said that once approved all we needed to do was notify the local health department and the state on our intended treatment process. It was said that neither organization had to approve of this, they just simply needed to be notified. **Commissioner Laub made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-09-01:Resolution to Eliminate Fluoridation from Water Treatment System. A vote was call and the motion carried unanimously.**

Sewer Rates Amendment: Grinder Pump Package Fees: Mr. Walker explained that the vender of the grinder pump packages were increasing prices; he explained that the price has been increased twice in the past 18 months. Mr. Walker explained that the prices are being increase because of rising material costs. It was said that we do not pre-order these items. It was said we order them as soon as the builder comes in with the application for service. Mr. Walker presented to the board a suggestion to change the rate and fee schedule on this item to set the fee at "cost plus 10%." It was said that depending on cost of materials the fee could be either higher or lower. There was a brief discussion on how the 10% should be calculated. **Commissioner Beer made the motion to accept the Rate and Fee schedule amendment as presented. A vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

H2GO Reclaimed Water for Irrigation Program: Mr. Walker mentioned a new development being planned that would bring in 6000 to 7000 new homes; he said with this development comes the opportunity to offer reclaimed water for irrigation purposes. Mr. Walker presented to the board a map that showed a projected reclaimed water district. Mr. Walker said the benefits of this would take some of the burden off of the RO Plant. There was a brief discussion on the water, any treatment needed, and what it could be used for. It was said that with reclaimed water that we would have to change our NPDES permit for the waste water treatment plant. It was said that if this project moved

forward eventually we would have to do rate study to determine rates and fees. Mr. Walker presented to the board a task order from the Wooten Company in the amount of \$31000 to move forward with pursuing this project. **Commissioner Beer made the motion to approve the task order from the Wooten Company in the amount of \$31000 regarding reclaimed water for irrigation purposes. A vote was called and the motion carried unanimously.**

Belville WWTP Expansion Update: Mr. Walker reported that the return aquifer sludge pumps will be in on Thursday; staff will be working to hook everything up. Mr. Walker said there was a scheduled start up on several pieces of equipment the first of next week. Mr. Walker said if everything goes well they were hoping to fully operational by October 1, 2021.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

County change over from Chloramine to Chlorine: Mr. Lane reported to the board that the County had changed their treatment process from Chloramine to Chlorine. Mr. Lane said our staff was currently flushing lines; he said the County will switch back in about 45 days.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Check Register, August 12, 2021 thru September 15, 2021: No comments nor questions were made regarding the check register.

Data Sharing Agreement: Mr. Hook mentioned a new program the State has in providing assistance in helping customers pay their water bills; he explained that with this program we would have to provide a list of customers who were past due and or is being shut off or in danger of being shut off. **Commissioner McCoy made the motion to accept the data sharing agreement as presented. A vote was called the motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER'S REPORT:

RO Plant Communication Update: Mr. Wittkofsky explained to the board our social media stats; he explained that so far it seemed we were reaching more middle age to older people. Mr. Wittkofsky explained that he has changed up a few of our ads to attract more of the younger people and to target more families. It was said the billboard ad was still running and the ad in the Leland Magazine was still running. Mr. Wittkofsky said he has seen an uptick in traffic on our website, specifically the amount of time people spent on our RO Plant page.

The board briefly discussed the RO plant. It was said that testing was now scheduled for January/February. The question was asked about how long it would take the old water to leave the pipes and the RO water be present. It was said that it could take 2 to 3 days depending on the demand. It was said that flushing would be done at that time as well.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

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

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

A press release was suggested to discuss fact versus fiction in response to the misinformation being spread out from the candidate forums that has been going on around the area.

It was suggested that we have a ribbon cutting for the newly expanded waste water treatment plant. It was suggested that we have a progress tour with members of the press to show the RO Plant. It was said that we had a film/video scheduled once the building went up.

Chairman Jenkins mentioned the growth in the area; he expressed his concerns with fact that the expansion plan the County had on the NEWWTP would be obsolete in 5 years. Chairman Jenkins suggested that we start reaching out to the County to offer help in alleviating this continuous problem. Mr. Walker stated that conversations are being started; he mentioned that Mr. Lane and him met with Mr. John Nichols and Mr. Donald Dixon. Mr. Walker said from the meeting they had all agreed to bring up this issue with their respective boards. It was said the meeting was well received.

Magnolia Greens was mentioned. It was said that staff was working to find and fix several I and I issues.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Hosmer 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.

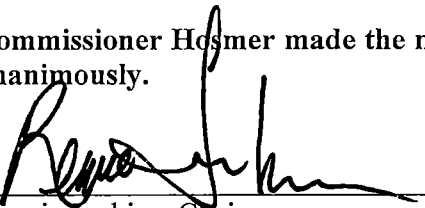
It was said there was nothing to report out of Executive Session.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

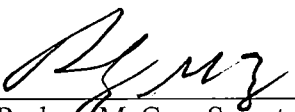
Chairman Jenkins announced that the next Regular Meeting would be held on October 19, 2021 at 6:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm, the motion carried unanimously.



Ronnie Jenkins, Chairman



Rodney McCoy, Secretary



Deana Greiner, CMC Clerk to Board

10/19/21

Date of Approval