

BRUNSWICK REGIONAL WATER & SEWER H2GO  
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING  
MONDAY MAY 1, 2023

OFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ronnie Jenkins called the meeting, located at H2GO, to order at 3 p.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, and Deana Greiner, Clerk to the Board.

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

Mr. Walker began the workshop by introducing Mr. David Pinette as the new Human Resources Director. The board took a moment to welcome Mr. Pinette.

Mr. Walker gave the board a brief update on the RO Plant; he explained what was found regarding the failed motors/pumps. Mr. Walker explained that the pumps from the 2PD and 2BC were both found imploded; he said they could not determine why. Mr. Walker showed pictures of the 5PD pump motor; he said the manufacturer was claiming there was microbiologically induced corrosion. Mr. Walker said while it is possible, he didn't feel it was plausible given the short time frame. Mr. Walker explained that as a precautionary, they were going to take 2 samples for each well, one out of the well column after the well sat idle and one while the well was running; he said if there is cause for microbiological induced corrosion, it is easily treatable. It was also pointed out that the pump motor for 5PD showed internal water damage. Mr. Walker explained that he felt the unit was damaged in shipment. It was said the plant could be operational without that last pump. Mr. Walker explained that it could not be fully certified as a 6 MGD plant without all wells operational; he said a partial certification could be done for 4 MGD if necessary. Mr. Walker explained that he wanted to give everyone time, hopefully to fully certify the plant by the end of May. There was a brief discussion on putting out a press release. The consensus of the board was to put out a brief update but nothing too definitive. It was said that if too much information is given out the more room it gives for nay sayers to complain; yet on the other side the public wants to know that things are still moving forward.

Mr. Walker explained to the board that our preliminary cost estimate for the remodel/addition to the H2GO office came in around \$3.6 million; he said it would not be feasible to move forward with that estimate. Mr. Walker explained that we still have the office space in Waterford for another 18 months to 2 years; he proposed that we use that

space and hire the personnel that would have been hired after the building was completed. Mr. Walker said then we could spend the next couple of years planning to build a whole new H2GO complex next to our RO Plant. Mr. Walker showed the board a map and rough sketch of what that would look like. It was said the complex would consist of an administrative building, maintenance shop, and covered parking/storage areas for all the outdoor equipment and vac trucks.

There was a brief discussion on whether any other options were available. One suggestion was made to build office space at the current location and connect with a breeze way. Mr. Walker said that he had a meeting scheduled with the architect and he could see if other options would be available. It was said that we could start the complex small in a way that it could be easily expandable later.

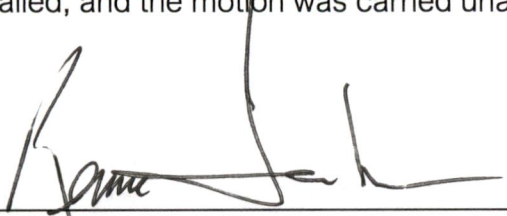
It was said that by cancelling the office expansion we could utilize the Waterford Office space and hire in those positions we need to accommodate our growing needs. Mr. Brown presented to the board proposed changes to the budget; he said by cancelling the office expansion that it would allow us to add 10 new positions, \$1.3 million for engineering services to cover the design of the new complex. Mr. Brown said this would give us a \$1.1 million savings between the two proposed budgets.

Mr. Pinette presented to the board a new organizational chart. It was said we would look to fill a procurement specialist; an in-house engineer, an engineer assistant, a meter technician, one water maintenance with experience, one collection maintenance with experience, a GIS specialist, and a couple of customer service representatives. Mr. Pinette said the new organizational chart will help better define the roles of each employee. Mr. Walker said that many of the employees wear several hats and as we grow, and the workload grows, the need for more specialized individuals becomes greater and greater. There was a brief discussion on the different proposed positions. It was said the in-house engineer will take over some of what the Wooten Company does and bring it in house. It was said the GIS specialist will assist Jared in the mapping of our infrastructure and easements. The consensus of the board was to go with the proposed structure.

Mr. Hook presented to the board a letter to the LGC explaining to them about the reason our audit was late this year; he explained that Mr. Greene took full responsibility in saying that a couple of his employees had recently quit. Mr. Hook explained that in the letter he informed the LGC that we were hiring a new auditing firm for the next fiscal year. Mr. Hook asked that each board member sign the letter so that he can send it to the LGC.

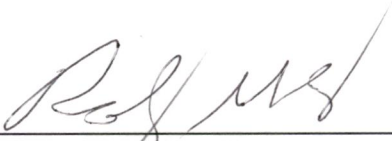
ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Beer made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:18 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 the Board

5-17-23

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Date of Approval