BRUNSWICK REGIONAL WATER & SEWER H2GO REGULAR BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY MARCH 19, 2025

OFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Ronnie Jenkins called the meeting to order at 5:00 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, and Commissioner Steve Hosmer. Present from H2GO were Bob Walker, Executive Director, Russ Lane, Assistant Executive Director-Operations, Scott Hook, Assistant Executive Director-Administration, Ken Brown, Finance Director, Jennifer Philips, Assistant Finance Director, Sara Meyer, Human Resource Director, Brenda Thurman, Customer Service Manager, Adrianna Weber, Engineering Director, Lloyd Brown, IT Manager, and Deana Greiner, Clerk to the Board. Also present was Mr. Steve Coble with Coble Law Firm. Commissioner Bill Beer was present via phone.

DISCUSSION/ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA:

Chairman Jenkins asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. Ms. Weber asked that the board remove the item under her report regarding ASR Wells from the agenda. Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to accept the agenda as amended. A vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Laub made the motion to approve the consent agenda which consisted of February 19, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes, February 1-28, Check Register, the Financial Statement for February 2025, FY25 Fund 23 Budget Ordinance Amendment, FY2025 Fund 29 Budget Ordinance Amendment, Grand Park Phase 2 Deed of Dedication, Del Web at Mallory Creek Phase 1D, 1E, 1F Deed of Dedication, Del Webb at Mallory Creek Phase 1D, 1E, 1F Performance Guarantee Release, and Grand Park Phase 2 Performance Guarantee Release. A vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

None of the Commissioners had anything to report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chairman Jenkins opened the floor for public comments.

No comments were made.

OLD BUSINESS:

Irrigation Tiered Rates: Mr. Walker stated that the staff's recommendation was Option 3 which gave an allowance to be capped at Tiered 1. Mr. Walker stated that it was the staff's recommendation to make these rates effective May 1 and no later than June 1. It was said that there would be a need for an informational campaign to get the word out ahead of these changes. Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to approve and adopt the tiered rates, option 3 as presented and to make them effective May 1, 2025. A vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Rate Changes: Mr. Walker presented to the board our proposed rate changes to the Water Rates and Sewer Rates; he said there was no action needed at this time. Mr. Walker stated that with these rates we are lower than our neighboring utilities.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Service Area Projections: Mr. Walker showed the board maps of our service area and how it has grown since 2020 and how we predict it to grow over the next 40 years. It was said that the biggest growing area was between Town Creek and Malmo Loop. It was said that there was an understanding that our quasi boundary would stop at Rattle Snake Branch. It was said that we are growing at about 6 to 8 percent.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-ADMINISTRATION:

Request for Sponsorship: American Legion Post #68: Mr. Hook presented to the board a request for sponsorship to the American Legion Post; he said this request was the same as what was done last year. Commissioner McCoy made the motion to approve the \$800 sponsorship to the American Legion Post #68 as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Set Public Hearing for FY2026 Budget and Rate and Fee Schedule: Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to set the public hearing for the FY2026 Budget and Rate and Fee Schedule for April 16, 2025; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Monthly Report: Mrs. Meyer stated that her monthly report was included in the agenda packet. It was said that we had one new hire: the wastewater treatment plant operator.

FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

FY2025 Fund 50 Budget Ordinance Amendment: Mr. Brown presented to the board a budget ordinance amendment for Fund 50. Commissioner Laub made the motion to

approve the FY2025 Fund 50 Budget Ordinance Amendment as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Joe Johnson Equipment Quote: Mr. Brown presented to the board a quote from Joe Johnson Equipment; he said this was for repairs needed to one of the Vac Trucks. Commissioner Hosmer approved the quote from Joe Johnson Equipment as presented, a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT-OPERATIONS:

Mr. Lane Reported that he had nothing to report.

ENGINEERING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Admin01 Operations Complex Amendment 1: Ms. Weber presented to the board an amendment to the Operations Complex; she explained that this addition had to do with the permits for wetlands. Ms. Weber said it would add an additional \$17,000. Commissioner Hosmer made the motion to approve the amendment as presented. A vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Admin01 Operations Complex Addendum 2: Ms. Weber presented to the board an addendum to the Operations Complex; she explained that were downsizing the number of buildings needed from 9 to 6. Ms. Weber explained that they were adjusting the fee schedule accordingly to reallocate the money differences. Commissioner McCoy made the motion to approve the addendum 2 as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Sandy's Hauling and Backhoe Purchase Contract: Ms. Weber presented to the board the service contract for Sandy's Hauling and Backhoe; she said this was for drilling services for the Malmo to Goodman Line Extension project. Commissioner Laub made the motion to approve the purchase contract from Sandy's Hauling and Backhoe as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Gurkin Construction Services Contract: Ms. Weber presented to the board the service contract to Gurkin Construction for the labor cost to install the filter cartridges for the 4th RO Train. Commissioner McCoy made the motion to approve the service contract to Gurkin Construction as presented; a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Mr. Coble stated he had nothing to report.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION:

There was a brief discussion on the capacity of the RO Plant. It was said that when Well Site 6 comes online with the 4th RO Train in place that the RO Plant will be able to run 5.2

to 7.2 MGD. It was said that it would not be good practice to run the plant at its max of 7.2 MGD daily. It was said that if we find ourselves having to do so it would trigger mandatory conservation stages. It was said those triggers would be set at the well capacity and draw down rates.

It was said that notices for water conservation need to go out as soon as it was determined it was needed; the sooner the better. It was said that we were already in a drought condition. There was mention of needing an education campaign on being water wise, irrigation practices, water shortage response, etc.

Communication was mentioned. It was said that H2GO utilizes Facebook, X, and Next Door. It was said that there were changes made to our Next-Door account so that we could reach more customers. It was suggested that we try to build relationships with the HOAs so that we could use them to help put out messages.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner McCoy made the motion for the board to enter executive session for the purpose of Consultation with Legal Counsel, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3); to discuss Contract Negotiations, pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(5); a vote was called, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

There was nothing to report out of the executive session.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING:

Chairman Jenkins announced the next Regular Board Meeting to be April 16, 2025, to be located at the Training Room of the Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant, at 5 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Laub made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m., a vote was called, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Ronnie Jenkins, Chairman

Deana Greiner, CMC Clerk to Board

Rodney McCoy, Secretary