

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting  
Cleveland County Water Board Room

August 11, 2020  
Tuesday, 7: 00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Donald Melton; presiding, Vice Chairman Dewey Cook, Secretary Bill Cameron, Commissioners Amy Bridges, Tony Brooks, Bruce Martin and John Taylor and General Manager Brad Cornwell. Attorney Tim Moore attended the meeting via video conference.

Chairman Donald Melton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, welcomed all who were in attendance and recognized Secretary Bill Cameron who gave the invocation and Commissioner Bruce Martin led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

### A. Approval of agenda:

Chairman Melton asked Commissioners if anyone had any questions related to the adoption of the agenda. Chairman Melton requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Upon a motion by Mr. Cook and second by Mr. Martin, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

### B. Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

### C. Consent Agenda:

Action Taken: Chairman Melton presented the Consent Agenda Items. Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks second by Mrs. Bridges, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- 1) Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 14, 2020
- 2) Consideration of Resolution Number 11-2020 An Ordinance Amendment for a Capital Project Budget Ordinance for Cleveland County Water's Greenway Project

D. Unfinished Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 26-2020 A Resolution In Support of An Application to the 2021 Recreational Trails Program for the First Broad River Access at Lawndale Park

Mr. Cornwell explained the application process through the Recreational Trails program. The grant program is administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation. If the grant is awarded, it requires a twenty-five percent match of funds. A budget has been created for the first kayak and canoe access point at the sand bar area of the Greenway. The application is due September 11, 2020. This resolution states that the Board is in support of the application process for the grant funds from the Recreational Trails Program. The anticipated application date for the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund will be in May of 2021. This section of the Greenway Project will provide a better road at the entrance of the park, provide better surfaces getting into and out of the river, and provide parking places for the public. Mr. Cameron asked for clarification about the area in question. Mr. Cornwell explained where this section would be.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mrs. Bridges, second by Mr. Martin, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 26-2020 *A Resolution In Support of an Application to the 2021 Recreational Trails Program for the First Broad River Access at Lawndale Park*

E. New Business:

- 1) Consideration of Ordinance Number 12-2020 An Ordinance Establishing a Capital Project Ordinance and Budgets for Cleveland County Water's Water Plant Filter Valve Replacement Project

Mr. Cornwell introduced Jeff Earl, Operations Director, to explain this project. This project will replace the actuators and the valves that control the water entering and exiting the filters in the bottom of the water plant. Mr. Earl shared pictures of the current condition of the actuators and valves. The current valves in the plant have been opening and closing for forty years. The valves are so old that

suppliers don't stock the valves, the valves are built when ordered. When these valves fail, they no longer open or close, depending on where they get stuck. When a valve does not completely close, the seeping water can create inaccuracies on the water plant production reports. Mr. Earl shared a recent situation concerning one of the valves that failed because it would not close. The process of the repair took weeks because the valve had to be built. This repair process also requires labor charges by an outside contractor to install the valve. The valve replacement would need to be scheduled for the winter months. The demand conditions in the summer months would not allow enough time for two filters to be down for valve replacement. Mr. Brooks asked if the valves had any maintenance requirements. Mr. Earl explained that maintenance could not be performed on the valves. The valves are contained, no maintenance can be performed, they are used until they fail. Mr. Brooks questioned what the difference would be on the new valves. Mr. Earl explained that improvements have been made to the epoxy and rubber components in the valves. The mechanics of how the valves operate have been improved over the years for better efficiency and longer durability. Mr. Cornwell noted that this project would be completed in sections because of the amount of time allotted during the winter months. There are few contractors that perform this type of work due to the confined space of the work and the scope of the work. Mr. Martin asked how the replacement would be performed. Mr. Earl explained how the water plant would continue operation without all the filters being in operation. Mr. Cornwell noted that by taking two filters down for replacement would eliminate two million gallons of water capacity. Mr. Melton asked what would happen if after the first replacements are completed the remaining valves failed before the scheduled replacement began. Mr. Earl explained that those valves would be repaired as emergency repairs, the water plant can't operate without them. Mr. Cameron asked if all the valves materials for the project would be ordered now or just the materials scheduled for this winter replacements. Mr. Earl answered that all the valves required for four filters would be purchased at this time. Mr. Cornwell noted that if all the materials were purchased now, that four of the valves would be waiting a year for installation and there could be potential warranty problems if issues arose when those valves were installed. The expense would be easier to absorb in two sections versus all at once.

The time allotted for the winter repair would not allow for all eight valves to be replaced. Mr. Cameron questioned if all the sedimentation basins were refurbished. There are six sedimentation basins that feed into the water plant through a twenty-four-inch header. The eight valves at the bottom of the plant all feed off that header. All the filters have been rebuilt and have new media in the filters. Mr. Cameron asked if this project would complete the components that were forty years old. Mr. Earl noted that this would not complete the components that had aged, but this was part of the water plant reconditioning plan that Willis Engineers designed. Mr. Cornwell invited Mr. Cameron, and any of the other members, to come to the water plant for a visit.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Cook, second by Mr. Brooks, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance Number 12-2020 *An Ordinance Establishing a Capital Project Ordinance and Budgets for Cleveland County Water's Water Plant Filter Valve Replacement Program*

F. General Manager's Report:

Mr. Cornwell began his General Manager report with the financial statements for July. The month of July includes insurance premiums paid for the whole year and the radio read meters have been encumbered for purchase. The maintenance report was discussed, the radio read meters had two hundred meters remaining to be installed from last year. The Executive Order issued by Governor Cooper did not allow customer's water to be turned off, the meter change outs were stalled with these COVID-19 restrictions as the change out of a water meter will cause a water outage. The water plant numbers were presented higher because the weather has been drier. The billing report numbers were shared. The Lattimore Tank is in operation. Mr. Cornwell asked that if the members heard any pressure problems from customers to have the customers contact the office. There are several sustaining pressure valves in the system that are back online also. The water system is designed to allow all the water flow to be gravity fed with water going south. The Lattimore Tank will allow the Polkville and New House areas to remain pressurized. Mr. Cornwell is still working with SkyRunner concerning the tank attachment request. The Town of Fallston project contractor mediation is scheduled for August 14, 2020 and will be virtual online. Destination by Design will be conducting interviews for the

Greenway project on August 13, 2020. Mr. Melton is scheduled for an interview. Mrs. Hord has volunteered to be interviewed. There will be some canoe and kayak volunteers to film some river footage. Mr. Cameron has been asked if he would like to participate in that footage. Mr. Cornwell invited other members to attend and be involved with the interview process. Mr. Cornwell discussed the processes concerning the customer non-payment disconnection of services. The process has been tough with several irate customers and hard-working staff. There have been two employees working together to lock meters for non-payment to try to get ahead of the curve. Governor Cooper's Executive Order expired on July 29, 2020. The Governor's Executive Order was for the Municipal Governmental Utility groups. The North Carolina Utility Commission issued an Order on July 29, 2020 that pertains to utilities that are under their jurisdiction. These utilities can't perform utility disconnections until after September 1, 2020 and no late fees can be posted until after the state of emergency order is lifted. Mr. Cornwell shared that it has been a confusing process for the customers and no late fees are being assessed at this time. The members will be consulted by the General Manager before late fees are assessed to the customers. Mr. Cornwell asked the staff to initiate reports for customers who were ninety days past due. Those customers were locked for non-payment after they were contacted by telephone or by door hanger. The numbers were shared for the customers that paid in full, customers that required payment arrangements, have not paid, and customer accounts that were closed. The customers in cycle one and cycle two have been locked for non-payment with ninety days past due, this process began this week. Mr. Cornwell explained that all the customers with over ninety days have been locked for non-payment. During the next week the customers that are less than ninety will be locked for non-payment. The goal is to be caught back up in the middle of the month of September. Mr. Cameron asked if the confusion could be clarified on the billing statements. Mr. Cornwell shared the verbiage with the members that he shared with the staff to use with the customers.

#### G. Board Members Announcement and Remarks

Mr. Cameron noted appreciation to the staff during the difficult times and proposed doing something for the employees. Mr. Cornwell explained that the staff were still receiving their evaluation increases. As the year progresses, funds will be reviewed to determine availability. Mr. Taylor noted his appreciation.

## H. Closed Session

- 1) To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract or other proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange or lease in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11 (5).

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Cameron, second by Mr. Taylor, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to go into Closed Session at 7:42 PM.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Cameron, second by Mr. Taylor, the Board of Commissioners returned to Open Session at 8:03 PM.

## I. Adjournment

Action Taken: Chairman Melton called for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Taylor the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bill Cameron*

Bill Cameron, Secretary

