

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Cleveland County Water Board Room

April 12, 2022
Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Donald Melton; presiding, Vice Chairman Dewey Cook, Commissioners Amy Bridges, Tony Brooks, Bruce Martin, Pete Pedersen and General Manager Brad Cornwell. Attorney Tim Moore attended via video conference call. Secretary Bill Cameron was absent.

Chairman Donald Melton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, welcomed all who were in attendance and recognized Mr. Cook who gave the invocation and Mr. 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. With no questions, Chairman Melton requested a motion to adopt the agenda as provided.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Cook and second by Mr. Pedersen, 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 March 8, 2022
- 2) Consideration of Resolution Number 18-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Lawndale for Cleveland County Water's Administration of Grant Funds in the Amount of \$415,000 for the Lawndale Park Project
- 3) Consideration of Resolution Number 19-2022 A Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Contract to Audit Accounts with Johnson, Price, Sprinkle, PA for the Cleveland County Water Audit FY 2021-2022 Annual Audit

- 4) Consideration of Ordinance Number 5-2022 An Ordinance Establishing a Capital Project Ordinance and Budgets for Cleveland County Water's ARP Funded Marion Street Booster Pump Station Project
- 5) Consideration of Ordinance Number 6-2022 An Ordinance Establishing a Capital Project Ordinance and Budgets for Cleveland County Water's ARP Funded Casar Lawndale, Sand Hills and Will Dixon Road Water Main Project
- 6) Consideration of Ordinance Number 7-2022 An Ordinance Establishing a Capital Project Ordinance and Budgets for Cleveland County Water's ARP Funded Polkville Tank and Booster Pump Station Project
- 7) Consideration of Ordinance Number 8-2022 An Ordinance Establishing a Capital Project Ordinance and Budgets for Cleveland County Water's ARP Funded Belwood Tank and Booster Pump Station Project
- 8) Consideration of Ordinance Number 9-2022 An Ordinance Establishing a Capital Project Ordinance and Budgets for Cleveland County Water's ARP Funded Waco Booster Pump Station Project

D. Unfinished Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 20-2022 A Resolution Supporting an Application to the Local Government Commission for its Approval of District Bonds and Notes in an estimated amount of up to \$4,997,000 for the Operations Center Project

Mr. Cornwell noted this item was under Unfinished Business because it was related to the Operations Center Project. This action will approve submission of the application to the Local Government Commission (LGC) for approval of selling USDA bonds and the financing for the operations center project. The amount to be financed is \$4,997,000 at an interest rate of 1.75% for 40 years. He reminded Commissioners that only two bidders showed up for the first bid opening which was March 30th and a second bid opening was advertised which would be on April 20th at 2 PM. Commissioners asked questions about what he expected the bids to be and Mr. Cornwell responded that with the current bid environment and pricing he was prepared for them to exceed the budget. He also noted that there was approximately \$3.5 million in the capital reserve fund, and that Commissioners has already committed to transfer \$1.26 million. Given that interest rates were so low on the money held in reserve, if the bids

were slightly higher than the budget, then he would most likely recommend covering the excess from the Capital Reserve.

- 2) ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen, second by Mr. Brooks, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 20-2022 *A Resolution Supporting an Application to the Local Government Commission for its Approval of District Bonds and Notes in an estimated amount of up to \$4,997,000 for the Operations Center Project*

E. New Business:

No New Business was presented.

F. General Manager's Report:

Mr. Cornwell provided the Commissioners with the March financials, maintenance, water plant and billing statistics for the month of March.

G. Board Members Announcement and Remarks

Chairman Melton called for Board Member remarks. No Commissioners had any remarks. He reminded Commissioners again about the bid opening dates for the Operations Center and he summarized the PARTF award, schedule for Lawndale Park, and noted that the Request for Qualifications was advertised for consultants to design the Lawndale Park based on the available funding obtained to date. He summarized the funding left in this year's Greenway budget and advised Commissioners that bid packages had been prepared and advertised for the structural renovations to the Scout Hut building which would include a new roof, floor joists and siding as well as the demolition of the old Cleveland Mills Pump Station on the bank of the river. He noted that he had spoken with the staff at the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) about the \$100,000 grant application and that they assured him that we had been awarded the grant and that they were reviewing their audit and would send out award letters when that task had been completed. Mr. Cornwell informed the Commissioners of the Legislative breakfast on Monday, May 23, 2022 at 7:30 AM and that he would follow up with Commissioners to gain an attendance number. He summarized the following customer compliments:

- 1) Voice mail to Chris Hayes from Ms. Willis on Windy Lane on the excellent work the crews did dressing up and fixing the yards back from the waterline repair work which was Matt, Sterling and Caleb.
- 2) Note from Gerry Huntley thanking us for our practices and reasonable water rates.
- 3) Phone call to Michelle Alexander from Ms. Guzman telling us what a customer friendly website we have and how easy it is to use.

Mr. Cornwell reminded Commissioners that it was time to set a date, time and place for a Special Meeting (Budget Session) to review the proposed FY 2022-2023 annual budget. He suggested the date of May 24th in the Board Room. Commissioners agreed with the date.

ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Melton called for a motion to adopt that date, time and place for a Special Meeting for the Budget Workshop. Upon a motion by Mr. Cook and second by Mr. Pedersen, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to set a Special Meeting for the purposes of reviewing the proposed FY 2022-2023 annual budget on Tuesday, May 24th, 2022 in the Commissioners Board Room.

H. Closed Session.

Chairman Melton called for a motion to go into Closed Session.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks and second by Mr. Martin, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to go into Closed Session 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 (a) (5) and to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and public body in the matter of Fuller & Co. Construction, LLC versus Town of Fallston, McGill Associates, PA and Mike Kale in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) at 7:24 PM.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks and a second by Mr. Martin, the Board of Commissioners voted to return to Open Session at 8:04 PM.

Chairman Melton called for a motion to ratify the discussion held in Closed Session.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen and a second by Mrs. Bridges, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the General Manager to proceed with the offering of \$30,000 for 1 acre for the construction of the new proposed Polkville Water Tank as discussed in Closed Session.

I. Adjournment

Action Taken: Chairman Melton called for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Martin the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cameron

Bill Cameron, Secretary

