

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Cleveland County Water Board Room

October 9, 2018
Tuesday, 7: 00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Donald O. Melton, presiding; Treasurer Pete Pedersen, Secretary Bill Cameron, Commissioners Amy Bridges, John Taylor and Tony Brooks, General Manager Brad Cornwell and Attorney Tim Moore. Vice Chairman Dewey Cook was absent.

Chairman Melton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, welcomed all who were in attendance and recognized John Taylor who gave the invocation and Pete Pedersen 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, he requested a motion to approve the agenda.

1) Motion to adopt the proposed agenda

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

B. Public Comment:

Chairman Melton requested the time for Public Comment and Mr. Cornwell noted that no one had signed up for Public Comment.

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 September 11, 2018

D. Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business was discussed.

E. New Business:

No new business was discussed.

F. General Manager's Report:

Mr. Cornwell began with the financial reports for September. An update was given on the status of the Cleveland County property tax collections. The tax check for September was large due to citizens electing to pay their tax bills early and taking advantage of the offered discounts for paying early. The check for December tax collections will be received in January. The collections will be large for this check also with the citizens payment before the end of the calendar year. The quarterly contributions for the retiree insurance and the capital reserve fund have been completed for this quarter. A portion of the budgeted electronic meters have been purchased and paid for this month. The maintenance crews will begin working on replacing these meters when the weather cools down and the water leaks slow down. The upgrades for these routes were approved in previous board meetings. A large debt payment was also made in the month of September. Mr. Cornwell continued with the maintenance report. Some of the meters for the Town of Fallston have been switched to our main lines from the existing water lines. The water plant report was briefly discussed and numbers from the billing report were shared. Mr. Cornwell gave more information concerning the Town of Fallston project. Some concerns from the public were discussed considering traffic, driveways, parking for football games. Solutions were shared on how these concerns were being handled. The contractor has purchased traffic lights to assist with the traffic issues. The work schedules of the contractors have been altered to allow better accommodation for the hours of operation with Burns Middle and High School. Mr. Cornwell expressed pride in how the project is progressing. The contractor has the installation completed in the school zone. Mr. Melton asked if the project was on schedule. Mr. Cornwell explained that the contractor had ten months to complete the project. The progress made to date has been in a month and a half of work. The contractor began on the first day of school in August. Mrs.

Bridges questioned if the school or the public had the concerns. Mr. Cornwell replied that the concerns were coming from the public. The feedback from the administration at the school has been positive and much appreciated. Mr. Cornwell explained some of the construction issues with uncovering the old existing water lines. Mr. Melton noted that he appreciated the stop lights for convenience and safety concerns. Mr. Cornwell continued with the progress on the Lattimore water tank project. The notice for bid approval has been received from NCDENR for the project. The pre-bid meeting has been scheduled for October 23, 2018 for the project specifications. The bid opening is scheduled for November 8, 2018. The engineers have two days to provide a bid tabulation for the November 13th board meeting. The Lattimore tank project bid award resolution will be on the agenda for the November board meeting. The resolution will be worded in a way that the bid will be tentatively awarded to the lowest bidding contractor pending the approval of NCDENR. It will take approximately one month to receive a letter from NCDENR for approval of the bidder allowing construction to begin. Mr. Brooks asked if we had any interested contractors. Mr. Cornwell explained that the advertising would begin at the end of the week. The contractor bidding for filter rehabilitation project for filters one through four will be opened on October 26, 2018. The award for the bid on this project doesn't require board approval but the expense of the contract is large enough that a resolution will be presented at the next board meeting. Mr. Conwell provided updates on the weather-related effects of Hurricane Florence. The last board meeting was held before the hurricanes arrival. During the hurricane weather there was one main line break affecting customers on Washburn Switch Road. There was a power outage at one of the pump stations. The future water line extensions for installation include Golden Valley Road, Poplar Springs Road, and Crest Drive. The installation of Crest Drive will be scheduled during a time when classes are not being held. Mr. Cornwell wanted to take an opportunity to educate members on some customers concerns about hot water heaters. Some customers have been calling lately concerning a white substance in warm and hot water. There is a part in the hot water heater called an anode rod that keeps the hot water heater from rusting. When the anode rod starts to break down inside the hot water heater it releases a white substance into the water that may be perceived to be calcium from the water. Mr. Cornwell is in the process of having a new information card designed to address this issue and educate customers on what that substance is. The level of hardness of the water was also discussed. The hardness in the water is related to the PH in the water. The

water distributed by the plant is considered soft water therefore there are little calcium problems. Mrs. Bridges noted that the season was approaching to winterize. Mr. Cornwell has the November bill marked for winterizing information to be presented to the customers within the water bill. An update was provided for the District boundaries. Mr. Cornwell has met with the Cleveland County GIS department to update the District boundaries on the GIS. The boundaries are now on the GIS map on the Cleveland County GIS website. This map was shared with the members at this meeting. The Board of Elections and the Cleveland County tax administration will be working to make corrections to the citizens who are affected. These citizens were affected through voting rights and tax billings. Mr. Cornwell explained some of the areas that were affected in case the members were contacted with concerns from citizens.

G. Board Members Announcement and Remarks

Mr. Cameron asked if the Town of Fallston would eventually be incorporated inside the District boundaries. Mr. Cornwell replied that the USDA funding contract for Fallston cannot have any provisions for Fallston to relinquish ownership of their system to Cleveland County Water. Therefore, the ownership and District Boundary questions would have to come later after the project was completed and the USDA funding debt is satisfied. Mr. Cornwell did note that the current Fallston Town Council was interested in this concept when the time would allow.

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 amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract and to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of employment of the General Manager in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(5) and (a)(6).

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen, second by Mr. Taylor, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to go into Closed Session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11 (a)(5) and (a)(6) at 7:25 PM.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mrs. Bridges, second by Mr. Taylor, the Board of Commissioners returned to Open Session at 7:45 PM.

General Manager Brad Cornwell was invited back into the meeting. Chairman Melton addressed Mr. Cornwell about the Board's desire to offer a new 10-year contract. Chairman Melton reviewed the terms and conditions discussed in Closed Session and asked Mr. Cornwell if he would be agreeable to those terms and conditions. Mr. Cornwell indicated that he would be happy to continue his service with Cleveland County Water under a new agreement so long as the Board was unanimous in its decision. Chairman Melton and other Board members noted that they were pleased with the status of Cleveland County Water management.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Pedersen, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt a new contract between Cleveland County Water and General Manager Brad Cornwell for a 10-year term effective December 1, 2018.

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 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cameron

Bill Cameron
Secretary

