

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Cleveland County Water Board Room

May 14, 2019
Tuesday, 7: 00 P.M.

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

Chairman Donald Melton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, welcomed all who were in attendance and recognized Vice Chairman Dewey Cook who gave the invocation and Treasurer 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. Pedersen and second by Mr. Taylor, 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 April 9, 2019

- 2) Consideration of Resolution Number 8-2019 A Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Contract to Audit Accounts with Johnson, Price, Sprinkle, PA for the Cleveland County Water FY 2018-2019 Annual Audit

D. Unfinished Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 7-2019 A Resolution approving a Financing Agreement Authorized by North Carolina General Statute 160A-20

Mr. Cornwell explained the process of installment financing for the tractors, vehicles and large purchases made during this budget year. The request for proposals were mailed to several different banks. Only three banks responded with a return proposal, BB&T, Hometrust and US Bank. In reviewing the proposals; it was decided that the best offer came from HomeTrust Bank with an interest rate is 2.73% for fifty-nine months. Mr. Cornwell noted that the lack of returned proposals was largely due to the small amount of purchases made this year. Mr. Cornwell and Finance Director, Ginger Fern are recommending approval of the agreement.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen, second by Mr. Cook, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 7-2019 *A Resolution approving a Financing Agreement Authorized by North Carolina General Statute 160A-20*

- 2) Consideration of Resolution Number 9-2019 A Resolution Approving Review and Submission of a Sewer Merger/Regionalization Report between Cleveland County Water and the Towns of Fallston, Kingstown, Polkville and Lawndale

Mr. Cornwell reminded about the information discussed at the retreat and the subsequent retreat goals concerning the sewer merger/regionalization study. NCDENR awarded a grant for the study to be paid in full. The requirements that close the grant include a resolution approving review and submission of the report and a copy of the actual report to be submitted back to NCDENR.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Cook, second by Mr. Pedersen, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 9-2019 *A Resolution Approving Review and Submission of a Sewer Merger/Regionalization Report between Cleveland County Water and the Towns of Fallston, Kingstown, Polkville and Lawndale*

E. New Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 10-2019 *A Resolution Approving Execution of a Contract with Unifirst for Uniform Services for Cleveland County Water Employees*

Mr. Cornwell explained the status of the uniform services for the employees. The current vendor has been providing substandard service. The bid process was started with three different companies and Unifirst was the low bidder. The uniform costs will be substantially reduced by switching companies. Mr. Cornwell noted this since this is a long term contract the contract process requires the board approval. The prior uniform contract with the previous company was also a sixty-month contract. The best rates are obtained by entering a sixty-month agreement.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Cameron, second by Mr. Taylor, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 10-2019 *A Resolution Approving Execution of a Contract with Unifirst for Uniform Services for Cleveland County Water Employees*

F. General Manager's Report:

Mr. Cornwell began with the financial reports and noted that the materials accounts were still being adjusted because of capital projects. He also noted that another debt service payment was made on the intake in April. Mr. Cornwell discussed the water sales figures for the current fiscal year. The two months mainly effected by the rainy weather this year were August and October, both these months were short of the predicted budget numbers. The budget for the year will probably be short based on the numbers and the weather that has been seen to date. Mr. Cornwell noted that the temperatures and the abundance of rain have lowered the water sales for this year. The maintenance and water plant reports were discussed. The billing

report was presented and had increased from last month but decreased from the amounts for the prior year. Mr. Cornwell updated on the Clearwell project. The advertisement for the request for qualifications for the engineering services has been advertised in the Charlotte Observer. The requests are due by May 24, 2019. The Town of Fallston project has a proposed completion date of July 22, 2019. Jeff Earl, Utility Director, has been onsite with the crews directing in the clean-up process. The Cleveland Community College job fair was successful in assisting with the hiring of three employees for the five vacancies that were available. Mr. Cornwell proposed participating in future job fairs to obtain interested potential employees. The Lattimore Tank project has received two pay requests for mostly materials. The progress being made on the project is good. The budget presentation is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2019 at 6:00 pm, supper will be served at the presentation.

G. Board Members Announcement and Remarks

Mr. Cameron asked if the vacancies were in the meter reader department. Mr. Cornwell replied that four of the vacancies were in the maintenance department and that more discussion would follow at the budget presentation. Mr. Pedersen asked when the Lattimore Tank will be completed. Mr. Cornwell noted that the completion date was September or November of 2020.

H. Closed Session

- 1) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body; and to establish, or 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 (3) and (5).

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Taylor, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to go into Closed Session at 7:19 PM.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Taylor, the Board of Commissioners returned to Open Session at 8:00 PM.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Cook, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the General manager to execute a Purchase and Sell Agreement between Cleveland County Water and John & Sandy Elmore per the details of the Purchase and Sell Agreement.

I. Adjournment

Action Taken: Chairman Melton called for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Pedersen the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cameron

Bill Cameron
Secretary

