

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Cleveland County Water Board Room

July 14, 2020
Tuesday, 7: 00 P.M.

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

Chairman Donald Melton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, welcomed all who were in attendance and recognized Commissioner Tony Brooks who gave the invocation and Secretary Bill Cameron 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 Mrs. Bridges, 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. Cameron second by Mr. Brooks, 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 June 9, 2020
- 2) Consideration of Resolution Number 20-2020 A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with SUEZ Utility Service Co. for Water Tank Maintenance Contract for the Jesse Mountain Road Tank
- 3) Consideration of Resolution Number 21-2020 A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with Destination by Design for a Master Planning Services Agreement

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- 4) Consideration of Resolution Number 22-2020 A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with Destination by Design for a Grant Writing Services Agreement

D. Unfinished Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 23-2020 A Resolution Authorizing Execution of An Agreement for Construction and Maintenance of Public Water Facilities on McKinney Mill Road in Rutherford County, North Carolina

Mr. Cornwell explained the details for the water line installation on McKinney Mill Road. There is not a public water utility in this area of Rutherford County, nor does Rutherford County have any future intentions of installing water lines in this area. The customer requesting the water service has agreed to pay for half of the installation. The agreement between the District and the customer has been reviewed and corrected by Attorney Moore. Mr. Cornwell mentioned that there are other customers in the area that also require service and will pay for installation of water taps.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Cook, second by Mr. Brooks, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 23-2020 *A Resolution Authorizing Execution Of An Agreement For Construction and Maintenance of Public Water Facilities on McKinney Mill Road in Rutherford County, North Carolina*

E. New Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 24-2020 A Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Services Agreement for Printing, Inserting, & Posting of Utility Bills with PUBLIQ Software

Mr. Cornwell explained the details in the bill printing of the customer water bills. The current vendor is SouthData and a three-year agreement was contracted with them for printing services, this agreement is close to expiration. The current software provider can provide the same printing services and eventually transition to paperless billing in the future. The paperless billing would cut the cost

of the postage required to mail the customer bills. There will also be a portal for customers to access their bill and their usage history. The costs deducted from the budget for postage would be tremendous cost savings to the budget. Mr. Cameron asked what the length of the contract would be and if the process would be bid out. Mr. Cornwell replied that the term of the contract would be one-year and this process would not be bid out.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mrs. Bridges, second by Mr. Cook, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 24-2020 *A Resolution Authorizing Execution Of a Services Agreement for Printing, Inserting & Posting of Utility Bills with PUBLIQ Software*

- 2) Consideration of Resolution Number 25-2020 *A Resolution Establishing a Greenway Steering Committee, Acceptance of Certain Citizens from the Community to the Greenway Steering Committee, and Directing the General Manager to Develop By-Laws Pertaining to the Creation of a Cleveland County Water Greenway Advisory Board*

Mr. Cornwell talked about the steering committee for the Greenway project. A steering committee is different from an advisory board. The advisory board would have by-laws and public board rules to follow. A steering committee would allow for advice and discussion without the formal rules and guidelines. The actual advisory board will eventually be established, this resolution will begin the process of creating the by-laws for the board to follow. The CCW Board Liaison will be Amy Bridges. General Manager Cornwell will be on the committee. Mickey Morehead has volunteered to be on the committee, he is the Principal of Burns High School. The Lawndale Historical Society will be represented by Jerrienne Queen McMurry. Sarah Hord will represent the Lawndale Town Council. The District's Community Citizen will be Ron McCollum. This will be the members of the steering committee for the Greenway project.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Cameron, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 24-2020 *A Resolution Authorizing Establishing a Greenway Steering Committee, Acceptance of Certain Citizens from the Community to the Greenway Steering Committee, and Directing the General Manager to*

Develop By-Laws Pertaining to the Creation of a Cleveland County Water Greenway Advisory Board

F. General Manager's Report:

Mr. Cornwell began the General Manger's report with the financial reports. The June financials are unaudited end of the fiscal year report. The Cleveland County tax collections finished above the budgeted collection amounts on the property and vehicle taxes. The local option sales tax was also above the budgeted estimated amount. The Cleveland County Tax amounts are all collected, and revenues have been posted. The water sales finished strong despite the COVID-19. The collection of the water sales revenue was hindered due to the Governor Executive Order during the pandemic. The customers could not be locked for non-payment and therefore some accounts have yet to be collected. Mr. Cameron questioned when the Governor's Executive Order would run out. Mr. Cornwell reported that the Executive Order was rumored to not be extended and set to expire at the end of July. Mr. Cameron asked if customers could be handled once the order expires. Mr. Cornwell noted that the customers have been contacted and encouraged to pay. The Carolina Thread Trail is scheduled to decide the land acquisition funding during the week of July 13 through 17. Mr. Cornwell shared information concerning a request received from Skyrunner to attach antennas on the District water tanks. Skyrunner is a satellite internet provider. Their antennas are attached to water tanks in Rutherford and McDowell County to enable better signal to their customers. The owner of Skyrunner met with General Manager Cornwell and rode to several tank locations in Cleveland County. The construction of the Lattimore Tank and the beneficial site line to Cherry Mountain began the discussion of the antennas. The repeater for Skyrunner is on Cherry Mountain. The locations of the tanks were shared with the owner to cover more area. Mr. Cornwell shared pictures of the devices that would be attached to the water tanks. The device size is not large and would not be very visible on the tank. There would be a monthly fee collected from Skyrunner for having access to the tank with the attachment. Mr. Cornwell explained that remote learning through the Cleveland County Schools system has required homes to provide internet for students during the pandemic. The households without internet that can't participate because internet is not available is high. This service to the community would provide more households with the ability to have internet and participate in remote learning. Mr. Cornwell has requested a service area coverage map from the owner of Skyrunner. Mr. Cameron asked if more tanks would be involved than only the Lattimore Tank. Mr. Cornwell explained that it would be more beneficial to the

community if more area could be covered through the use of other tank sites. Discussion continued with the members about the benefits students would receive with the internet options. Mr. Brooks asked about the time frame involved. Mr. Cornwell reported that it would probably be between two and three months to get everything together. The Fallston Mediation has been scheduled for August 14, 2020. The telephone system situation has been explained to the members in the form of an email. Mr. Cornwell noted that the backbone services for the telephone system were being removed from the current provider to another provide due to existing problems with customer telephone calls not being completed.

G. Board Members Announcement and Remarks

Mr. Cameron asked if the water usage was up. Mr. Cornwell noted that the water usage is increasing. The members noted that they had no further comments.

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 Mrs. Bridges, 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. Cook, the Board of Commissioners returned to Open Session at 7:48 PM.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Cameron, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to ratify the land acquisition discussion and to authorize the General Manager to complete the acquisition discussed in closed session.

I. Adjournment

Action Taken: Chairman Melton called for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion by Mrs. Bridges, second by Mr. Brooks the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cameron

Bill Cameron, Secretary

