

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Cleveland County Water Board Room

March 8, 2022
Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.

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

Chairman Donald Melton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, welcomed all who were in attendance and recognized Commissioner Pete Pedersen 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 and recognized Mr. Cornwell for a modification to the agenda. Mr. Cornwell noted that a Closed Session needed to be added to the agenda and there was an updated table of contents at Commissioners seats to add a Closed Session as Item H, and moving Adjournment to Item I. Chairman Melton requested a motion to adopt the agenda as amended.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Cook and second by Mr. Pedersen, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the agenda as amended to include a Closed Session.

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 February 8, 2022
- 2) Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of February 19, 2022
- 3) Consideration of Resolution Number 10-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with Willis Engineers in the Amount of \$255,000 for the Cleveland County Water ARP Funded Marion Street Booster Pump Station Project

- 4) Consideration of Resolution Number 11-2022 A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Willis Engineers in the Amount of \$650,000 for the Cleveland County Water ARP Funded Casar Lawndale, Sand Hills, and Will Dixon Road Water Main Project
- 5) Consideration of Resolution Number 12-2022 A Resolution Ratifying the Exchange and Purchase of Real Property Between Cleveland County Water and Donald Joseph Whisnant
- 6) Consideration of Resolution Number 13-2022 A Resolution Ratifying the Exchange of Real Property Between Cleveland County Water and Jeffrey Clyde Whisnant and wife, Glenda Epley Whisnant
- 7) Consideration of Resolution Number 14-2022 A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with McGill Associates in the Amount of \$433,300 for the Cleveland County Water ARP Funded Polkville Tank and Booster Pump Station Project
- 8) Consideration of Resolution Number 15-2022 A Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with McGill Associates in the Amount of \$456,300 for the Cleveland County Water ARP Funded Belwood Tank and Booster Pump Station Project
- 9) Consideration of Resolution Number 16-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement with McGill Associates in the Amount of \$94,500 for the Cleveland County Water ARP Funded Waco Booster Pump Station Project

D. Unfinished Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 8-2022 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Bond Counsel Agreement with Sanford Holshouser for the Operations Center Project

Mr. Cornwell noted this item was under Unfinished Business because it was related to the Operations Center Project. He described how USDA had reviewed the Bond Counsel agreements prior to awarding the USDA loans and that the Bond Counsel was responsible for putting together the loan packages, closing notices, working with the LGC, and all the financial steps required by USDA for the project. He also noted that Attorney Moore had reviewed the agreements the year prior and had attempted to find better pricing, but none was found.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Cameron, second by Mr. Cook, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 8-2022 *A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Bond Counsel Agreement with Sanford Holshouser for the Operations Center Project*

- 2) Consideration of Resolution Number 9-2022 *A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Bond Counsel Agreement with Sanford Holshouser for the Raw Water Weir Project*

Mr. Cornwell noted this item was under Unfinished Business just like the previous item because it was related to the USDA loans, the only exception being this one was for the Raw Water Weir Project, which was not as far along in the process, but that Commissioners could go ahead and take care of it as well.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen, second by Mr. Cook, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 9-2022 *A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Bond Counsel Agreement with Sanford Holshouser for the Raw Water Weir Project*

E. New Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 17-2022 *A Resolution Authorizing the General Manager and Staff to Utilize Calling Post for Communication with Customers Regarding Account Information and Information Specific to Cleveland County Water*

Mr. Cornwell reminded the Board about conversations a year ago regarding the consideration to utilize a calling plan to warn customers of disconnects and a system that could be used in the event of major emergencies for Cleveland County Water. Mrs. Alexander, Customer Services Director, was recognized to provide an update and statistics related to disconnects. Mrs. Alexander mainly summarized a memo from Jennifer Mathis, Senior Customer Service Representative, regarding the amount of disconnects over the past months, along with statistics related to the amount of time it took for staff to call customers after the COVID restrictions implemented by the Governor. Mr. Cornwell summarized pros and cons of the system and how customers could come to depend on the calls. In addition, he summarized the Resolution and specific uses

Commissioners would be authorizing if they adopted the Resolution. Mr. Cameron and Mr. Pedersen both noted support for the system. Mrs. Alexander reminded Commissioners that customers could “opt out” of receiving the calls/texts and that some might do that. Mr. Cook voiced his support and likened it to his knowledge of the County EMS system for calling in case of emergencies.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Cameron, second by Mr. Martin, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 17-2022 *A Resolution Authorizing the General Manager and Staff to Utilize Calling Post for Communication with Customers Regarding Account Information and Information Specific to Cleveland County Water.*

F. General Manager’s Report:

Mr. Cornwell noted that all the February financial numbers were provided at each Commissioners seat. He also noted the maintenance, water plant and billing numbers in his report. He provided an update on the dates for the Operations Center Pre-Bid and Bid opening and the advertisements were included in the agenda. He gave an update on the PARTF award through Lawndale, summarized the agreements, and also gave an update on a PARTF management agreement with the Town of Lawndale that would need to be adopted at a later date at Commissioners seats. The LWCF application was denied because the National Park Service has started requiring the US Army Corps of Engineers permits to be obtained prior to the project application, instead of during. He stated that NC Recreation Resource Services informed him that this was new to them and had never happened before. He suggested going through the design process now that the PARTF was obtained and submitting another application to LWCF in the fall for construction funding only. He inquired if Commissioners agreed with this approach, and they all did by consensus. No formal announcement has yet been provided by the Recreation Trails Program grant in the amount of \$100,000. The Cleveland County Sheriff’s Department has caught two young boys throwing rocks at the Scout Hut. Mr. Cornwell stated he would get a report, but that it would be futile to press charges since the damage was so minimal to a few windowpanes. Mr. Cornwell provided an update on getting bids for renovations to the Scout Hut and the need to fix the leaking roof. He also provided an update on sending out bids to have the old Cleveland Mill Pump

Station on the bank of the river demolished and discussed his conversations with different contractors on how to accomplish the task.

G. Board Members Announcement and Remarks

Chairman Melton called for Board Member remarks. No Commissioners had any remarks. Chairman Melton then reminded Commissions about meeting decorum and waiting until he called for a motion and second before they were given, and how it would help with confusion.

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. Pedersen, 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 (5) at 7:34 PM.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks and a second by Mr. Cook, the Board of Commissioners voted to return to Open Session at 8:08 PM.

Mr. Cornwell reminded Commissioners that they needed to ratify the actions taken in Closed Session regarding the authorization for the General Manager to proceed with the property transactions as discussed in Closed Session.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Cameron and a second by Mr. Brooks, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the General Manager to proceed with the property transactions and to ratify the action taken in Closed Session.

I. Adjournment

Action Taken: Chairman Melton called for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Cameron the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cameron

Bill Cameron, Secretary

