

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Cleveland County Water Board Room

May 9, 2023
Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.

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

Chairman Donald Melton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, welcomed all who were in attendance and recognized Commissioner Bruce Martin who gave the invocation and Commissioner 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. Chairman Melton requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

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

B. Special Presentation

1) Recognition and Presentation of Resolution Number 16-2023 to Jeffrey Bryan Earl upon the Occasion of his Retirement from Employment with Cleveland County Water

Vice Chairman Cook presented Jeff Earl, Operations Director, with a framed resolution for his years of service to Cleveland County Water. Mr. Earl also received a gift card to show appreciation for that service from the members.

C. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

D. Consent Agenda:

Action Taken: Chairman Melton presented the Consent Agenda Items. Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Martin, 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 11, 2023
- 2) Consideration of Ordinance Number 9-2023 A FY 2022-2023 Budget Ordinance Amendment No. 1 for Cleveland County Water

E. Unfinished Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 17-2023 A Resolution Rejecting Bids for the Flocculation and Sedimentation Basin Project

Mr. Cornwell shared the history of the flocculation and sedimentation project. The members were directed to the appropriate page in their packet referencing the original intent to fund letter from the NC Department of Environmental Quality in the amount of \$2,750,000.00. This letter was dated March 1, 2021. During this time the cost of materials has increased. The lowest bidder for the project was Brushy Mountain Builders for \$4,390,000.00. The original funding letter was for the engineering and the construction costs of the project. The bid from the contractor was only for the construction of the project and did not include the engineering for the project. The bid from the lowest bidder contained a mathematical error and a clerical error, because of this the bid was considered nonresponsive. This resolution would reject all the bids presented and allow the General Manager to change the scope of the project to reduce the project costs. Mr. Cornwell reminded that this project would replace four of the oldest basins at the water plant. The scope of the work requires the basins to be prepped and resealed. The bids submitted by the contractors were submitted using the same subcontractor for the resealing. The costs of the resealing were \$900,000.00. The scope of the work will change to remove the resealing as part of the scope. The resealing will be an add alternate. The trac vac system is the vacuum that removes the sludge from the bottom of the basin on a daily basis. The scope of the trac vac system will be changed so that more details of this work can be shown. The project will then be rebid after the scope of work is changed. A request was presented to the General Assembly to include a project for funding in the amount of \$4,200,000.00. If the funding is received from the General Assembly, the funding from NCDEQ will need to be returned to NCDEQ. Mr. Brooks asked if this project was for the outdoor basins and how many basins were there. Mr. Cornwell verified that there were six basins total at the water plant. This project is for the four old basins from 1980 and 1983, because two of the basins are brand new built in 2015.

Mr. Cameron inquired if the two new basins were sealed. Mr. Cornwell responded that the two new basins were sealed and that was part of the construction project. Mr. Cameron asked if the resealing could take place at a future time. Mr. Cornwell answered that the re-sealing could be done later. The material required for the project could be included in the operating budget for one basin a year until all four were completed.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen, second by Mr. Cameron, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 17-2023 *A Resolution Rejecting Bids for the Flocculation and Sedimentation Basin Project*

2) Consideration of Resolution Number 18-2023 A Resolution Authorizing and Accepting a Grant from the Carolina Thread Trail in the Amount of \$125,000

Mr. Cornwell presented the agreement with the Carolina Thread Trail for \$125,000.00 for the construction cost of Stagecoach Greenway along Casar Lawndale Road. This funding will be specifically designated for this section of the greenway. This section of the greenway will also be the most visible and the most expensive part of the greenway. The construction estimate on this portion of the greenway is \$2,000,000.00. There is a stipulation in the agreement that states that the funding will not be released for this section of the greenway until the other costs for the funding of this section are received. A request for funding has been submitted to the General Assembly for this section of the greenway project. This resolution accepts the funding from the Carolina Thread Trail with the stipulations mentioned by Mr. Cornwell. Mr. Cameron asked if there was a timeline involved. Mr. Cornwell directed the members to the appropriate section of the agreement that indicated that a three-year time frame was allowed. Mr. Martin asked if there was enough money for construction with this grant. Mr. Cornwell noted that the construction costs were dependent on NCDOT and the design costs. Mr. Melton asked about a time frame for this section of the greenway. Mr. Cornwell clarified that this section could be designed in eight months to year. The construction of this section was dependent on how quickly the funding could be obtained.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Pedersen, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 17-2023

A Resolution Authorizing and Accepting a Grant from the Carolina Thread Trail in the Amount of \$125,000

F. New Business:

No new business was presented.

G. General Manager's Report:

Mr. Cornwell continued with Ginger Fern, Finance Director. Mrs. Fern shared that the local options sales tax continues to be above the budgeted amount by 36%. The overage in the maintenance materials budget is continuing to decrease as projects are being completed and the funding is transferred to capital, therefore capital is increasing with the addition of these new water lines. The Clyde Wallace and Delight Road water lines have been completed and transferred to the capital outlay account. The interim audit is scheduled for the last week of May, this work will be done remotely with the auditor not being onsite. The final audit will be in the fourth week in August, the auditor will be onsite during this time. Michelle Alexander, Customer Service Director continued with the disconnection and billing update. The billing included 109,573,769 gallons of usage at \$654,777.80 for 22,360 customer accounts. There were seventeen customer leak telephone calls made. There were twenty-eight leak adjustments for \$5,518.98. There were no disconnections during April due to staffing. The software contract has been signed with Tyler Technologies. The credit/debit card fees for over the telephone and online payments were changed from \$2.50 to \$1.25. This fee amount was compared to local utilities and the District is compatible with the fee amount. General Manager Cornwell continued his report, noting that the maintenance and water plant numbers were available in the members packets. The Marion Street Booster Pump Station construction should begin the third week of the month. The Clearwell and High Service Pump Station electricians are onsite with approximately three weeks of work to complete. The valves and wet taps have been made on the existing pipes at the water plant. This is a challenging process because of the age of the existing pipe at the water plant. The connection has not been made to the new distribution line for the Polkville area. This tie-in will require a shutdown of approximately three to four hours. This will be scheduled for the middle of the week during a low demand time when all the tanks are full. The flocculation and sedimentation basin update was completed earlier in the meeting with the approval of the new resolution. The raw water weir improvement project pre-construction meeting was held earlier in the day.

The Casar Lawndale ARP funded water main project is at Division of Water for review. The New Centrally Located Operations Center has begun the sheetrock work inside and the enclosing of the awning on the front of the building has begun. The Lawndale Park bid opening will take place on May 25, 2023. There are four contractors that are plan holders. Mr. Cornwell shared a letter from Patrick McHenry concerning the Land and Water Conservation Fund Application. Mr. Cornwell also shared some details concerning the application guidelines and flood insurance issues that the NC League of Municipalities, the District's insurance agent, has assisted with. Mr. McCrary, Assistant to Congressman Patrick McHenry is inquiring on the District's behalf as to the status of this application. Mr. Cornwell shared an email from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission that the construction will begin in the middle of June for the Delight Road and NC 10 Access Points. The kickoff meeting for the Paved Trails and Sidewalks Feasibility Study was held. Mr. Melton asked about the roof of the old bank building in Lawndale. Mr. Cornwell verified that the work was taking place on that project. Mr. Brooks asked what type of contractors bid on the Lawndale Park project. Mr. Cornwell noted that general contractors bid on those projects. General Contractors have different types of specifications, when the contractor doesn't have all the specifications that the project requires, those portions of the project are subcontracted. Lawndale Sand, Wilkie Construction and JD Goodrum Company were some of the plan holders. Mr. Pedersen asked how the plan holders were notified and received copies of the plans. Mr. Cornwell explained that the advertisement was posted in the newspaper, on several construction websites and on the Cleveland County Water website. Mr. Cameron asked about the Knob Creek water line completion. Mr. Cornwell answered that the water line was completed but the fencing had not been installed.

H. Board Members Announcement and Remarks

The members noted appreciation for all the work being done.

I. 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 or 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)

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Cook, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to go into Closed Session at 7:38 PM.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen, second by Mr. Brooks, the Board of Commissioners returned to Open Session at 7:46 PM.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Cameron, second by Mr. Pederson, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to authorize the General Manager to make a purchase offer of \$30,000.00 on tax parcel 28088 and to pay all closing costs if the owner accepts the District's offer.

H. Adjournment

Action Taken: Chairman Melton called for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion by Mr. Cook, second by Mr. Martin, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cameron

Bill Cameron, Secretary

