

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Cleveland County Water Board Room

February 18, 2025
Tuesday, 6:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Donald Melton; presiding, Vice Chairman Bill Cameron, Commissioners Tony Brooks, Bruce Martin, Pamela P. Maddox and Pete Pedersen. Attorney Delton W. Barnes and General Manager Brad Cornwell were present. Secretary Amy Elliott Bridges was absent.

This board meeting was rescheduled due to illness and concerns of lack of quorum on the original scheduled date. The original meeting schedule date was Tuesday, February 11, 2025. The re-scheduled regular meeting date was Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Chairman Donald Melton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM, welcomed all who were in attendance and recognized Commissioner Bill Cameron 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. Chairman Melton requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

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

B. Public Comment

No public comments were presented.

C. Consent Agenda:

ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Melton presented the Consent Agenda Items. Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen, 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 January 14, 2025

- 2) Consideration of Resolution Number 4-2025 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a NCDOT Utility Construction Request for WBS: BP12-C003 and BP12-R032

D. Unfinished Business:

No unfinished business was presented at this time.

E. New Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 5-2025 A Resolution Ratifying the Offer and Acceptance of an Easement for the Stagecoach Greenway on Property Owned by Cleveland County Water

Mr. Cornwell explained that the property referenced in the resolution is part of the Stagecoach Greenway along the side of the Casar Lawndale Road. NC Department of Transportation currently does not have a signed or dedicated right of way for this section of road. The NCDOT is partnering with the District to design this section for the Stagecoach Greenway. The NCDOT appropriation for this section of the greenway is \$350,000.00. This encroachment will protect the infrastructure that is developed in this area. This property will remain part of NCDOT if in the event the District no longer owns the property. The NCDOT has several drainage pipes that will be improved and expanded as part of the greenway development. The easement is a legal document that will be recorded with the register of deeds. Mr. Cornwell directed the members to a section of the easement that the engineers created for the measurements and points contained in the easement. Once the easement is recorded, Mr. Cornwell will sign another document to be recorded for a right-of-way encroachment. Once the right-of-way encroachment is recorded an offer of dedication will be recorded allowing this area to be used for public use. Mr. Cameron asked if the District owned the property to the middle of the river. Mr. Cornwell verified that the property was from the center of the road to the center of the river.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen, second by Mr. Cameron, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 5-2025 *A Resolution Ratifying the Offer and Acceptance of an Easement for the Stagecoach Greenway on Property Owned by Cleveland County Water*

F. General Manager's Report:

Mr. Cornwell will be presenting the General Manager's report because some of the department heads were at conferences and others were sick. The finance report consisted of five payrolls in January. The maintenance department materials account was adjusted for \$117,000 for the Deal and Gardner Road line extensions. The new meter reader trucks were paid in the amount of \$110,000.00. Mr. Cornwell reminded that September, January, and February were the highest paid months for the Cleveland County property tax. The January property tax was \$129,000.00. The billing and disconnection numbers are in the member packets for reference. The disconnections have resumed since the Christmas holiday break. The leak calls and Kiosk payments are also recorded for reference. The maintenance report shows that the leaks are up because of the colder winter temperatures. The Deal Road and Gardner Road projects have been completed. Deal Road was for 6,740 feet of 6" pipe and Gardner Road was 1,137 feet of 4" pipe. The maintenance department is currently installing pipe for approximately \$18.00 to \$19.00 per LF in comparison to the contractors charging \$60.00 per LF. This significant savings allows for water lines to be installed or replaced when and as needed. The water plant numbers are average for the month of January. Mr. Cornwell noted that most of the capital projects are behind schedule for various reasons, including supply chain issues, weather, etc. The Polkville tank steel has arrived for the tank construction but waiting for the contractor for constructions. The pipe has been installed for the Polkville booster pump station but waiting for the equipment for the booster pump station. The weather has been very rainy which makes construction work challenging. Mr. Cornwell updated on the Stagecoach Greenway projects. The Office of State Budget and Management awarded the Stagecoach Greenway \$1,000,000.00 to be spent on work for property owned by the District to accommodate Stagecoach Greenway before October 2025. This funding could be used for drainage work and guardrails in partnership with NCDOT. The property also requires clearing and maintenance. Mr. Cornwell noted that several grants already rewarded require specific criteria, for example recreational elements, in order to spend and complete the grant. There are applications that are pending award, these grants have been submitted and are under review and have not been awarded yet. The Lawndale Bank building project received \$415,000.00 for interior renovations. This funding was awarded with the assistance of Senator Ted Alexander. Mr. Alexander has a passion of historic preservation and designated the funding specific for interior renovations. Mr. Cornwell shared a new grant opportunity from the Rural Downtown Economic Development Program. The application maximum amount is \$850,000.00. The grant requires 5% match, however points are honored if matching more than the

minimum. The Town of Lawndale will be applying for this grant in partnership with the District to benefit the Stagecoach Greenway. Mr. Cornwell asked for the members opinions in partnering with the Town of Lawndale for this grant. The members gave permission. Mr. Cameron asked for an update on the Town of Lawndale street scape and side walk situation. Mr. Cornwell answered that a grant was awarded for the sidewalk and street scape masterplan through the NCDOT. The master plan had to be completed in order to apply for funding. The master plan is now completed and applications for funding can be submitted. Chairman Melton and the members of the board requested that the General Manager prepare a resolution honoring Attorney Tim Moore for his time as District Attorney.

G. Board Members Announcement and Remarks

The members noted appreciation for hard work and service.

H. Adjournment

Action Taken: Chairman Melton called for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mrs. Maddox, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Elliott Bridges, Secretary

