

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Cleveland County Water Board Room

February 12, 2019
Tuesday, 7: 00 P.M.

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

Chairman Donald Melton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, welcomed all who were in attendance and recognized Commissioner John Taylor 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. Cook 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 Mrs. Bridges second by Mr. Pedersen 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 8, 2019

D. Unfinished Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 2-2019 A Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Funding Offer and Acceptance from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality for the Lattimore Tank Project

Mr. Cornwell explained that this resolution would be the final step in the paperwork process for the Lattimore Storage Tank. This resolution accepts the loan funds and the terms of the loan.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen, second by Mr. Taylor, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 2-2019 A *Resolution Authorizing Execution of a Funding Offer and Acceptance from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality for the Lattimore Tank Project*

- 2) Consideration of Resolution Number 3-2019 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Utility Construction Agreement for Betterment Costs for NCDOT Project W-5712A Joe's Lake Road

Mr. Cornwell explained the resolution for the betterment costs for a round-about being constructed near the Pinnacle Classical Academy on Joe's Lake Road. The budget ordinance for this project has already been adopted. The project would give the opportunity to connect a section of six-inch water line that would close an existing gap that has been in the system for some time. This project would allow for this betterment to be constructed during the NCDOT project. Since this gap repair was not completed before this project, it is considered a betterment and the costs are billed instead of absorbed by NCDOT. The engineering estimate called for a \$48,000.00 budget but the final amounts from the NCDOT finished the costs at \$41,000.00 to be billed back at the completion of the project.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Cook, second by Mrs. Bridges, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 3-2019 A *Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Utility Construction Agreement for Betterment Costs for NCDOT Project W-5712A Joe's Lake Road*

1) Informational Discussion Regarding Elections held in Even versus Odd Years

Mr. Cornwell updated the members on the information obtained concerning the possibility of moving the commissioner election to even years instead of the currently used odd years. The costs of the election in odd and even years are calculated using different formulas based on the elections being held in that election year. In the past, the costs of the election were shared with Cleveland County and the municipalities holding their local elections. Cleveland County contributed to the election costs because of the school board elections. The General Assembly has enacted legislation that the school board elections be held in even numbered years and this would cause the cost formula for the election to change. Cleveland County would no longer contribute to the costs of the election without the school board participation in odd numbered years. The election costs in the even numbered years would increase considerably due to the formula being based on voter turnout. The costs in even year elections are increased in part due to the staff required to handle a larger election. The Cleveland County Manager, Brian Epley, informed Mr. Cornwell that the county would like to continue the flexibility of having the county wide election in odd numbered years. Mr. Cornwell explained to the County Manager that the CCW commissioner election is not county wide because the customer base participating in the voting are only the population inside the District boundaries. Mr. Epley noted that the election for odd years would change without the CCW commissioner election because not all voting facilities would be required to participate. The Town of Casar only holds their municipal election every four years because their council are all elected in one election without staggered terms. Without the CCW commissioner election, Cleveland County would not have accessibility for referendum voting or any other required additional voting. There would be no true county wide election in odd numbered years. The Board of Elections has agreed to continue the current formula calculation for the odd numbered years to retain the flexibility of having odd numbered year elections for the County. The cost of the elections if the CCW commissioner election is assigned to even numbers years would be approximately \$45,000.00 per election. The current election costs average \$20,000.00. Mr. Cornwell noted that there was no action required at this time unless a move was deemed necessary. The members decided to keep the election in the odd numbered years.

E. New Business:

- 1) Consideration of Ordinance Number 2-2019 An Ordinance Establishing a Capital Project Ordinance and Budget for Cleveland County Water B-5531 Replacement of Bridge #76 over Buffalo Creek on NC Highway 150 Waterline Relocation Project

Mr. Cornwell explained the replacement of the bridge over Buffalo Creek near what once was called Dover Mill Number 3. The NCDOT will be replacing this bridge. This resolution calls for an agreement with the engineering firm to review the cost of the project. NCDOT will reimburse for the engineering fees.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Taylor, second by Mr. Brooks, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance Number 2-2019 *An Ordinance Establishing a Capital Project Ordinance and Budget for Cleveland County Water B-5531 Replacement of Bridge #76 over Buffalo Creek on NC Highway 150 Waterline Relocation Project*

- 2) Consideration of Ordinance Number 3-2019 a FY 2018-2019 Budget Ordinance Amendment for Cleveland County Water

Mr. Cornwell and Jeff Earl, Operations Director, shared with the members a piece of three-inch SDR-26 water pipe. The pipe was collected from a repair that took place on Carpenters Grove Church Road. Mr. Cornwell explained that this pipe was part of the original water line installed when the system was started. The water line was purchased and installed as cost efficiently as possible. This main line has been repaired six times in the last two weeks. Since 1999 there have been fifty-four recorded main line breaks on Carpenters Grove Church Road. Mr. Cornwell explained that while a water line is in the ground it is constantly moving. The SDR-26 water line has become very brittle due to age showing multiple weak places in the material. The pipe is also very cheaply made. The maintenance crews struggle during repairs because the brittle water line is breaking apart during the process of making the repair. Mr. Cornwell noted that the customers are unhappy with the main line breaks and the water outages caused by the repairs. The fund

balance has the necessary funds to appropriate for the replacement installation. Mr. Cornwell explained that the water demand during February is not as demanding as the summer months. The water line breaks and repairs will continue if the replacement is delayed while waiting for a new budget year to begin. The leaks will increase as the water demand increases for the summer months. The engineering process will take six weeks to design. Mr. Melton noted that the customers on Carpenters Grove Church Road are widely spread but those customers are important too. Mr. Pedersen asked what material the replacement line would be made of and would the size of the line be increased. Mr. Earl responded that the replacement line would be C-900 SDR-18 would be thicker and more robust material and the line size would be increased to six inches. Mr. Cornwell noted that the system has grown over the years and the bigger water line would allow for commercial and fire flow growth. Mr. Cook inquired about other areas with the same kind of pipe. Mr. Cornwell explained that the upper end, a third of Cleveland County, is this same pipe material. The budget this year called for Jackson White Road to be replaced which is the same kind of material. The now completed Golden Valley Road replacement was also discussed. Mr. Cook asked if a plan was developing for future water line improvements. Mr. Earl noted the expense involved in replacing the upper end and how problem areas were being replaced. Mr. Brooks asked about the age of the water line examples. Mr. Cornwell replied that the water line was installed in 1983. Mr. Brooks inquired about tracking the costs of the repair process. Mr. Earl explained how the costs were calculated based on the repair and the yard repair. He also noted the additional costs of possible damaged driveways and other damages. Mr. Cornwell added the costs of overtime and weekend overtime to the employee. Mr. Brooks questioned the cost savings if the water line had already been replaced. Mr. Earl noted that the employees were out until two o'clock in the morning on two of the six recent Carpenter Grove Church Road repairs. Mr. Pedersen asked about the depth of the new line water line replacement. Mr. Earl responded that the water line would be buried at thirty inches which is deeper than the frost level of twelve to eighteen inches for our area. Mr. Taylor asked about the lines that come off this line. Mr. Earl replied that the new water line installation would be for the eight thousand five hundred feet of main line on Carpenters Grove Church Road. The services had all been replaced in copper over twenty years ago.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Cook, second by Mr. Pedersen, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance Number 2-2019
Consideration of Ordinance Number 3-2019 a FY 2018-2019 Budget Ordinance Amendment for Cleveland County Water

F. General Manager's Report:

Mr. Cornwell began with the financial reports for January. The salaries budget for January included five payrolls for the month. The materials line item in the maintenance budget is in the negative because of adjustments for line extension and replacement materials that have been moved into capital projects. January is a good point of year because seven months of the budget year have been completed. Mr. Cornwell noted that the water revenues for customers paying their water bills is where the budget numbers are. The Cleveland County tax collections for September were lower than prior years however the December tax collections were up from prior years. This means that more citizens paid their Cleveland County tax bills in December instead of taking the discount and paying in August. Mr. Cornwell noted the vehicle tax increases were leveling out which meant that the new vehicle purchases were leveling out. The local option sales tax was ahead. Mr. Cornwell noted that the March tax would show the December Christmas purchases. The billing reports reflects a decrease due to the adjustments from the December water leaks caused by the cold weather. The Golden Valley Road water main line replacement has been completed. The Champion Street installed by the maintenance staff is completed. The Town of Fallston project continues in construction. The prior pay requests that were delayed due to the government shut down have been paid out. The contractor has been advised to make a pay request soon because of possible future rumored government shut downs. The construction is progressing at a slow pace. The amount of rain has delayed the construction. The contractor has asked for rain days in January due to not being able to work. The construction inspection manager has granted some of the rain days but not all the rain days. Mr. Cornwell updated on the progress of the Lattimore Water Tank project. The installation of the twelve-inch water line is scheduled to begin on April 1, 2019 and Two Brothers Utilities was awarded that installation. The contractor has been informed of the farming industry in that area and the necessary measures required. The tank portion of the project does not have an assigned date to begin. The pre-construction meeting for the Lattimore

Tank project is scheduled for next week. Mr. Cornwell presented two customer compliments. Josh Millwood was complimented for assisting a customer with a possible water leak. The customer was appreciative of the information to share with the plumber. The plumber had advised the customer that there was no water leak. Justin Feinberg was complimented for contacting a customer concerning his water leak. The customer was appreciative of the sharing of information to enable him to take action and fix his water leak.

G. Board Members Announcement and Remarks

Mr. Melton asked if there was a way to communicate to the customers concerning water leaks. Mr. Cornwell responded that the customers have access to resources concerning water leaks. Mr. Taylor asked if the Carpenters Grove Church Road water line replacement would be installed by the maintenance department. Mr. Earl noted that with the length of the project and the amount of rock in the area, that the project would be contracted out. Mr. Taylor noted his appreciation to the staff. Mr. Brooks inquired about the customers effected on Carpenters Grove Church Road during construction. Mr. Cornwell noted that door hangers would be left for the customers noting the construction taking place in the area. Mr. Brooks inquired about the construction at Clearwater. Mr. Cornwell noted the construction was a new water line installation for the City of Shelby. Mr. Melton noted that the Town of Kingstown mailed a letter of appreciation for the participation in the Martin Luther King Jr. parade.

H. 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 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cameron

Bill Cameron
Secretary

