

## MINUTES

Regular Meeting  
Cleveland County Water Board Room

February 13, 2024  
Tuesday, 6:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Donald Melton; presiding, Vice Chairman Bill Cameron, Secretary Amy Elliott Bridges, Commissioners Tony Brooks, Bruce Martin, Pete Pedersen, and Pamela P. Maddox. General Manager Brad Cornwell was present. Attorney Tim Moore was absent but it was noted he was available by telephone if needed.

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 Commissioner Bruce Martin led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

### A. Approval of agenda:

Mr. Cornwell noted that an updated agenda was at the members' seats. The new agenda included different wording in reference to E. Unfinished Business, item number 2 for the Town of Fallston. The Closed Session has been updated to also include NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to include Attorney client privilege discussion. The minutes from December were corrected because Mr. Cameron was identified by the wrong title of Secretary instead of Vice Chairman. Mrs. Bridges signed the minutes as Secretary, this correction makes the signatures and titles match for the December minutes. 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 approve the agenda.

### B. Special Presentation

1) Recognition and Presentation of Resolution Number 41-2023 to Commissioner Dewey Cook for his Service to Cleveland County Water

Vice Chairman Cameron presented Dewey Cook with a framed resolution for appreciation of his service to Cleveland County Water. Mr. Cook served as Commissioner on the Cleveland County Water Board for twenty-four years.

## 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. 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 January 9, 2024
- 2) Consideration of Resolution Number 3-2024 A Resolution Ratifying the Purchase of Real Property from Broad River Asset Solutions, LLC

## D. Unfinished Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 4-2024 A Resolution of Tentative Award for the Cherryville Interconnection Project

Mr. Cornwell explained that this resolution awards the bid for the interconnection with the City of Cherryville. This project was created to establish an emergency connection on the eastern side of the county. There are currently no emergency connections on this side of the county. This interconnection is a dual interconnection, the water traveling through this interconnection can be fed either way, to feed either party. The legislative delegation was petitioned for ARP funding for this project. This funding could only be awarded to one party, the City of Cherryville was awarded the funding with the District overseeing the project. The General Statutes allow interlocal agreements between municipalities to partner in completing these types of projects. The District has a management agreement to design, build, and oversee this project. Mrs. Fern, Finance Director, will complete the necessary applications for funding reimbursements. The funds will be released to the City of Cherryville and then later reimbursed back to the District. The bid opening for this project resulted in bids below the budget estimated for the project. Since the funding was awarded to the City of Cherryville the excess funds will belong to the City of Cherryville. This resolution awards the bid to Hyatt Pipeline, LLC. This resolution will be shared with NC DWI for their records. The member packet includes all the history of the project, including the prior agreements and contracts.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Upon a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mrs. Bridges, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 4-

*2024 A Resolution of Tentative Award for the Cherryville Interconnection Project*

- 2) Consideration of Resolution Number 5-2024 A Resolution By the Cleveland County Water Board of Commissioners Requesting a Local Bill By the North Carolina General Assembly For Inclusion of the Fallston Town Limits to be Included Within the Sanitary District Boundaries of Cleveland County Water

Mr. Cornwell gave some historical details for this resolution. The Town of Fallston and the District partnered in 2017 for a USDA funded improvement project. This project contract included options for early payoff of the loan that would enable the Town of Fallston system to be included in the District boundaries. Mr. Cornwell referred the members to the District's charter from 1980 in the member packet. The charter specifically references that the Town of Fallston is not included in the boundaries of the District. The Town of Fallston's system dates to the 1950s. Mr. Cornwell has met with Mayor Weaver and Town Clerk Boggs to discuss the Town's intentions. Attorney Moore has assisted Mr. Cornwell with the paperwork process for presentation. The Town of Fallston has already approved the required resolution for their part of the paperwork. This resolution along with the resolution from the Town of Fallston will be presented in the form of a bill to the General Assembly for review. There is a deadline for the submission of a bill to the General Assembly, Mr. Cornwell is unsure of what that deadline is. Mr. Pedersen questioned if Attorney Moore would know when the submission deadline would be. Mr. Cornwell verified that Attorney Moore would know.

*ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mrs. Bridges, second by Mr. Pedersen, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 5-2024 A Resolution By the Cleveland County Water Board of Commissioners Requesting a Local Bill By the North Carolina General Assembly For Inclusion of the Fallston Town Limits to be Included Within the Sanitary District Boundaries of Cleveland County Water*

F. New Business:

None at this time.

G. General Manager's Report:

Mr. Cornwell introduced Ginger Fern, Finance Director, for the financial report for January. The local options sales tax for January continues to be better than the budget. The cleaning of the intake and rebuilding the rock walls amounted to \$17,600.00. This task was required due to the heavy rains received this winter. The property purchased for the Greenway at 126 Main Street in Lawndale was \$53,262.00. The capital reserve fund currently has a balance of \$3,091,830.00. The dividends paid on that balance in January was \$13,716.00. Michelle Alexander, Customer Service Director, continued with the billing and disconnection report. The billing numbers are available in the packet. The January billing was increased over the December billing. All cycles were disconnected, and time allowed for cycle 1 to be disconnected again. Cycle 1 was locked in two days, 103 customers for \$17,922.48, there are fourteen customers remaining to pay. Cycle 3 was locked in one day, 124 customers for \$33,762.82, there are twenty-two customers remaining to pay. Cycle 2 was locked in two days, 105 customers for \$22,574.60 with thirty-three customers remaining to pay. The second cycle 1 disconnection was completed in two days, 158 customers for \$25,577.18, with twenty customers remaining to pay. Mrs. Alexander noted that several of the remaining customers had minimum monthly water bills, which means these customers have probably already moved without requesting cancellation of their account. There were 126 leak calls made to customers. The billing department completed fifty water leak adjustments that totaled \$12,411.76. Mr. Cornwell noted that the maintenance department completed a line extension for 589 feet on Pleasant Grove Church Road. This line extension created a loop for water feed that will resolve some customers calling concerning water taste and chlorine odor. The water plant numbers are available for the members in the packet. Mr. Cornwell noted that the water plant operates more stable now with the addition of the new high service pumps and service lines that were installed during the Clearwell project. Mr. Cornwell provided some history on the Raw Water Weir Improvement project and announced that the project has a bid below the estimated budget. The bid has been shared with USDA for approval before the award process can begin for this project. Mr. Cornwell shared the letter mailed to USDA sharing the bid information. The Greenway Design along Casar Lawndale Road is currently thirty-five percent designed by the consultant. The design has been submitted to NCDOT for review. This project will require environmental documents as part of the grant funding process. The Cherokee Indian Nation from Oklahoma has requested to make comments concerning this project. The Lawndale Paved Trails and Sidewalk Study was

submitted in December. There are no updates on this project. The access roads at the NC Highway 10 and Delight Road locations have been paved. Mike Still Grading was contracted to do some minor repairs to the locations from the heavy rains received in the area by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. These two locations will soon be turned over to the District for future maintenance. Mr. Cornwell noted that with the summer months fast approaching these locations would require staff to provide maintenance to these areas. These are public access points that need to be kept neat and clean. Mr. Cornwell will be meeting with various resources to assist with the job descriptions for the staff and the staffing requirements for these locations. The Town of Lawndale has full-time staff that may be able to assist with the maintenance at the Lawndale Park. Mr. Cornwell asked for feedback from the members concerning this idea. There is a block building on the property recently purchased for the Greenway. The District doesn't have a need for this building, the Town of Lawndale may need to use this building. The New Operations Center generator still doesn't have the transfer switch. The electrical contractor has not completed this installation. The lobby of the Operations Center doesn't have enough air circulating. The lobby is full of windows, a comfortable temperature has been difficult to obtain in this area. The area also has an odor without the proper air circulation. Mr. Cornwell has obtained an estimate to add some additional duct work and allow better air flow in the lobby. Mr. Cornwell shared some restroom modification ideas for the men's locker room at the New Operations Center. Mr. Cornwell noted that the NCDOT projects for McBrayer Homestead and Elam Road are nearly complete. The NCDOT R-4045 Mooresboro Interchange project has numerous concerns because of design build construction with no plan. Mr. Cornwell shared some recommended grant funding for the Stagecoach Greenway. This project has received some funding, but not enough to complete the project. The funding from the state budget is \$1,000,000.00 with an expiration date of October 3, 2025. There is \$150,000.00 in funding from the Carolina Thread Trail, these funds will be released when the project begins. The total estimated budget for this project is \$3,200,000.00. Mr. Cornwell asked the members for their approval to have the consultant complete the applications for grant funding to complete this project. There is funding for the consultant application completion in the operating budget. The Old BB&T building renovation funding is a State grant that will come through Cleveland County government. Staff is beginning to work on the RFQ for Architectural services. This section of the project will require streetscape and parking lots for the building and Mr. Cornwell will explore

the possibility of Appalachian Regional Commission grant funding. Mr. Cornwell reminded the members of the upcoming board member retreat on February 24, 2024, at the New Operations Center. The employee compliments were shared with the members, Joshua Millwood had received three random customer telephone calls noting appreciation for his assistance. Mr. Millwood is a member of the field services team. His responsibilities include the work orders and data logs for the District. Patricia Black received a customer compliment concerning a water leak call that notified the customer of a potential problem that could lead to a high-water bill.

#### H. Board Members Announcement and Remarks

The members expressed appreciation and didn't have questions.

#### 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 for 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) and to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3)

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Pedersen, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to go into Closed Session at 6:46 PM.

Action Taken: Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Cameron, the Board of Commissioners returned to Open Session at 7:10 PM.

Action Taken: Chairman Melton called for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mr. Brooks, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:11 PM.



Respectfully submitted,

Amy Elliott Bridges, Secretary