

MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Cleveland County Water Board Room

June 11, 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 attended via Video Conference.

Chairman Donald Melton called the meeting to order at 6:00 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. Cameron, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the agenda.

B. Public Hearing:

Chairman Melton noted it was time for the Public Hearing for anyone wishing to make comments on the proposed FY 2024-20254 Cleveland County Water budget. Chairman Melton opened the Public Hearing at 6:01 PM.

General Manager Brad Cornwell noted that the Public Hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the General Statutes and noted the layout of the Budget Ordinance and Supplemental Budget Ordinance. He also noted that the advertisement directed interested parties to contact him via email or by telephone if they had questions about the budget. He noted that he had not received any written communications via email or letter and no phone calls related to the budget.

With no one signed up or present for the Public Hearing, Chairman Melton closed the Public Hearing at 6:03 PM.

ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Melton called for a motion to adopt Ordinance Number 15-2024. Upon a motion by Mrs. Bridges, second by Mr. Cameron, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance Number 15-2024 *Cleveland County Water FY 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance*

ACTION TAKEN: Chairman Melton called for a motion to adopt Ordinance Number 16-2024. Upon a motion by Mr. Brooks, second by Mr. Pedersen, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance Number 16-2024 *Cleveland County Water FY 2024-2025 Supplemental Budget Ordinance*

C. Public Comment

No public comments were presented.

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 May 14, 2024
- 2) Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 21, 2024
- 3) Consideration of Ordinance Number 17-2024 An Ordinance Amendment for a Capital Project Ordinance and Budgets for Cleveland County Water's Lawndale Park Project
- 4) Consideration of Ordinance Number 18-2024 An Ordinance Amendment for a Capital Project Ordinance and Budgets for Cleveland County Water's New Broad River Water Plant Treatment Plant Project
- 5) Consideration of Resolution Number 26-2024 A Resolution Adopting and Accepting the Lawndale Sidewalk and Multi-Use Path Feasibility Study WBS Element: 50343.8.16
- 6) Consideration of Resolution Number 27-2024 A Resolution Accepting Willis Engineers as the Most Qualified to Perform Work Related to the Water MRF Project No. MRF-D-ARP-0014 and Wastewater MRF Project No. MRF-W-ARP-0020

E. Unfinished Business:

- 1) Consideration of Resolution Number 28-2024 A Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Water Resources Development Grant

Mr. Cornwell explained that this item was a continuation of the design in process for the Narrows Section of the Stagecoach Greenway along Casar Lawndale Road, which was being designed by an appropriation from NCDOT. He noted that the Water Resources Development grant was in the amount of \$200,000 for construction of this section and was one of about five grant opportunities that the District was seeking.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen, second by Mr. Cameron, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 28-2024 *A Resolution Authorizing Submission for a Water Resources Development Grant*

- 2) Consideration of Resolution Number 29-2024 A Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Funding Application for the Downtown Lawndale Streetscape Project to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in the amount of \$500,000

Mr. Cornwell explained that this item was in consideration of a full application to the Appalachian Regional Commission for the Downtown Lawndale Streetscape Project. He summarized that this funding, if obtained, would be used for the parking lots and streetscape work around the former Bank Building that CCW has been working on in conjunction with the Greenway project. He reviewed the history of the ARC with Commissioners and noted that this was a great opportunity to find funding for this project.

ACTION TAKEN: Upon a motion by Mr. Martin, second by Mrs. Bridges, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt Resolution Number 29-2024 *A Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Funding Application for the Downtown Lawndale Streetscape Project to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) in the Amount of \$500,000*

F. New Business:

No New Business was presented.

G. General Manager's Report:

Mr. Cornwell introduced Ginger Fern, Finance Director, for the financial report for May. Mrs. Fern summarized the May financial report, and noted there were no penalties/late fees issued for May. She noted there were five payrolls in May and that Equipment/Maintenance Contracts was high due to paying for Tyler and QS1 together. This would be last payment for QS1. There were also two months of payments made to the Towns we collect sewer for since none were made in April. Mr. Cornwell and Mrs. Fern updated Commissioners on the check that was whitewashed around the beginning of the year. In February, staff was notified by a vendor that they never received their payment in December 2023. Staff in turn notified the bank that the check had been cashed but was a case where the check had been whitewashed and the person whose name was on the check had been a victim of identity theft. Reports were filed with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Department who investigated and discovered the check went to Florida, was whitewashed, and then cashed in California. Since the case resulted in California, the jurisdiction ended for CC Sheriff's Department. CCW staff turned over all this information to HomeTrust who forwarded it to PNC, which is the bank that cashed the check in California. It would be up to PNC to reverse the transaction for CCW to get their funds back from the fraudulent check. It was noted that PNC had between 90-120 days to decide on refunding the funds, and that CCW nor HomeTrust still had not heard back.

Michelle Alexander, Customer Service Director, continued with the disconnection and billing update. Mrs. Alexander reported that there were no disconnections in May due to the billing transition and that late fees would resume in June. There were 40 calls made to customers for potential leaks, and 24 leak adjustments. The KIOSK payments were made on 149 accounts, and she also noted that 4,160 customers had set up an online portal.

Mr. Cornwell noted that the Maintenance and Water Plant numbers were in the members packet for their review and that the maintenance department had completed the installation of 1395 linear feet of 6" extension on Hatcher Spangler Road. He requested input from Commissioners on their desire to cancel the August Board meeting as they have done in the past several years.

All Commissioners spoke favorably of canceling the August meeting and he noted he would have a cancellation notice on the Agenda for July. He informed them of the petition to designate the First Broad River as a State Trail being passed around by David Caldwell, RiverKeeper. He noted where it was and the increased awareness for the First Broad River. He reminded Commissioners of the groundbreaking being held by the County on Friday, June 14th at 10 AM for the new Emergency Management and 911 Center and noted that while this construction was taking place, the County has requested to park several of their HazMat and Emergency Response vehicles on the maintenance yard in Lawndale on the CCW property. Mr. Cornwell reviewed the proposed Ordinance 19-2024 with Commissioners and review the proposed rules/regulations with Commissioners for the park facilities and the Stagecoach Greenway. He requested any feedback they may have on the document and noted it would be on the July 9th agenda for their consideration.

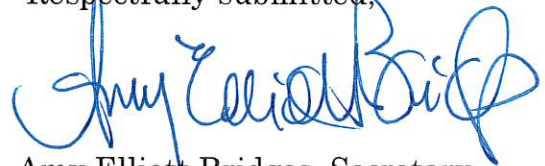
H. Board Members Announcement and Remarks

Chairman Melton requested any Board Members announcements and remarks. Mrs. Bridges noted her thanks to all the staff for their hard work on the budget process and especially during the billing software transition taking place at the same time.

I. Adjournment

Action Taken: Chairman Melton called for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion by Mr. Pedersen, second by Mr. Brooks, the Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Elliott Bridges, Secretary

