

**NORTH GARLAND COUNTY REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT
138 Cedar Mountain Circle
Hot Springs, AR 71909
(501) 620-4118 FAX (501) 318-0304**

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 11TH, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jack Fields, Randy Ragsdale, Jerry Vaughn, Dwayne Pratt, David Harper and Don Daley.

STAFF PRESENT: Darrell Eckard and Barbara Thurman.

GUEST PRESENT – Jay Owen – Attorney, Jerry Kopke – Communities Unlimited, Michael Bolin – Engineer, Jason Temple and Chris Boutzell – Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association

Meeting to Order – Director Fields called the Special Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Adoption of the Agenda – The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of July 28th, 2020 Quarterly Board Minutes – Minutes were approved as submitted.

HSVPOA Emergency Water Connection Contract – Mr. Owen reviewed the contract between North Garland County Regional Water District and the Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association. Jason Temple and Chris Boutzell agreed with the contract stating it would need approval from the HSVPOA Board. Director Ragsdale made a motion to approve the contract as presented; seconded by Director Harper. Motion approved.

2020 Rate Study – Jerry Kopke – Communities Unlimited presented the 2020 rate study to the Board. Mr. Kopke stated when preparing his report he looks at loan payback ability, debt service reserve funds available, and operating ratio between revenue vs expenses. Mr. Kopke recommended the Board approve a 2.5% increase in water rates on minimum bills and on excess water over the minimum 1,000 gallons to keep the District in good financial condition. Discussion followed. Director Pratt asked Mr. Kopke if any grants were available to upgrade the water plant. Mr. Kopke stated yes, there are some low interest grants available now with a 45% payback. Mr. Kopke said there could be stimulus money available for improvements for infrastructure in the future. Mr. Bolin said he could start working on an estimated price to upgrade the plant.

Proposed Water Rates – Director Pratt made a motion to approve the 2020 Rate Study as presented and approve a 2.5% increase in the water rates; motion seconded by Director Ragsdale. Motion Approved.

Proposed New Connection Rates – Mr. Eckard reported the District is currently losing \$132.00 on a short side connection and \$112.00 on a long side connection due to the

increase in modules and materials. Discussion followed. Director Vaughn made a motion to increase the New Connection Rates to cover the cost; seconded by Director Daley. Motion approved. (See Attached)

Proposed 2020/2021 Budget – The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed budget. Director Pratt made a motion to approve the 2020/2021 budget as presented, motion seconded by Director Ragsdale. Motion approved. (See Attached)

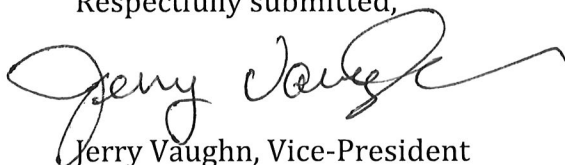
New Shop Building Bids – Mr. Eckard reported the bid opening for the new shop was held on August 4th, 2020 at 2 p.m. at the District office. Harrison Construction in Hot Springs presented the lowest bid for \$186,302.00. Mr. Eckard stated currently we have \$125,782.73 available from the Construction Fund Account and the difference of \$60,519.27 could be paid from the Operational Reserve Fund. Director Pratt made a motion to accept and award the bid to Harrison Construction; seconded by Director Ragsdale. Motion approved. Director Vaughn made a motion to use funds from the Operating Reserve to cover the additional cost of the new shop; motion seconded by Director Harper. Motion approved.

Wrought Iron Fence Vs Chain Link Fence for the New Office – Mr. Eckard reported he has contacted 5 companies for bids and has only received 2 bids which exceed the \$20,000 procurement requirements without advertising for bids. Mr. Eckard stated the bids were for 340' of fence with a 16' electric gate with key pad for the front of the office only with a chain link and wrought iron. Director Vaughn stated the chain link isn't very secure and recommends installing a wrought iron fence. Discussion followed. The Board agreed to advertise for bids on wrought iron fence with points on top for the front and chain link fencing round the rest that would encompass the shop area also. The Board agreed the fencing cost would be paid from the Operating Reserve Fund.

Revised Leak Adjustment Policy – Mr. Eckard presented the revised leak adjustment policy indicating changes the Board requested during the last board meeting. Director Vaughn made a motion to approve the revised leak policy as presented, seconded by Director Pratt. Discussion followed with regards to requiring a licensed plumber, commercial customers, and revising per customer to per customer account. Director Vaughn amended his motion from per customer to per customer account. Motion approved 5-1 with Director Ragsdale opposing.

Director Fields adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Vaughn, Vice-President

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