

**NORTH GARLAND COUNTY REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT
3084 N Hwy 7
Hot Springs, AR 71909
(501) 620-4118 FAX (501) 318-0304**

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
JULY 25TH, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jerry Vaughn, David Harper, Joe Turner, Jack Fields, Velton Lacy, Todd Graves and Eddie Livingston.

STAFF PRESENT: Stephen McEarl, Barbara Thurman and Darrell Eckard

GUESTS PRESENT: None

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

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

Approval of April 25th, 2023 Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes – Director Fields made a motion the minutes be approved as submitted; seconded by Director Graves. Motion approved

New Business –

Review/Approve Proposed Water Rate Increase Effective October 1, 2023 – Mr. McEarl reported a proposed 2.5% rate increase on minimum bills and a 3% rate increase for water usage over the 1,000 minimum. Mr. McEarl stated chemicals for the plant have increased, inflation caused everything to increase, and all the rain this year has our water sales down for this fiscal year. Discussion followed. Director Lacy made a motion to approved the proposed rate increase beginning October 1, 2023; seconded by Director Livingston. Motion approved unanimously.

Review/Approve October 1, 2023 thru September 30th, 2024 Proposed Budget – Discussion followed. Director Fields made a motion to the proposed budget as presented; seconded by Director Harper. Motion approved unanimously.

Resolution for Bank Signers with US Bank, Chambers Bank, Bank OZK, and Diamond State Bank – Director Fields made a motion Stephen McEarl, Amanda Gossage, David Harper, Jack Fields, and Kyrrah Todd Ray Graves would be the approved bank signers for all bank accounts; seconded by Director Livingston. Motion approved unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Carbon Machine Update – Mr. McEarl reported the original estimate was \$150,000, but thinks it could be around \$95,000 installed. However, we would need to put in walls, doors, exhaust fans and a drain that is not included in this price. Mr. McEarl still has questions and the auger might need to be changed. Once it is ordered, it could be 8-9 months before we receive the parts. Discussion followed. Director Lacy made a motion to approve up to \$150,000 for the project; seconded by Director Graves. Motion approved unanimously.

Plant Expansion Update – Mr. Eckard reported if the Board signs the ANRC Bond Resolution for the plant expansion project, the district can still back out. Discussion followed regarding the price and expense to our customers. Director Turner made a motion to sign for the ANRC Bond Resolution; seconded by Director Fields. Motion approved.

Turkey Trot Emergency Water Connection with the City of Hot Springs Update – Mr. McEarl reported Michael Bolin will draw up the plans and submit them to the City of Hot Springs. Mr. Burroughs stated he would submit the plans for approval for emergency water only until the City of Hot Springs new plant is operational, then the district can go to back to the City of Hot Springs to negotiate a long-term contract to purchase water from them. Mr. McEarl estimates the cost of the connection to be \$75,000. Director Lacy made a motion to give Mr. Bolin permission to move forward with the project; seconded by Director Turner. Motion approved.

Manager’s Report – Mr. McEarl reported Michael Bolin spoke to him regarding Southwest Water District interest in purchasing water from the district. They would like to have a connection with the district where our water lines end on Hwy 128. Mr. Bolin is requesting permission to work with Ray Owen to write up an agreement for Southwest Water District to purchase water from North Garland County Regional Water District. Director Turner made a motion that the Board give Mr. Bolin the authority to work with Ray Owen regarding the project; seconded by Director Fields. Motion approved unanimously.

Mr. Eckard’s Retirement from the District – The Board of Directors thanked Mr. Eckard for his 11 years of service with the district and presented him with a retirement card and a gift certificate. Discussion followed. Mr. Eckard stated he would help the district in the future if they needed him.

Director Vaughn adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David Harper, Secretary/Treasurer

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