

**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 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
JULY 27TH, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jack Fields, Jerry Vaughn, David Harper, and Joe Turner. Randy Ragsdale, Dwayne Pratt and Don Daley were unable to attend.

STAFF PRESENT: Darrell Eckard and Barbara Thurman

GUESTS PRESENT: Michael Bolin – Engineer and Rick Davis – Berryhill Insurance

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

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

Public Comments – None

President Comments – None

Approval of April 27th, 2021 Board Minutes – Minutes were approved as presented.

New Business

Rick Davis – Berryhill Insurance addressed the Board his desire to quote NGCRWD insurance for the upcoming year. Mr. Davis stated their quotes have been approx. 15% to 20% less than other insurance companies. Mr. Davis presented information on Glatfelter Public Practice Insurance. Mr. Davis said his company writes for approximately 15 water companies in the state. The Board agreed to let Mr. Davis submit a quote for the district's insurance.

New Truck – Mr. Eckard reported the District doesn't have a spare truck and his truck has over 90,000 miles on it. Mr. Eckard would like to purchase a new truck for him and keep his old truck as a spare. Mr. Eckard found a 2021 Dodge ½ Ton truck for \$25,189.00 on the state bid, like the last truck we just purchased, if it is still available. Mr. Eckard stated the old 2012 Dodge truck would only bring \$500.00 in trade in, therefore, he would like to advertise for bids on the 2012 Dodge. Director Vaughn made a motion to purchase a 2021 Dodge ½ Ton truck for Darrell Eckard through the state bid. If the truck isn't available, he motioned to purchase another within the same price range. Director Turner seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion approved.

Old Business

New Shop Building – Mr. Eckard briefed the Board on the progress of the new shop. Mr. Eckard reported drain tiles were installed, the area between the office and shop were leveled off and the area will be graveled. Mr. Eckard stated that at a later date he will have the area paved and put in a catch basin for the diverted water.

Plant Expansion – Michael Bolin reported he submitted an application to the State and Waste Water Committee for consideration. Mr. Bolin stated the application was approved by the Health Department. Once approved by WAC, the application will be sent to the funding agency. Mr. Bolin reported there is a new fund from the USDA that has come out in the amount of 1.57 billion dollars for the State of Arkansas. Mr. Bolin stated he sent in an application to them, noting it is 100% grant funds for projects that apply. Mr. Bolin reported that everyone he has spoken to rural water district's will be a high priority. Mr. Bolin stated he has applied for the full \$19 million dollars but \$4.5 million dollars is attributed to Hot Springs Village Property Owners Association, noting they may not qualify, if not, we will be back to the \$14.5 million. Discussion followed.

Hollis Water – Mr. Bolin stated they had a zoom meeting with the Judges' of Hollis and Perry County regarding getting water from NGCRWD; however, these counties don't have a large customer base, therefore, coming up with the funding for the project is questionable.

Southwest Water - Mr. Bolin stated he and Darrell have talked with Southwest Water about a possible emergency connection or a permanent water connection on Hwy 128. Currently Southwest Water lines aren't that far from NGCRWD water lines.

GPS Mapping of District – Mr. Eckard reported Director Ragsdale brought up GPS on the water lines, valves, etc. during the last board meeting. Mr. Eckard stated it will cost between \$80,000 to \$100,000 for Rural Water to GPS our District. Mr. Eckard talked to Jeff Ford with Kimzey Water, who bought the system map for their district, for approximately \$3,000 and the software is about \$500 per year and they are doing it themselves. Mr. Eckard stated if we have Rural Water do our mapping, we would still have to send an employee with them. Mr. Eckard needs to check into it further but if we can get the training it would be cheaper for the District to do the mapping ourselves. Mr. Eckard state he will have more information for the next board meeting.

Mr. Eckard stated we will need to have a Special Board Meeting in August for the Board to approve the 2021 – 2022 budget. Mr. Eckard stated we have to submit our up-coming budget to the USDA in September.

General Manager's Report – Mr. Eckard reported the revenue is a little low due to ARDOT still owing us \$346,000 and HSVPOA owing us \$15,406 for the highway relocation projects.

Fraud in Revenue Account – Mr. Eckard reported US Bank contacted us regarding someone in Georgia trying to cash a check in the amount of \$1,946 dated 7/5/21, the check had Darrell's and a former employees' signature on it. The bank flagged the check since the check didn't match our current checks, check number out of range, or signatures on file. We contacted the bank regarding changing accounts but they informed us it could happen again. US Bank recommended we put Priority Pay on our Revenue and Meter Accounts. Mr. Eckard agreed and put these two accounts on Priority Pay. Ms. Thurman explained to

the Board, the list of checks to pay are submitted to the bank weekly and the bank will not pay checks not on the list. Mr. Eckard reported since the person trying to cash the check deposited the check through their phone there wasn't anyway to trace who actually did it.

Mr. Eckard reported it is getting harder to get parts and materials. Several months ago we stocked up but we were needing to reorder and is running into problems getting materials.

Director Fields adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Vaughn, Secretary/Treasurer
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