

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING: October 10, 2019
HENRY COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

I. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

A regular meeting of the Henry County Water Authority Board, duly advertised, was held on Thursday, October 10, 2019, at the Authority's Administrative offices located at 1695 Highway 20 West, McDonough, GA. Mr. James C. Carter, Jr., Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The following members were present: James C. Carter, Jr., Warren Holder, Carlotta Harrell, Cletonya Stidom and Zuwena Poole.

The following Authority staff and consultants were present:

Administration: Tony Carnell, Kim Osborne, Roderick Burch, Claudia Cooper
Division Managers: Scott Sage, Scott Harrison, Allen Rape, Pat Hembree
Engineering Department: Bill Banks
Legal Counsel: Andy Welch, Smith, Welch, Webb & White

II. VISITORS Don Veum

III. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA Mr. Carter presented the Agenda for approval by the Board. There were no amendments, and the agenda was approved on motion by Ms. Poole and seconded by Mrs. Stidom. The motion carried (5/0).

IV. REPORT OF ATTORNEY Mr. Welch had no report.

V. REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

Mr. Burch gave a presentation concerning the Authority's FY20 first quarter (July-September) financial report. He reviewed first quarter revenues, revenue sources and current expenditures. He also reviewed the Authority's current debt service; pointing out that the Authority continues to maintain its Aa2 rating by Moody Investors Service. He noted that this is a very good rating for an authority. He referred to the Authority's Water Ordinance which provides for an automatic 5% rate increase effective in October of each year, unless the Board takes action otherwise. He gave an overview of past rate increases; and noted that for the last two years there have been no rate increases. Mr. Burch made a recommendation that the Board consider a 2% increase in rates for all customers effective with October consumption. He advised that 2% is the lowest increase that could be implemented in order to meet the Authority's financial model. He noted that even with this increase the Authority's rates still fall in the mid-range compared with surrounding counties, according to data provided from the UNC Environmental Finance Center. Mr. Burch advised that a rate study is being considered in the coming year with a focus on review of the Authority's sewer rates.

A motion was made by Ms. Poole and seconded by Mrs. Harrell to approve Resolution No. 2019-10 authorizing a 2% increase in water and sewer rates for all customers effective with October, 2019 consumption. The motion carried unanimously (5/0).

Announcements:

Mr. Carnell reported that the Authority has received GAWP’s Platinum Award for excellent operations of its water distribution system. He advised that the platinum award is presented when a system has obtained the Gold Award for five consecutive years, and upon meeting the requirements for the Gold Award for the fifth year, the Platinum Award is presented. Mr. Carnell stated that the audit process is very stringent and focuses on all areas of the Authority’s operations. He credited staff for this achievement and commended them for outstanding performance.

Mr. Harrison advised that the Cubihatcha 3rd grade field trips have concluded and were a huge success. He reported that approximately 3,000 students participated. He commended Mr. Ken Presley and his staff for their commitment to making this event so successful.

Mr. Carnell advised that the Authority’s annual Walktoberfest event is scheduled for Sunday October 20, 2019, and members of the Board were invited to attend.

Mr. Carnell reported that the Georgia Model Water Tower event for middle school grades 6-8 is coming up next month. The Authority partners with the Board of Education and the STEM program to promote this event. He explained that the objective of the contest is to have students build their own model water tower which is then tested by the Authority’s staff to see how well it functions. Students are interviewed and explain the concept of their tower and how it is designed to work.

Mr. Carnell reported that another initiative taking place this month is the national educational campaign called “Imagine a Day Without Water” which brings together diverse stakeholders to highlight how water is essential in our daily lives. The event will be celebrated on October 23rd and will include several events including a student poster contest. The Authority has solicited participation from the Henry County school system and Authority staff will select the winning posters.

VI. PROJECTS AND ADJUSTMENTS

The following projects were reported to be within Authority policy by Mr. Carnell, and recommended for Board approval:

New Projects:	MTRUPG3486L	Route 312 Iperl Meter Replacement
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Developer Projects:	DEV3597	Southern Hills Phase 2
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Budget Adjustments:	EXT2821	Cavanaugh Pump Station Upgrade
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Mr. Banks explained that the budget adjustment for the Cavanaugh Pump Station Upgrade is to approve funding for the construction of the project. The funds originally designated for the project were for design services only. He advised that the design is complete, an advertisement for bids for the construction of the project is currently running and a bid opening is scheduled for October 17, 2019.

Motion was made by Mrs. Harrell and seconded by Ms. Poole to approve the projects as presented. The motion carried (5-0).

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 12, 2019 Regular Board Meeting and September 20, 2019 Joint Meeting with the Board of Commissioners

The minutes of the September 12, 2019 regular meeting of the Board were approved as presented and the minutes of the September 20, 2019 meeting were approved with one correction on motion made by Ms. Poole and seconded by Mrs. Stidom. The motion carried (5-0).

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

The Board approved that the December 12th meeting of the Board be rescheduled due to conflicts that have arisen. It was a consensus of the Board that the meeting be held on Thursday, December 5th at 8:00 a.m. The Chairman directed the Clerk to make the appropriate legal notification.

Mr. Carnell summarized the topics that were discussed during the joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners: CIP, 2-mil tax, service areas, stormwater fee credits, and status of right-of-way acquisition for the West Village Parkway project. Mr. Carnell advised that he has contacted the County Manager for direction on how the Authority should proceed with its request for stormwater credits – either through the application process or by exemption if it is presented to the Board of Commissioners again for approval. He has also requested an update concerning the acquisition of the right-of-way that is needed on West Village Parkway so that the Authority can complete a tie-in with Clayton County’s sewer system. It was a consensus of the Board that the joint meeting was very beneficial and it was suggested that future meetings be scheduled at least twice per year if possible.

Ms. Cooper distributed to the Board a packet of information concerning the General Manager’s evaluation. She explained the evaluation process and pertinent dates related thereto. Ms. Zuwena Poole was selected to assist the Chairman to review the results of the evaluation process.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION NONE

X. ADJOURNMENT Motion was made by Mrs. Stidom and seconded by Mr. Holder to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 a.m. The motion carried (5-0) and the meeting was adjourned.

James C. Carter, Jr., Chairman

Kimberly Turner Osborne, Clerk