

PIONEER RURAL WATER DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

March 21, 2017 @ 3:00pm..... 5500 West-Oak Highway, Westminster, SC

Board members

Present: Tommy Grant, Barry Stevenson, Eddie Grant, Mark Holbrooks.

Others: Terry Pruitt, Stan Oliver, Paula Oliver, Heather Bryant, Donald Phillips with Design South, Julian Davis, Bob Fares, Dick Mangum with WGOG, Justin Campbell with Upstate Today, Brian Ramey, Residents from Pioneer Water District, Ryan Honea.

Quorum: Yes

Proceedings

The Board Meeting was called to Order by Chairman, Barry Stevenson at 3pm.

Concerns of the District:

Ryan Honea a lifelong customer of Pioneer Water District addressed the Board with his concern over signing a long-term contract with Westminster and Seneca with its potential problems and council turnover. Mr. Honea was concerned a long-term contract may not be sufficient for Pioneer customers with the possible changing of administration every few years in the City of Seneca and the City of Westminster. Mr. Honea continued to tell the Board in his 22 years of serving on the Planning Commission Board he had witnessed many council members come and go with different agendas from the previous council. He advised the Board to consider this because it could cause problems for Pioneer Water District in the future if a proposed long term contract is signed instead of completing the construction of the Water Treatment Plant.

Brian Ramey the Mayor of Westminster made a request to the Board of Directors asking that the construction of the Water Treatment Plant be halted. Mr. Ramey voiced concern that the feasibility for Pioneer to construct and operate a Water Treatment Plant was based on water rate increases from Westminster. Mr. Ramey said that he would like Westminster to cap the increase on the rates to a 1% increase annually and also to lower the rates. Mr. Ramey told the Board that he would still have to take the proposal to his council.

Approval of Minutes: Tommy Grant made a motion to accept the Board meeting minutes from March 7, 2017 as written. Mark Holbrooks seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Water Treatment Plant Updates: Donald Phillips with Design South gave the Board an update on the progress with construction to the Water Treatment Plant for informational purposes.

Eddie Grant made a motion to enter into executive session to receive legal advice regarding the delay of the building permit. Tommy Grant seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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Mark Holbrooks made a motion to exit out of executive session. Tommy Grant seconds the motion. All in favor motion carried.

Action on Legal Advice: No legal action was taken in Executive Session.

Eddie Grant made a motion that Pioneer Board allow their Legal Counsel to contact the Oconee County Council Attorneyg in regards to Harper Construction stating the delay of the Building Permit could cost Pioneer up to thirty- five thousand (\$35,000) dollars per day. Mark Holbrooks seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Action on Water Plant Construction:

Mr. Pruitt advised the Board with the consideration of the thirty- five thousand dollars per day cost pertaining to the delay of the building permit Pioneer has no other option than to continue construction on the Water Treatment Plant while continuing negotiations with both the City of Seneca and the City of Westminster. Mr. Pruitt said financially that's the only option at this time.

Adjourn: Eddie Grant made a motion to adjourn. Tommy Grant seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carried.


Barry Stevenson, Chairman
Mark Holbrooks, Secretary