

PIONEER RURAL WATER DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

April 6, 2017 @ 3:00pm..... 5500 West-Oak Highway, Westminster, SC

Board members

Present: 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, Residents of 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: None

Approval of Minutes: Eddie Grant made a motion to approve the March 21, 2017 Board meeting minutes as written. Mark Holbrooks seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Water Treatment Plant Update:

Terry Pruitt updated the Board on recent events concerning Pioneer's plans to add a Water Treatment Facility to Pioneer's existing waterworks. Mr. Pruitt spoke about the history of what has brought Pioneer to the point that it is more feasible to build a Water Treatment Facility to ensure stable rates for Pioneer's customers than to continue buying water from the cities of Westminster and Seneca. Mr. Pruitt also explained the steps along the ten-year journey including efforts to negotiate better water rates from the Cities. Mr. Pruitt told the Board that the District was forced into the position of building the Water Treatment Facility as a result of aggressive price increases from the suppliers. Pioneer's general manager continued with the facts that the parties that are now trying to stop this addition to our waterworks have known about this plan for years, and they have stood by and said nothing. In fact, they knew we were building the Plant and never even suggested it was impermissible. Mr. Pruitt addressed the Board with the facts if the District is forced to stop construction of the Water Treatment Facility, and continue to buy water from Westminster and Seneca Pioneer customers will see a minimum of a seventeen percent rate increase. Mr. Pruitt added, Pioneer has done nothing but make the best decisions available to carry out its mandate for serving its customers.

Donald Phillips with Design South updated the Board about the work that is in progress at The Water Treatment Facility site and also along the Transmission Raw Water Line. He addressed the Board that currently the Harper Construction company is operating on generated power while the building permit is being unlawfully held up by Oconee County Council.

Eddie Grant asked Mr. Phillips how long Harper Construction Company could continue their work without the building permit. Mr. Phillips responded that he didn't have an exact time.

E. Grant made a motion to enter into executive session to receive legal advice regarding sewer authority letter and to also receive legal advice regarding potential legal action taken by the City of Westminster, City of Seneca, and Oconee County Council. Mark Holbrooks seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Action on Legal Action: Eddie Grant made a motion to engage Wyche, P.A. to represent Pioneer Rural Water District with the litigation and lawsuit against Pioneer and other matters involving the Water Treatment Facilities. Mark Holbrooks seconds the motion. All in favor motion carried.

Mark Holbrooks made a motion to adjourn. Eddie Grant seconds the motion. All in favor, motion carried.



Barry Stevenson, Chairman



Mark Holbrooks, Secretary