

ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY  
WORK SESSION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MAY 14, 2015

The Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) met in a Work Session on Thursday, May 14, 2015, at 6:00 PM in OWASA's Community Room at 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro.

Board Members present: John A. Young, Chair; Michael M. Hughes, P.E., Vice Chair; Terri Buckner; Stephen (Steve) Dear; Quinton Harper and Amy Witsil. Board Members absent: Heather Payne, Secretary; David (Dave) Moreau; and Ruchir Vora.

OWASA staff present: Ed Kerwin; Denise Battle; Patrick Davis; Greg Feller; Stephanie Glasgow; Randy Horton; Andrea Orbich; Ruth Rouse; Todd Taylor; Stephen Winters; and Robert Epting, Epting and Hackney.

Others present: Ellen Tucker, Hill Chesson & Woody; Dr. Don Schlenger, Don Schlenger and Associates; and Meg Holton, Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Manager, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

There being a quorum present, Chair John Young called the meeting to order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

John Young said any Board Member who knows of a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to any item on the agenda tonight is asked to disclose the same at this time. There were none.

Terri Buckner said the Natural Resources and Technical Systems (NRTS) Committee met on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM to discuss information and potential goals and objectives for the energy management plan. The Committee requested that staff present the information to the full Board on June 25<sup>th</sup> and proposed that on May 28<sup>th</sup>, the Board discuss next steps for community engagement for this project. The next major technical task will be for staff to evaluate alternative energy management strategies and present those to the NRTS Committee at a future meeting.

Steve Dear said the Community Engagement Committee met on May 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM to discuss the 12-month progress report on OWASA's Affordability Outreach Pilot Program. The Committee will meet on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 PM to discuss future strategies for this program.

Mr. Young proposed, and the Board agreed, that the normal time limit for citizens' comments in Board meetings will be 4 minutes per speaker.

Ruth Rouse provided information about draft NC House Bill 760, which as proposed would overturn certain local government regulations which are more stringent than State requirements,

including the existing local government stormwater controls and riparian buffer requirements designed to protect water quality in University Lake and the Cane Creek Reservoir. The Board agreed that staff should prepare for the Board's review a letter to legislators and several local governments in NC.

ITEM ONE: EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE RENEWAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

The Board reviewed options and costs presented by Ellen Tucker and asked for information on two additional alternatives when the Board discusses this matter on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

ITEM TWO: REVIEW DRAFT CONSULTANT SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE ADVANCED METER INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI) FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Board received and discussed information from Todd Taylor and Dr. Don Schlenger, and concurred that staff and Dr. Schlenger proceed with the AMI Feasibility Study.

ITEM THREE: REVIEW INFORMATION AND OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYEE MERIT PAY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

The Board received information about pay increases under consideration by other local entities, and national data. Terri Buckner requested that a flat rate option be included for discussion at the Board's June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

ITEM FOUR: APPOINTMENT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

John Young appointed the following Board Members to the Nominating Committee: Amy Witsil as Chair, Terri Buckner, Steve Dear and Quinton Harper. The Committee will propose a slate of nominations when officers are elected for the June 11, 2015 meeting.

ITEM FIVE: BOARD SELF-ASSESSMENT

The Board agreed to do a self-assessment this spring.

ITEM SIX: REQUEST(S) BY BOARD COMMITTEES, BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

There was none.

ITEM SEVEN: REVIEW BOARD WORK SCHEDULE

Ed Kerwin reviewed the draft agendas for May 28 and June 11, 2015 as well as the 12-Month Board Meeting Schedule of items. Mr. Kerwin said that the May 28, 2015 Board meeting will include the following items:

- Public Hearings on Fiscal Year 2016 draft budget and rates;
- Approval of health and dental insurance contracts for Fiscal Year 2016;

- Discuss public engagement for the Energy Management Plan; and
- Board expectations for the employee total compensation study.

ITEM EIGHT: SUMMARY OF BOARD WORK SESSION ACTION ITEMS

Ed Kerwin summarized the key action items for staff as follows:

- Board Clerk will contact Towns/County Clerks regarding the recording of Board Member attendance;
- Staff will closely track House Bill 760, notify the Board of any changes and draft a comment letter from the Board on the proposed Bill;
- Staff will email the Board two new health insurance options;
- Staff will proceed with AMI Feasibility Study; and
- Staff will include a flat rate option for Fiscal Year 2016 employee pay for the June 11<sup>th</sup> agenda item.

ITEM NINE: CLOSED SESSION

Without objection, the Board convened into a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:



Andrea Orbich  
Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board