

Orange Water and Sewer Authority
Work Session of the Board of Directors
January 12, 2017

The Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) held a work session on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. in OWASA's Community Room in the Administration Building, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro.

Board Members present: John A. Young, Chair; Jeff Danner, Vice Chair; Barbara Foushee, Secretary; Yinka Ayankoya; Terri Buckner; David Moreau; Bob Morgan; Heather Payne; and Ruchir Vora.

OWASA staff present: Ed Kerwin; Mary Darr; Greg Feller; Stephanie Glasgow; Andrea Orbich; Ruth Rouse; Todd Taylor; Stephen Winters; and Robert Epting, Esq., Epting and Hackney.

Others present: Julie McClintock, President, Friends of Bolin Creek; Margaret Holton, Water, Sewer and Reclaimed Water Coordinator, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Ellen Tucker, Hill Chesson & Woody.

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

* * * * *

Motions

1. Robert Morgan made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 8, 2016 Work Session of the Board of Directors; second by Ruchir Vora and unanimously approved.
2. Robert Morgan made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 8, 2016 Closed Session of the Board of Directors; second by Ruchir Vora and unanimously approved.
3. Ruchir Vora made a motion that the Board receive a presentation from Friends of Bolin Creek on the January 26, 2017 meeting; second by Jeff Danner and the motion passed with a vote of six to three with Yinka Ayankoya, Terri Buckner and Heather Payne opposed.
4. Robert Morgan made a motion to increase the Executive Director's base pay by 3% effective October 31, 2016; second by Heather Payne and the motion passed with a vote of five to four with Yinka Ayankoya, Terri Buckner, Barbara Foushee and Ruchir Vora opposed.

Announcements

John Young said that 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; none were disclosed.

Mr. Young said that without objection, he would like to allow Julie McClintock, President of the Friends of Bolin Creek, to provide information on her request following the consent agenda instead of waiting until agenda item 10; there was no objection.

Ruchir Vora said he would have to leave the meeting at 7:30 P.M., and he did so.

Dave Moreau said he and Ruth Rouse have been invited to participate in the North Carolina Division of Water Resources' Falls and Jordan Rulemaking Stakeholder Group that will provide input to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) regarding nutrient management strategies for the two reservoirs. He said he will also attend meetings of the advisory group for the University's Collaboratory, which will develop recommendations regarding Jordan Lake water quality.

Ruth Rouse said she attended the EMC's Water Allocation Committee meeting earlier this week and that recommendations regarding Jordan Lake water supply allocations which were to be acted upon in January by EMC have been postponed. Committee members were hopeful that the item would be acted on at the March meetings of their Committee and the EMC.

Ed Kerwin reminded the Board to provide comments on OWASA's draft annual report to local governments by Friday, January 13, 2017.

Item One: Quarterly Report on Attendance at Board and Committee Meetings

The Board accepted the quarterly report on attendance at Board and Committee meetings as an information item.

Item Two: Minutes

Robert Morgan made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 8, 2016 Work Session of the Board of Directors; second by Ruchir Vora and unanimously approved. Please see Motion No. 1 above.

Item Three: Minutes

Robert Morgan made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 8, 2016 Closed Session of the Board of Directors; second by Ruchir Vora and unanimously approved. Please see Motion No. 2 above.

Item Four: Approval of Key Focus Areas for OWASA's Executive Director

The Board approved the Key Focus Areas for OWASA's Executive Director.

Item Ten: Review Board Work Schedule (Ms. Julie McClintock's Petition)

The Board agreed to discuss this item sooner so that Ms. McClintock, President of the Friends of Bolin Creek, could provide information on her request.

Ms. McClintock, President of Friends of Bolin Creek, petitioned the Board to allow time on the Board's January 26, 2017, agenda to make a presentation regarding environmental

considerations in planning to replace a sewer along Bolin Creek west of Estes Drive Extension in Chapel Hill.

After discussion, Ruchir Vora made a motion that the Board receive a presentation from Friends of Bolin Creek at the January 26, 2017 meeting; second by Jeff Danner and the motion passed with a vote of six to three with Yinka Ayankoya, Terri Buckner and Heather Payne opposed. Please see Motion No. 3 above.

Item Five: Update on Employee Health and Dental Insurance for Next Fiscal Year

The Board received and discussed a timeline, utilization data and other information related to renewing employee health and dental insurance effective in July 2017. OWASA has engaged a consultant (Hill Chesson & Woody) who will review the insurance cost proposal to be submitted later this year by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

Item Six: Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Calendar and Assumptions

The Board reviewed the proposed calendar and assumptions and discussed the process for developing OWASA's Fiscal Year 2018 budget and rates.

Item Nine: Compensation for The Executive Director

The Board agreed to discuss this agenda item sooner so that the full Board was in attendance.

Robert Morgan made a motion to increase the Executive Director's base pay by 3% effective October 31, 2016; second by Heather Payne. Terri Buckner thanked Mr. Kerwin for his work and service but stated that she intended to vote against the Motion because she continues to favor across the board lump sum pay increases over percentage-of-pay increases. The motion passed with a vote of five to four with Yinka Ayankoya, Terri Buckner, Barbara Foushee and Ruchir Vora opposed. Please See Motion No. 4 above.

Item Seven: Discuss Employee Benefit Data from Benchmark Organizations

The Board received and discussed staff's research on employee benefits offered by 10 North Carolina cities, towns and counties and water/sewer utilities and agreed to focus on health insurance and pay range progression for employees in the near term.

(Ruchir Vora was excused from the meeting.)

Item Eight: Discussion of Board Officer Nomination and Election Process

Barbara Foushee presented three proposed changes in how board officers (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary) are nominated and elected. After discussion, the Board agreed that Ms. Foushee will revise the proposals based on the Board's discussion, and that her suggestions will be discussed again at a future meeting.

Item Ten: Review Board Work Schedule


In addition to scheduling the Friends of Bolin Creek presentation on January 26, 2017, the Board agreed to schedule a discussion of Board nomination/election items on February 9, 2017, and reschedule the 2016 Biosolids Management report from February 9th to the February 23, 2017 meeting.

Item Eleven: Executive Director's Summary of The Key Staff Action Items from this Work Session

Mr. Kerwin noted that staff will contact Orange County to schedule the presentation of OWASA's annual report to the Board of County Commissioners. Staff will also schedule the next meeting of the Town Council's OWASA Committee and the Chapel Hill appointees to the OWASA Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by:



Andrea Orbich
Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board