

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MARCH 1, 2021
1:00 P.M.**

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Meeting on the above date at 1:00 p.m., Commissioners' Chambers, David R. Sandifer Administration Building, County Government Center, Bolivia, North Carolina.

PRESENT: Commissioner Randy Thompson, Chairman
Commissioner Mike Forte, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner J. Martin Cooke
Commissioner Pat Sykes
Commissioner Frank Williams

STAFF: Randell Woodruff, County Manager
Bob Shaver, County Attorney
Steve Stone, Deputy County Manager
Julie Miller, Finance Director
Andrea White, Clerk to the Board
Jared Galloway, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Neal Galloway, MIS
Meagan Kascsak, Communications Director
Cpt. Lamar Siler, Sheriff's Office

Board Action, containing all items in this set of minutes, is filed within the Clerk to the Board's office.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Thompson gave Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- **Presentation – Raftelis Report: Brunswick County Water Rate Study (Elaine Conti, Executive Vice President)**

Chairman Thompson recognized County Manager Randell Woodruff.

Mr. Woodruff introduced Elaine Conti, Executive Vice President of Raftelis.

Ms. Conti presented the Water Rate Study Summary Report to include an overview of the history of Brunswick County's water rate changes, the 2019 rate study process, and changes since the original study, as well as the impact of those changes, an overview of revised 2022 rates, customer impacts, and the estimated financial sufficiency of the water system.

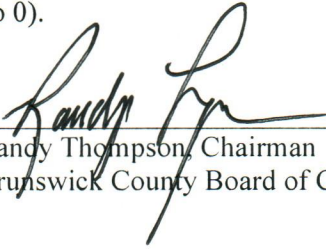
Ms. Conti explained that the 2019 study assumed the following: the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) would allow part of the debt service to be delayed until FY 2026; there would be additional operation and maintenance cost associated with the Low Pressure Reverse Osmosis System; and no changes in the water demand or base were anticipated. The study anticipated that the increase in revenues from rates to cover costs would be \$5.4 million. In October 2019, the County issued the 2019 revenue bonds. When looking at the ability to pay the debt, it was realized that the WIFIA financing was no longer an option. This pushed the debt service to FY 2023 rather than FY 2026. Also, wholesale flow was reduced by almost 50%. In May 2020, the County issued the 2020 revenue bonds. Two wholesale customers became part of the County's retail system and one industrial customer was lost, which equated to approximately 25% of the industrial flow. The study was updated to reflect those changes and resulted in an increase of \$5.3 million for a total increase of \$10.7 million that would need to be recovered from rates with a lower customer base than was initially anticipated. Approximately 73.4% of the revenues will come from the retail class, 7.1% from the industrial customers, and 19.5% from the wholesale customers. The monthly base charge will result in a \$4.00 change from current rates and the proposed irrigation meter base rate will be \$5.00. The volumetric rates will vary depending on the tier, block and customer class. The average County customer bill will increase by \$9.85.

The Board entertained questions from Mr. Gene Vasile, ABCPOA, and Town of Shallotte Mayor Walt Eccard, representing the municipal mayors. Mr. John Nichols, Public Utilities Director, Ms. Conti, and Ms. Julie Miller, Finance Director addressed the questions presented. Following the question and answer session and discussion, Chairman Thompson thanked Ms. Conti and those that attended and participated.

The Board will review the recommended changes as part of the FY 2022 budget process and any approved changes will take effect January 2022. No action was taken.

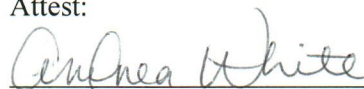
III. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:36 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).



Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:



Andrea White, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

