

**Onslow Water & Sewer Authority**  
**Board of Directors' Special Meeting 228 Georgetown Road Jacksonville**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2023**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Having a quorum, Chairman Royce Bennett called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Board members present included Chairman Royce Bennett, Vice Chairman Paul Conner, Secretary/Treasurer Pat Turner, Directors Jerry Bittner, Timothy Foster, Joann McDermon, Robert Warden, and Jeff Wenzel.

Chairman Royce Bennett led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Vice Chairman Paul Conner made a motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Director Timothy Foster seconded the motion. All were in favor. The agenda was approved as submitted.

**2. BUSINESS**

**A. Wastewater Projects Update**

Chairman Royce Bennett called on CEO, Franky Howard and COO, David Mohr, to present the item. Mr. Howard began by explaining that after receiving the recently completed updated Opinion of Probable Capital Costs reports for sewer projects planned for the Southeast and Swansboro service areas as well as learning of an easement related to the spray fields for the Southeast service area he wanted to have staff provide an update to the Board. He asked Mr. Mohr to provide a summary and explain how we got to this point. Mr. Mohr provided a reminder of the project details saying the Swansboro project involves the construction of a force main and pumping system to send all wastewater from the Swansboro area collection system to our Piney Green pump station onto the Marine Corp Base for treatment. He went on to say the Southeast project of a new 1.0 mil gal a day treatment plant which expands to 1.5 mil gal a day and effluent infiltration basin site on the existing Holly Ridge spray fields and also includes pumping station and force main to connect Summer House and the Town of Holly Ridge collection system to the new plant. He said with the Swansboro project the design work is now 90% complete and the permit application package has been submitted adding it is divided into two projects the pump station and force main and both have been submitted for permitting. He said we do not have a specific time frame for permit review but the engineers hope to have all of the approvals in hand in the next six months to be ready to bid for construction so we would go to bid this year. Marine Corp Camp Lejeune has indicated they have no further comments and we can proceed with bidding and construction. He shared that in regard to cost of construction in the last CIP update in November of 2022 the estimated total cost of the project was presented at 27.7 million and the engineer recently provided an updated probable construction cost that reflects current materials pricing, and the total current cost is now 30.5 million adding the increase is due primarily to the rising materials pricing. Mr. Mohr said the Southeast project design work similar to the Swansboro project is now at 90% complete and the engineer has applied for permitting for both the collection system and plant. He said they are working with the US Army Corps of Engineers due to wetlands that there is a small area that is designated as wetlands and a conference call is scheduled next week. Mr. Mohr said the State has not provided a specific timeframe for the permit review, but we believe it will be 9-12 months to secure all permits. Mr. Mohr said in regard to the cost of construction with this project the estimate in June of 2022 was 55.3 million and engineers have now provided an updated probable construction cost reflecting current materials pricing at 81.1 million. He went on to explain the increase is due to rising materials and equipment cost.

**Action:** No action was taken.

**3. CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Paul Conner to enter into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-381.11(a)(5) in order to give staff instructions concerning the position to be taken regarding the possible acquisition of wastewater treatment facilities owned by Pluris Holdings, LLC located in Hubert and Sneads Ferry, NC. Director Joann McDermon made a second. The Board began Closed Session at 2:16 PM.

A motion was made by Director Jerry Bittner to end closed session. A second was made by Secretary/Treasurer Pat Turner. All were in favor.

The Board entered back into open session at 4:07 PM.

A motion was made by Director Bob Warden to approve the Memorandum of Intent to purchase wastewater treatment facilities owned by Pluris Holdings, LLC located in Hubert and Sneads Ferry, NC. A second was made by Director Tim Foster. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Paul Conner to suspend Task orders 1, 2, 3, and 17AR1 and all work associated with the Southeast Wastewater Treatment Plant and allow staff to notify organizations associated with this project. A second was made by Director Joann McDermon. All were in favor, the motion passed.

**4. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made by Vice Chairman Paul Conner to adjourn. Director Tim Foster seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

The minutes were approved on May 18, 2023.

Onslow Water & Sewer Authority Board of Directors



Michael Royce Bennett, Chairman



ATTEST:



Heather Norris, Clerk