

**NORTH GARLAND COUNTY REGIONAL WATER DISTRICT
3084 N Hwy 7
Hot Springs, AR 71909
(501) 620-4118 FAX (501) 318-0304**

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 28TH, 2025
6:00 P.M.**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jerry Vaughn, Joe Turner, David Harper, Todd Graves and Eddie Livingston.

STAFF PRESENT: Stephen McEarl, Amanda Gossage and Nicole Noles

GUEST PRESENT: Michael Bolin – Engineer and Robert Covey - Customer

Meeting to Order – Director Vaughn called the board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comments - Mr. Robert Covey voiced his concern about having a water leak and would like to get some assistance with his \$705.37 water bill. Mr. Covey explained that he has a camper with a hydrant at this location and even though it has been wrapped up for 3 to 4 years, the plastic elbow froze and blew out. He turned off the water as soon as they noticed the leak. Director Vaughn asked Amanda Gossage to speak about the situation. Ms. Gossage, stated, "This leak doesn't meet the leak adjustment criteria. The location is not a permanent residence, and North Garland County Regional Water District does not provide leak adjustments for frost free hydrants." Director Vaughn asked the Board their thoughts on this matter. Director Turner stated that as the board, they must stick with the policy and recommended a payment plan. Mr. Covey stated that he understood the policy and would get in contact with Ms. Gossage regarding setting up a payment plan. No vote is needed due to this being a policy.

Comments by Board President – Director Vaughn brought to the Boards attention that the former North Garland County Reginal Water District Attorney, Ray Owens, had instructed the Board that quarterly meetings were in compliance with Board duties. Discussion followed amongst Board Members and Mr. McEarl was asked to contact the new attorney, Lance Garner, to ensure that the practice of quarterly meetings is in compliance. Mr. McEarl to let Director Vaughn know of his findings.

Approval of November 19th, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes – Director Turner made a motion the minutes be approved as presented; seconded by Director Harper. Motion unanimously approved.

New Business –

Election of Officers –

PRESIDENT: Director Turner made the motion to keep Director Jerry Vaughn as Board President; seconded by Director Harper. Approved unanimously.

VICE PRESIDENT: Director Graves made the motion to keep Director Joe Turner as Vice President; seconded by Director Harper. Approved unanimously.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Director Graves made the motion to keep Director David Harper as Secretary/Treasurer; seconded by Director Livingston. Approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS –

Jack Fields and Velton Lacy Board Term - Mr. McEarl informed the Board that Mr. Garner met with Mr. John Howard in length, and it was determined that Director Lacy and Director Fields can retain their seats until 2026 at which time they would have to rerun for their position. They would also have to run again in 2028 to get back on schedule. The Board acknowledged the comment.

Land for New Water Tank – Director Turner updated the Board stating that Mr. Goodeaux wanted \$30,000.00, two meter boxes off the main line, to split the cost of a wrought iron gate with a gate code and a specific surveyor, Scott Connally. North Garland County Regional Water District would receive approximately 1 acre of land and approximately a 1/4 mile by 40' utilities easement. Discussion followed. Director Turner got in contact with Mr. Goodeaux during the meeting and Mr. Goodeaux stated the lowest he would accept was \$26,500.00. Motion made by Director Livingston for Mr. Bolin to get with Mr. Garner about an offer and acceptance before we have Mr. Connally survey; seconded by Director Graves. Motion approved unanimously.

Manager's Report – Mr. McEarl briefed the Board on the annual audit noting that everything went well. Mr. McEarl reported that in about two months, we will receive the final Sanitary Survey report. Mr. Garner emailed Mr. McEarl regarding Settlement with White Properties Deed of Easement. Mr. McEarl told Mr. Garner to proceed with the \$2,500.00 settlement agreement. Mr. McEarl reported that Hot Springs Village POA, Ken Unger, wants to discuss in the future the possibility of connecting to the North Garland County Regional Water District's water system in case of emergency. Mr. McEarl reminded the Board to have paperwork into Sarah Smith, Circuit Clerk by January 31, 2025. Mr. McEarl informed the Board of the By-law changes due to Ms. Barbara Thurman's retirement and Ms. Amanda Gossage's promotion. Motion made by Director Turner to accept the By-law changes as presented; seconded by Director Harper. Motion approved unanimously. Mr. McEarl brought up the discussion regarding a new plant/line distribution employee due to workload. Board discussion followed and was tabled until the budget meeting in July 2025.

Director Graves made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Director Harper. Director Vaughn adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David Harper, Secretary/Treasurer

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