

**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**  
**OCTOBER 29TH, 2024**  
**6:00 P.M.**

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

STAFF PRESENT: Stephen Mc Earl, Barbara Thurman and Nicole Noles

GUESTS PRESENT: Ray Owen – Attorney and Michael Bolin – Engineer

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

Adoption of the Agenda – The agenda was adopted as presented.

Comments by Board President – None.

New Business –

Director Fields and Director Lacy terms expire 12/31/2024 – Mr. Owen stated both directors had outdated petition forms which did not include the date of birth for registered voters that signed the petition. Mr. Owen suggested, in the future any candidate or current Board member needs to contact Sarah Smith at the Garland County Circuit Clerks Office to obtain correct forms and requirements to run for the North Garland County Regional Water District Board of Directors. Discussion followed. Director Harper made a motion for Ray Owen to see what avenue the Board needs to take for Director Lacy and Director Fields to remain on the North Garland County Regional Water District Board of Directors since they would have been unopposed in the upcoming election; seconded by Director Graves. Motion approved unanimously.

Approval of July 30th, 2024 Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes – Director Fields made a motion the minutes be approved as presented; seconded by Director Lacy. Motion Approved

Bad Debt Write Offs – The Board reviewed \$8,460.07 in bad debts to be written off. Discussion followed. Director Fields made a motion to write off \$8,460.07 in bad debts; seconded by Director Livingston. Motion approved unanimously.

Smith Ready Mix – Mr. Mc Earl stated Smith Ready Mix left the district an outstanding bill of \$16,183.68, this amount consists of a previous bill and their final bill. Smith Ready Mix has moved to Hot Springs and is currently on their water system. Mr. Mc Earl stated our office contacted Shauna regarding the outstanding bill and she stated that the bill shouldn't be that high. Mr. Mc Earl went out and profiled the meter, which showed they had a leak and it ran from June 18 2024 through July 27 2024. Our office contacted Smith Ready Mix regarding this outstanding bill. Shauna stated they are disputing these bills and have contacted an attorney. North Garland County Regional Water District has yet to be contacted by their attorney. Our

office contacted the City of Hot Springs regarding the outstanding bill to have them lock off Smith Ready Mix as pursuant to Act 769. The City of Hot Springs contacted our office and said they were contacted by the attorney for Smith Ready Mix, stating they were in litigation regarding the outstanding bills with North Garland County Regional Water District. The City of Hot Springs stated they couldn't lock off Smith Ready Mix's water due to this litigation. Discussion followed. Director Fields made a motion to contact Lance Garner to pursue the outstanding balance owed by Smith Ready Mix; seconded by Director Graves. Motion approved unanimously.

Bank Account Resolution – Mr. Mc Earl stated that Nicole Noles will become the new bookkeeper when Barbara Thurman retires at the end of the year. Mr. Mc Earl stated Mrs. Noles will need to be granted information access to all the district's bank accounts. Director Lacy made a motion the Board pass a resolution allowing Nicole Noles to be given complete access to information regarding the district's bank accounts at USBank, Chambers Bank, Diamond State Bank and Bank OZK; seconded by Director Fields. Motion approved unanimously.

#### Old Business

Carbon Machine at the plant – Mr. Mc Earl stated the Carbon Machine is up and running at the plant. Mr. Mc Earl stated the project was budgeted for \$150,000 and the project cost was \$124,077, which came in \$25,923 under budget.

Land for the New Water Tank – Mr. Bolin stated he contacted Mr. Goodeaux regarding a piece of property he has at the top of a high hill. Mr. Goodeaux would consider selling 1 acre of land, a 50' road easement, power line easement, and be provided 3 new water services to the district for the purpose of installing a water tank off of HWY 128. Mr. Bolin stated installation of a tank in this area, would give us water to an area that currently doesn't have any and also help service our customers in the Fountain Lake area. Mr. Bolin stated he has talked to numerous residential owners in this area which doesn't have access to our water now and they would be interested in hooking up to North Garland County Regional Water District water. Mr. Bolin stated that the cost to install the water tank will be approximately 1 to 1.5 million. Discussion followed. Director Fields made a motion to offer Mr. Goodeaux \$20,000 and 3 new water services to purchase 1 acre of land, a 50' road easement and a power line easement; seconded by Director Lacy. Motion approved unanimously.

Fountain Lake Volunteer Fire Department Lease Agreement – Director Turner stated the Fountain Lake Volunteer Fire Department has purchased property and is no longer interested in leasing land from the district. Director Fields made a motion to resend the previous motion to lease land to the Fountain Lake Volunteer Fire Department; seconded by Director Lacy. Motion approved unanimously.

Managers' Report – Mr. Mc Earl briefed the Board on the financial reports for the fiscal year ending 9/30/24, stating we had a very good year. Mr. Mc Earl stated after purchasing the ¾ ton truck and mini-x machine, the district was able to do a lot of work in house. Mr. Mc Earl stated the district will have their sanitary survey done beginning October 30<sup>th</sup> 2024, and our tanks will be inspected in December. Mr. Mc Earl reported that the annual audit was performed last week, noting everything is looking good. The final audit report should be ready in November. Mr. Mc Earl discussed the need to hire another employee as a floater between the plant and the distribution. Mr. Mc Earl stated Barbara and Nicole have revised the previously approved

budget and we have funds to hire a new employee. Mr. Mc Earl stated we will need to purchase another truck so district will have a spare truck. Discussion followed. The Board tabled hiring a new employee until the January board meeting and requested Mr. Mc Earl obtain bids for another truck.

Director Vaughn adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



David Harper, Secretary/Treasurer

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