

# 266

Augusta Water  
Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.  
Board Meeting Room

PRESENT: Andrew C. Middleton, Chairman, North River District  
Garry R. Gordon, Vice Chairman, Middle River District  
Harvey Almarode, South River District  
Allen Dahl, Beverley Manor District  
Matthew Egeli, Wayne District  
Michael L. Shull, Riverheads District  
Timothy Simmons, Pastures District  
Phil Martin, Executive Director  
Brent Canterbury, Treasurer  
Jean Marshall, Board Secretary

ABSENT: None

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## CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

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## ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Martin asked for the Agenda to be revised to add Middle River Clarifier No. 3 Floor Replacement Project as Item # 9, with all other items following subsequently.

Mr. Almarode moved, seconded by Mr. Gordon to adopt the revised Agenda as presented.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas: Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli,  
Shull, and Simmons  
Nays: None

Motion approved.

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## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Egeli, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 20, 2023, which have been mailed to the members.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas: Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli,  
Shull, and Simmons  
Nays: None

Motion approved.

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were in attendance to make comments and no public comments were brought forth by Staff.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Martin stated Staff is researching recruiting firms to assist in filling the open positions at Augusta Water. Because of the costs associated with hiring a recruiting firm, Staff is also checking into the possibility of joining with another agency who already has a cooperative procurement agreement for recruiting in place.

Mr. Martin informed the Board Tim Castillo, Director of Treatment Operations, has accepted the position of Executive Director of Amherst County Service Authority. His resignation with Augusta Water is effective on May 26.

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PROGRESS REPORT

The April Progress Report was included in the Board packet and was reviewed with the Board.

There was no discussion regarding the Progress Report.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports were given.

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MIDDLE RIVER CLARIFIER NO. 3 FLOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Martin stated, on February 22 the Clarifier No. 3 Floor Replacement project was awarded to Eastern Waterproofing & Restoration of Virginia (Eastern) for \$250,428.00. The scope of the project included removal and replacement of 2” of grout on the floor of the clarifier, which is cracking and separating from the base slab/floor. Once demolition started, it was discovered the actual thickness of the slab averaged 4.25”. The elevation and slope of the floor are important for proper operation of the clarifier rake arm assembly that moves settled solids to the inside of the clarifier where a portion is returned to the front of the treatment process and another portion is removed from the system.

Staff and our consultant, Wiley Wilson, have been evaluating the cost and the possibility of lowering the scraper assembly on the rake arm to reduce the required slab thickness. If the grout could be placed at the proposed 2” thickness, it could save approximately \$25,700.

A total of \$320,000 was allocated for the work and is part of the expense budget for the Middle River WWTP. To replace the grout at the existing thickness (4.25”), Eastern submitted a change order for an additional amount of \$163,269.00. There are also some remaining consulting fees of approximately \$20,000 that will need to be paid over the course of construction and project closeout. Adding the original bid stated above to the potential additional cost and remaining consulting fees results in a total project cost of \$433,697.00 (\$114,000 difference to the budget). This change order also adds five weeks to the scheduled completion date.

Dr. Middleton asked what percentage of the designed flow is the treatment plant operating at currently, and is there an increase in flow during wet weather.

Mr. Castillo stated the treatment plant is operating between 50 – 60%. There is some increase in flow during wet weather.

Dr. Middleton stated not fixing the clarifier is not an option.

Mr. Martin explained the Middle River WWTP Sludge (Org Code 550522) currently has \$50,000 of unused funds for “Sludge Disposal”. This is a contingency line item and is not projected to be needed for the remainder of the year. Due to the extension of the scheduled completion date, a portion of the project will now be completed in FY-24, so the remainder of the needed funds will come from that budget.

Mr. Martin requested the Board consider authorizing a Change Order of up to \$163,269.00 to cover additional costs due to unknown field conditions, in order for work to continue on the clarifier.

After further discussion by the Board members, Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Egeli to authorize a Change Order up to \$163,269.00 for additional costs for repair of the Middle River clarifier No. 3.

There being no further discussion, the vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

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FY-24 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mr. Canterbury reviewed the highlights of the draft budget as it was presented to the Board at the April meeting. There were no changes made to the proposed budget since the April meeting. Mr. Canterbury reminded the Board a 6% salary increase for employees was approved at the April meeting and will be effective July 1. The Board also proposed a 3% rate increase in the variable water and sewer rates, to be effective July 1. Based on the 3% rate increase, the average residential water and sewer bill for FY2024 would be \$169.78 bi-monthly, resulting

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

in a \$3.82 bi-monthly increase and a yearly increase of \$22.92 to the average residential customer.

Staff recommended the Board give authorization to proceed with advertising the proposed rate schedule and to set a public hearing to coincide with the June 15, 2023 Board meeting.

After discussion, Mr. Egeli moved, seconded by Mr. Dahl to approve advertising of the proposed rate schedule and set a public hearing to coincide with the June 15, 2023 Board meeting.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, and Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

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APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dr. Middleton appointed Mr. Simmons and Mr. Gordon as the nominating committee. The election will take place at the June 15, 2023 Board meeting.

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BOARD COMMENTS

The Board members wished Mr. Castillo the best of luck in his new position.

Mr. Gordan thanked Mr. Canterbury for all the hard work he has done to prepare the proposed budget.

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There being no further business, Mr. Almarode moved, seconded by Mr. Gordon to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

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Board Secretary

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Chairman