

Augusta Water  
Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.  
Frontier Culture Museum Lecture Hall

PRESENT: Andrew C. Middleton, Chairman, North River District  
Garry R. Gordon, Vice Chairman, Middle 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: Harvey Almarode, South River District

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CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Martin asked the Board to consider removing Item 10 - Upcoming Solar Projects from the Agenda. Two of the three solar projects which were to be presented to Augusta County in March are no longer being presented. The third solar project is in an Agriculture Conservation Area and is not served by Augusta Water.

After discussion by the Board, Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Simmons to remove Item 10 from the Agenda and adopt the revised Agenda as presented.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas: Middleton, Gordon, 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 January 18, 2024, which have been mailed to the members.

Vote was as follows:

# 35

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

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

Motion approved.

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## 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 the Consumer Price Index increased by 0.3% in January resulting in a 3.1% increase year to year.

Mr. Martin informed the Board of a news article regarding Chinese hackers who are trying to wreak havoc on critical U.S. infrastructure. Mr. Martin confirmed Augusta Water has security protocols in place to ensure protection of its infrastructure and vital information.

Mr. Martin referred to the regulatory compliance issue at the Harriston WWTP noted in the Executive Director's Highlights. The Department of Environmental Quality has confirmed there will be no corrective action taken against Augusta Water on this issue.

Mr. Egeli expressed concern regarding the vacant Engineering Manager (or Project Engineer) position and the length of time it is taking to fill it.

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## PROGRESS REPORT

The February Progress Report was included in the Board packet and reviewed with the Board members. There were no questions or discussion by Board members.

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no reports given by the Board Committees.

BILL ADJUSTMENT – WINDGATE LC

Mr. Martin explained on January 17, 2024 Windgate LC requested a water and sewer adjustment for an underground leak which had occurred at the condominiums on Windgate Circle. The affected bill was mailed on December 1, 2023 for a total of \$18,322.81 (1.050 million gallons).

Per Augusta Water Policy 5.4, for underground leaks that have been repaired, Augusta Water may grant an adjustment in cases where water usage is at least double the customer’s average water consumption. Per Augusta Water Policy 5.5, if a customer has an underground leak, a leak in a crawl space, or a similar area where it can be reasonably assured that the water from the leak did not enter the sewer system, the customer may be eligible to receive a sewer adjustment of 100% of the difference between the actual sewer usage and their average bi-monthly usage. Their average consumption is 341,000 gallons. These adjustments will result in a 368 thousand-gallon credit to their water billing and a 709 thousand-gallon credit to their sewer billing. As a result of these adjustments, the revised bill would be \$8,167.60.

The overall adjustment is \$10,055.21 and policy requires approval from the Board prior to adjusting a customer’s account for more than \$5,000.

Staff recommends approval of the requested adjustment.

After discussion by the Board members and Staff, Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Simmons to approve the adjustment as stated.

Mr. Dahl recused himself from the vote due to a potential conflict of interest.

Vote was as follows:

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

Motion approved.

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UPDATE ON 2024 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Martin gave an update on the bills proposed at the 2024 Virginia General Assembly Legislative Session, reviewing both passed and failed bills. The proposed bills were previously reviewed with the Board members at the January meeting.

Mr. Martin informed the Board members the Senate passed Bill 691 which allows for the sale of the Augusta Correctional Facility located near Craigsville. Two of the parcels within the property contain a water tank and a wastewater treatment plant. These parcels are being conveyed to the Town of Craigsville without any monetary consideration.

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# 37

Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

## BOARD COMMENTS

Dr. Middleton referred to an article in the Water Environment Federation newsletter which stated by 2032 the City of Los Angeles plans to recycle 60% of its treated sewage into drinking water. Dr. Middleton pointed out the pristine condition of water in Augusta County and the desirability such water will have in the future.

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## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Dahl moved, seconded by Mr. Gordon to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Vote was as follows:

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

Motion approved.

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Board Secretary

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Chairman