

**FAIRFAX WATER**  
**Minutes of Board Meeting**  
**December 12, 2024**

At 6:33 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2024, a Meeting of the Fairfax Water Board was held in the Bill G. Evans Boardroom at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, Virginia, with the following in attendance:

**Members:** Allin, Begovich, Cammarata (absent), Colleton, Day, Dotson, Ginyard-Jones, Griffin, Roberson, Rubin

**Wholesale Customer Representatives:** Bahceci

**Staff:** Brown, Coneway, Dewhirst, Dooley, Goldberg, Grimes, Hardy, Hedges, Kingsbury, Long, Love, S. Miller, Nguyen, Oates, Prelewicz, Schumacher, Siminari, Sinopole

**Counsel:** John McGranahan, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

**Others:** Michelle Ferguson, Raftelis, Catherine Carter, Raftelis

Upon separate motions duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, unless otherwise noted, the following actions were taken:

**Public Hearing**

Chairman Allin opened the public hearing at 6:33 p.m. and explained its purpose and the comment process. Individuals wishing to comment on the Advertised Annual Budget and the Proposed Schedule of Fairfax Water Rates, Fees, and Charges were invited to the podium. One written comment, submitted by Mr. Mike Bradley, was received ahead of the Meeting and was provided to the Board Members at their seats. Seeing no speakers present, Chairman Allin stated that the Board would leave the hearing open should someone arrive to speak and proceeded with the agenda for the evening's Meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the November 7, 2024, Meeting.

**Report of the Human Resources Committee**

Mr. Dotson reported to the Board on the Human Resources Committee Meeting held earlier in the evening. The Committee received two presentations: the first on the 2025 Classification and Compensation Study and the second on the Interim Operator Compensation Study.

**Motion regarding 2025 Classification and Compensation Study**

Mr. Dotson moved, with a second by Mr. Day, that the Board authorize staff to proceed with issuing the RFP for the compensation and classification study that considers all Fairfax Water positions presented in the December 12, 2024, Human Resources Committee Meeting. The motion passed via a 9-0 vote.

### **Motion regarding Interim Operator Compensation Study**

Mr. Dotson moved, with a second by Mr. Day, that Board modify the pay scale to establish four new pay grades for Operators benchmarked at the 75th percentile as described in the staff presentation provided to the Committee on December 12, 2024. The motion passed via a 9-0 vote.

### **Report of the Government Relations Committee**

Mr. Rubin reported to the Board on the Government Relations Committee Meeting held earlier in the evening. The Committee received a presentation from staff and Mr. Bryant to review draft legislation for the 2025 Virginia General Assembly Session relating to Occoquan Reservoir PFAS Reduction.

### **Motion regarding Draft Legislation for the 2025 Virginia General Assembly Session re: Occoquan Reservoir PFAS Reduction**

Mr. Rubin moved, with a second by Mr. Begovich, that the Board direct staff and representatives to proceed with seeking to have the Occoquan Reservoir PFAS Reduction bill, including the modifications presented to the Government Relations Committee, introduced at the 2025 Virginia General Assembly and work towards its passage. The motion also sought Board authorization for staff to modify the bill language as needed as the process proceeds through the legislature. The motion passed via a 9-0 vote.

### **Matters by Members**

- Ms. Ginyard-Jones reminded Members that the date selected for the 2025 Board Retreat is March 28, 2025. Ms. Ginyard-Jones also noted that the Board Evaluation is in progress and informed the Board that the Board Retreat Planning Committee would meet on January 23, 2025, to discuss and finalize retreat details.

### **Matters by Staff**

Ms. Hedges addressed the following:

- Reported that water main break season had begun and that Fairfax Water crews responded to 136 water main leaks and breaks over the last three weeks with an average service restoration time of two hours.
- Informed the Board that on December 2, 2024, staff hosted a Fairfax Water wholesale customer meeting to provide them with a PFAS briefing.
- Shared that earlier this week, Prince William Water gave a presentation on Fairfax Water's PFAS reduction efforts to the Prince William County Board of Supervisors. The presentation also covered items related to sodium. A copy of the presentation was provided to each Member at their seat.
- Informed the Board that the first meeting of the PFAS Expert Advisory Committee was held in early November as required by PFAS legislation passed by the General Assembly earlier in the year.

- Reported that on December 1, DEQ issued self-reporting or monitoring requirement notifications to 15 facilities with discharge permits within the Occoquan Watershed as required by PFAS legislation recently passed by the General Assembly.
- Noted that “Virginia Business” recently reported on Micron’s plans to expand their Manassas facility to move production of DRAM chips from their Taiwan facility to Virginia. Micron has received \$250 million in federal funding and additional state funding for this effort. A copy of the article referenced was provided to each Member at their seat.
- Informed the Board that Representative Holmes Norton recently asked for language to be included in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2024 to modify the federal share of the feasibility study for the Regional Supplemental Water Supply effort from 50% to 90% and that the modified bill was recently approved in the House of Representatives. The bill is now awaiting a final vote by the Senate.
- Highlighted that earlier that week, the Virginia General Assembly’s Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) published a study of data centers in the Commonwealth, which included several recommendations regarding water supply. Ms. Hedges noted that staff would monitor related items throughout the upcoming General Assembly session.
- Shared that she was recently invited to speak about strategic planning at the Upper Occoquan Service Authority’s Board Retreat. Ms. Hedges also noted that her remarks emphasized the partnership between UOSA and Fairfax Water and discussed shared missions.
- Reviewed upcoming calendar items, including the Infrastructure Committee and Water Quality and Supply Committee Meetings scheduled for January 9, 2025.
- Highlighted the additional Handouts provided to each Member at their seats, including new laminated quick reference cards for 2025.
- Invited Ms. Schumacher to present on the status of the Occoquan River Crossing project and a potential pipe removal project.

### **Appropriations**

The Board unanimously approved an increase in appropriations for ten projects totaling \$1,782,600 and closed 21 projects, which reduces previously appropriated Improvement Fund items by \$1,139,619. A detailed description for each project appropriation is included with the Board packet for this Meeting.

### **Acquisition of Easement for Willston Tank Replacement**

The Board authorized the General Manager to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement included in the materials for this Meeting and appropriated funds in the amount of \$270,000 to Project 2764, Division 1 to complete a due diligence assessment and for other expenses related to implementation of the Agreement.

### **Purchase of Encoder Meters**

The Board awarded a one-year contract to Consolidated Pipe as the primary supplier for encoder water meters in the estimated amount of \$2,028,924.40. Additionally, the Board awarded secondary one-year contracts to Ferguson Waterworks and Core and Main for product resiliency. Annual expenditures and quantities may be more or less, subject to actual requirements. Lastly, the Board authorized staff to

renew the contracts for four additional one-year periods so long as prices remain consistent with contractual terms and conditions.

#### **Purchase of Ultrasonic and Hydrant Meters**

The Board awarded a one-year contract to Consolidated Pipe and Supply Company Inc., for ultrasonic and hydrant meters in the estimated amount of \$754,873.57. Annual expenditures and quantities may be more or less, subject to actual requirements. Additionally, the Board authorized staff to renew the contract for four additional one-year periods so long as prices remain consistent with contractual terms and conditions.

#### **Distribution System Sustainability Program**

The Board appropriated \$24,600,000 to Project 2200 – Distribution System Sustainability Program as indicated in the table included with the papers for this meeting. Additionally, the Board authorized the General Manager to execute design task orders with Michael Baker International and Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., as outlined in the materials for this meeting.

#### **PFAS Expert Engineering Services**

The Board appropriated funds in the amount of \$695,000 to Project 2753, Division 6 and awarded a contract in the amount of \$481,600 to Hazen and Sawyer for PFAS expert engineering services. The Board also authorized staff to renew the contract for three one-year periods.

#### **PFAS Pilot Testing for the Griffith Treatment Plant**

The Board appropriated funds in the amount of \$475,000 to Project 2753, Division 3, and authorized the General Manager to execute a task order amendment with CDM Smith in the amount of \$356,910 for engineering services to implement and perform PFAS pilot testing at the Griffith Water Treatment Plant.

#### **Poplar Heights Tank Replacement**

The Board appropriated funds in the amount of \$855,000 to Project 2729, Division 1, and authorized the General Manager to execute a task order with Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. in the amount of \$646,722 for design and bid-phase services for the replacement of the Poplar Heights tank.

#### **Award of Stop-Loss Insurance Contract for Self-Insured Group Health Plan**

The Board awarded a one-year contract to United HealthCare Insurance Company for stop-loss insurance services with a specific deductible of \$250,000 for an estimated premium cost of \$312,800.

#### **Griffith Raw Water Pump Station Exposed Pipe Demolition**

The Board appropriated \$703,000 to Project 577, Division 73, and authorized the General Manager to execute a contract change order with Garney Companies, Inc., for IFB 22-025 in the amount of \$650,000.

## **Public Hearing**

Seeing no speakers present at the end of the open session of the Meeting, Chairman Allin closed the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

## **Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges**

The Board adopted the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges to become effective on April 1, 2025.

## **2025 Annual Budget**

The Board:

- 1) Adopted the Advertised 2025 Annual Budget as Fairfax Water's Annual Budget for fiscal year 2025.
- 2) Authorized the personnel complement for fiscal year 2025 to be a total of 498 positions.
- 3) Approved the inclusion of an estimated \$6,065,000 in additional revenues in the 2025 Annual Budget based on the revision of certain rates, fees, and charges to be effective April 1, 2025.
- 4) Appropriated \$135,077,000 for total Current Expenses per Exhibit 2 of the Advertised 2025 Annual Budget.
- 5) Directed reviews of the 2025 Annual Budget be prepared and submitted to the Finance and Audit Committee for consideration and review as needed throughout the year.
- 6) Will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

## **Closed Session**

Mr. Begovich moved, with a second by Mr. Dotson, that the Board go into closed session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)19 for discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity or specific cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law-enforcement or emergency service officials concerning actions taken to respond to such matters or a related threat to public safety; or discussion of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 2 or 14 of § 2.2-3705.2 where discussion in an open meeting would jeopardize the safety of any person or the security of any facility, building, structure, information technology system or software program; or discussion of reports or plans related to the security of any governmental facility, building or structure, or the safety of persons using such facility, building, or structure specifically relating to a briefing on cybersecurity matters.

Upon conclusion of the closed session, the open session resumed, whereby Mr. Begovich moved, seconded by Mr. Dotson, certifying, in accordance with Section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act that, to the best of each Member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open Meeting requirements under Chapter 37 of Title 2.2 of the Virginia Code, and (ii) only such public business matters as were publicly identified in the motion by which the just concluded closed Meeting was convened, were heard, discussed, or considered by Fairfax Water in closed session. This motion was approved, with the following Members voting in the affirmative by roll-call vote: Ms. Ginyard-Jones, Mr. Day, Mr. Dotson, Mr. Begovich, Chairman Allin, Mr. Roberson, Mr. Rubin, Mr. Griffin, and Ms. Colleton.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Dotson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Richard Dotson, Secretary