

**Regular Meeting
August 19, 2021**

Chairman Mr. Mitchell called the regular meeting of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Saraland, Alabama, to order at 5:30 P.M., at Saraland Water Service meeting room with the following Board members present:

Present

Mr. Jim Davis
Mr. Ron Mitchell
Mr. O’Neil Robinson
Mr. Scooter Thronson

Absent

Mr. Jackie Haines

Mr. Raymond Bell of Maynard, Cooper & Gale Law Firm was present. Ms. Cara Stallman our grant petitioner was not present. Mr. Thomas Brymer of Volkert Engineering Firm was not present.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting with a prayer.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Robinson reported since the last Board Meeting a 2” water line was repaired on Norton Avenue, Saraland Avenue, and Cherry Drive. A 12” x 2” tap was installed for Blue Moose Car Wash.

Mr. Davis reported since the last Board Meeting 65 water and sewer Alabama 811 locates have been completed. Also, 25 work orders have been completed.

Old Business:

Mr. Mitchell opened the discussion on property owner plumbing responsibility. The Board requested Mr. Bell send a letter to the homeowner about the responsibility to make repairs to the plumbing.

Mr. Mitchell opened the discussion on sending a letter to irate customers inside and outside our office. Mr. Robinson would like to give the employees permission to refrain from assisting a customer when they are using profanity and/or irate behavior. The Board agreed that profanity and/or irate behavior will not be tolerated.

Mr. Mitchell opened the discussion on replacing the fencing at the Lift Stations and the placement of rocks. Mr. Robinson reported Mr. Vaughn has been in conversation with Hagan Fence Company. The plan is to do a couple of Lift Stations at a time. The lighting will also be upgraded.

Mr. Mitchell opened the discussion on collections. Mr. Thronson would like to do a comparison of collection polices with other Water and Sewer Companies.

New Business:

Mr. Mitchell opened the discussion on water and sewer rates. Avizo looked at our current sales and expenses and their recommendation is 5% rate increase on both water and sewer. Mr. Mitchell's recommendation is 5% on sewer and 2% on water to be discussed and voted on at another meeting.

Mr. Mitchell opened the discussion on Covid 19 compensation. Mr. Mitchell reported the City of Saraland received Federal Covid money and they gave full time employees \$5,000.00 compensation and part time employees that had been employed since September \$2,500.00, this was for enduring Covid and showing appreciation. Mr. Mitchell would like to recommend a one-time compensation of \$500.00. After discussion, Mr. Davis made a motion to give a one-time \$1,000.00 covid compensation to the employees. Mr. Robinson seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Mitchell opened the discussion on the Restore Act Funds. Mr. Robinson reported the Restore Act will be open in the month of October. He would like for the engineers to evaluate the expense to reline the existing terra cotta pipe in the system. Mr. Robinson discussed this with Mr. Jerry Carl who agreed to get his staff to check into this. Mr. Robinson also discussed this with Mr. Vaughn who believes it would cost between \$10,000,000.00 and \$12,000,000.00 to complete. The Board agrees to actively engage in drafting a report to submit for the Restore Act Funds.

Mr. Mitchell opened the discussion on our 2021-2022 Holiday schedule. The holidays are the same in number and occasion. Mr. Thronson made a motion to accept the Holiday Schedule as presented. Mr. Davis seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Mitchell read a statement from Mr. Bob Young in reference to our Bond. Mr. Young stated the interest rates are low enough to provide savings on the current Bond. Mr. Davis made a motion to allow Mr. Young to move forward on the paperwork to refinance the Bond. Motion dies due to no second.

Invoices for Ratification:

Sewer Invoices:

- McFadden Engineering, Invoice #19-2611, dated 8/2/2021, re: monthly Technician III (2 months), in the amount of \$2,074.23.
- Volkert Engineering, Invoice #01207102, dtd 8/10/2021, re: General Engineering - Sewer, in the amount of \$7,700.00.
- Volkert Engineering, Invoice #00807103, dtd 8/10/2021, re: Sanitary Sewer Collection System Master Plan, in the amount of \$14,510.00.

Mr. Thronson made a motion to pool & pay the invoices as listed. Mr. Davis seconded. Motion passed.

Report of Officers:

No report of Officers.

Superintendent Report:

No report.

Attorney's Report:

Mr. Bell received information about an issue on a bid received, the successful bidder wanted to increase by 21%, after research, the state has not addressed this issue. This project will need to be re-bid.

Engineer's Report:

The Board Member's received a copy of the Engineer's report in their files.

Grant Petitioner's Report:

Not present.

Correspondence:

Well Source Data Report July 2021

There being no further business to come before the Board; Mr. Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thronson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 P.M.

ATTEST:

RATIFIED AND APPROVED:
