



**Regular Meeting
May 16, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Saraland, Alabama, to order at 5:30pm, at the Saraland Water and Sewer Service meeting room with the following Board members present:

Present	Absent
Mr. James Davis	
Mr. Jackie Haines	
Mr. O'Neil Robinson	
Mr. Scooter Thronson	
Mr. Jeff Ludlam	

Old Business:

The Board heard several items from the public, including, but not limited to, spirited discussions regarding certain SWSS fees and street pothole repairs.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the task agreement for annual biosolids contract. Motion passed unanimously.

Task Agreement 024, current and future ISO2 requirements, corrective actions, and percent complete were discussed.

New Business:

Mr. Mitchell had been removed from the Board since the last meeting due to the expiration of his term, and Mr. Ludlam had been appointed by the Saraland City Council to join the Board.

In light of the former chairman's removal from the Board, a motion was put forward and seconded for the Board to entertain elections for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer. The Board also unanimously agreed that elections for these positions would be held again one year from now (on May 15, 2025). Motion passed unanimously.

Prior to each nomination and vote, the duties and expectations for each of the three positions were read aloud by the acting chair, Jim Davis, and agreed upon by each Board member.

A nomination was put forward for Mr. Davis as chairman, and this nomination was seconded. There were no other nominations for Chairman. The board voted 4-0 in favor of Mr. Davis as chairman (with Mr. Davis abstaining from the vote since he was the subject of it).

A nomination was put forward for Mr. Thronson as vice-chairman, and this nomination was seconded. There were no other nominations for Chairman. The board voted 4-0 in favor of Mr. Thronson as vice-chairman (with Mr. Thronson abstaining from the vote since he was the subject of it).

A nomination was put forward for Mr. Haines as secretary –treasurer, and this nomination was seconded. There were no other nominations for secretary-treasurer. The board voted 4-0 in favor of Mr. Haines as secretary-treasurer (with Mr. Haines abstaining from the vote since he was the subject of it).

A discussion regarding client communications was held focusing on transparency, timeliness, and accuracy. Mr. Ludlum was appointed by the Chairman as the Board's Communications and Re-Branding committee Director, responsible for all SWSS communications, website, and other forms of external communications with the focus of branding SWSS as a "Kind and Respectful" client driven organization.

The Board entertained Hasser’s antenna proposal and said they would table the discussion until additional information was received from Hasser.

The Norton Ave Land Purchase was discussed that the deal was complete, finalized, and documents submitted to SWSS administration for filing and future review upon request.

The Board approved a letter of accommodation for Robert Miller for his selfless acts to repair sewer process equipment, resulting in significant cost savings to SWSS

A motion was made and seconded to approve the SWSS sewer treatment plan 2023 Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Plan (MWPP). Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to pool the sewer invoices and approve them for payment. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ludlam spoke about his excitement to join the Board. There was a general discussion around improving communications between the SWSS and its clients and the SWSS and its partners such as the Saraland City Council, surrounding peer utilities and the Fire Department. Mr. Ludlum was charged with the Board level responsibility of improving SWSS’s public communications, streamlining client concerns and publicizing follow up actions, with the overarching goal rebranding SWSS as a “Kind and Respectful” client driven organization.

At approximately 6:40 p.m., the Chairman, with the assistance of legal counsel, declared there were items to be discussed that qualify for executive session under Alabama Code Section 36-25A-7 of the Alabama Open Meetings Act, including, but not limited to (1) the legal ramifications of and legal options for pending litigation and controversies not yet being litigated, but imminently likely to be litigated if the governmental body were to pursue a certain course of action, (2) discussions related to certain consideration the Saraland Water and Sewer Service (“SWSS”) might be willing to offer and/or accept in connection with the disposition of certain real estate and (3) preliminary negotiations involving matters of trade and commerce; whereby, an open discussion might be detrimental to the SWSS's efforts to advance the SWSS's business. In connection with any real estate matters to be discussed, Mr. Thames further apprised the Board that no member of the Board having a personal interest in any real estate matter to be discussed in executive session could attend such session. The Chairman confirmed for the record that the representations made by legal counsel were accurate and stated the Board’s intent to reconvene its meeting immediately at the conclusion of executive session. After a proper motion and second, the Board voted to enter executive session with all members present participating. At the conclusion of the executive session, the Board duly convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Thronson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

ATTEST:

RATIFIED AND APPROVED:
