

## **Regular Meeting**

**July 6, 2017**

Chairman Mr. Robinson 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 the Saraland Water Service Conference room with the following Board Members present:

Present:  
Mr. H. O'Neil Robinson  
Mr. Ron Mitchell  
Mr. Scooter Thronson  
Mr. James Davis

Absent:  
Mr. Jackie Haines

Ms. Carah Hall, Board Engineer, and Mr. Raymond Bell, Board Attorney, were present.

Mr. Davis opened the meeting with prayer.

### **Committee Reports:**

Mr. Mitchell reported that since the last board meeting One Hundred Six (106) radio read meter have been installed, a three quarter (3/4") inch service line has been repaired. A 10" (ten inch) sewer force main was repaired, and a new pump was installed in the Spanish Trace Lift Station.

Mr. Davis reported that since the last board meeting, thirty-one 811 locates have been worked for the Water and Sewer Departments. Seventeen work orders for water have been worked and thirty-two work orders worked for the sewer department.

### **Old Business:**

Mr. Robinson asked for an update on the Aaron Oil Discharge. Mr. Bell informed to the Board that he has talked with Aaron Oil, and there is a meeting Tuesday July 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm to discuss the contract.

Mr. Robinson discussed the Sewer Consultant Mr. Dean. Mr. Robinson said that after attending his class, he is really pleased in Mr. Dean.

Mr. Robinson talked about the credit card machine for the office. The Board Members were given information on three (3) financial facilities and after looking at the information the Board decided to look over it and give their decision at the next meeting.

Mr. Robinson discussed the possibility to give the employees a 5% cost of living increase, (which has not happened since 2011). After further discussion Mr. Thronson made a motion to give a 3% cost of living increase, effective next pay period. Mr. Davis second the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Robinson started the discussion of a minimum charge for all residents on Celeste Road for sewer (connected or not). The Board agreed that an assessment amount should be charged to all Saraland residents. Mr. Mitchell made motion to charge a \$5.00 (five dollar) sewer assessment fee to all City of Saraland Residents, if it is available to them. Mr. Thronson second the motion. Motion passed.

**New Business:**

Mr. Robinson allowed a citizen not listed on the agenda to address the Board. Mr. Jessie McClure approached the Board stating that his monthly bill for two people is too much and that he did find a soggy spot (which was a leak) in his yard not far from the meter and he fixed this, but Mr. McClure is claiming to the Board that it was when the Men changed out his meter did this leak occurred, Mr. Vaughn suggested to the Board that he take the laptop and go do a history on his water usage, the Board agreed to this. It was also found out that Mr. McClure meter was replaced back in 2015 and at this time his usage was around a minimum bill.

Mr. Robinson started the discussion of maturing CDs, he believes that when a CD is at the mature status and needs to be reinvested, the Secretary should bring to the Board his recommendations of reinvestment and allow the Board to vote. It was agreed that with the next maturing CD and future maturing CDs will be brought before the Board to be voted where to reinvest.

Mr. Robinson started the discussion of the Bond Money, he pointed out the fact that the agreement of the funds is now down to two years, Mr. Mitchell informed the Board that 10% of the monies is to be spent by this month and 45% of it spent within one year. Mr. Mitchell pointed out that the "Bids for Highway 158" placed on the agenda under New Business should help in the required percentage, but Mr. Robinson pointed out that this item on the agenda is for the sewer lines, not water. Mr. Robinson informed the Board the reason for this being placed on the agenda is figure out how to stay on schedule of requirements, Mr. Mitchell suggested that if it comes to it we may have to get Mr. Bell to write a letter informing them of our situation and maybe to get an extension.

Mr. Robinson asked the Board of their opinion as far as adding a spouse of a retired employee to BCBS insurance coverage. Mr. Mitchell informed the Board that when this matter was brought back to be voted on, he would be against it. Mr. Thronson agreed with Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Robinson started the discussion of Saraland Sewer Service doing a Smoke Test on the sewer lines. Ms. Hall then addressed the Board her findings. She gave the Members information of what a smoke test involves and the sewer lines that desperately needs them. Ms. Hall also informed the Board of the prices of hiring a company vs buying the equipment and doing it ourselves. The Board agreed that buying the equipment is beneficiary for Saraland Sewer and for different prices of this equipment to be obtained and placed on the next board meeting agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Robinson asked Ms. Hall about the Drum Screen. Ms. Hall informed the Board that it is down. The Board asked Ms. Hall to get prices of Drum Screen and bring this back to the next meeting.

Mr. Robinson starts the discussion of the Bids for Highway 158. Ms. Hall informs the Board that the "Water Plans" has been developed. And after further discussion the Board agreed to proceed with the water lines and wait for the need on the sewer lines. Ms. Hall also informs the Board that she will get started on the Bids for the Water.

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Vaughn for an update of Timothy Street. Mr. Vaughn informed the Board that he did go the next day and flushed the lines for eight hours, and flushed the dead end lines.

Mr. Robinson asked for an update on Shell Road, Ms. Hall and Mr. Vaughn both told the Board that this lift station is up and running.

Mr. Robinson wanted to acknowledge that the Employee Appreciation Day was a success and everyone had a good time.

Mr. Robinson asked about “cancel one Water Service Operator II position, and add one Water Service Operator I position”, that was placed on the agenda, but with Mr. Hennis not present at the meeting it was agreed that this would be placed on next Board Meeting.

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Acy Wilson to now address the Board about his \$25.00 blue notice fee, Mr. Wilson did state he did not receive both of his bills until later in the month and not on the same day. He is there to ask for the Board to VOID his \$25.00 blue notice fee, because a whole bunch of stuff happened, between his mail and the credits on his accounts. Mr. Wilson then told the Board, he has paid both his bills, but did not pay the Blue Notice fee, and did ask what would be done if he didn't pay that Blue Notice fee? Mr. Wilson did say that if he did get off the grid, with no water because the Saraland Water Service disconnecting him, what would Saraland Water do to him, we couldn't make him pay, there are other ways to get water. Mr. Wilson stated to the Board to just allow him to pay for sewer only, he does not want to pay the \$25.00 blue notice fee, the United Postal Service did not deliver his bills correctly. After further discussion the Board did inform Mr. Wilson that we cannot control the postal service and there are other options for him to pay even without the bills. The Board informed Mr. Wilson that he needs to pay the blue notice fee and to look into our other options of payment.

#### **INVOICES FOR RATIFICATION:**

WATER: Gary A Brown, inv#061917, in the amount of \$1,400.00 re: Medical Complex Water Taps Gulf City Shell Corporation, inv#17525, in the amount of \$1,105.09 re: Base Limestone. Mr. Thronson made motion to pay the water invoices. Mr. Davis second. Motion passed.

SEWER: Inv#1011593, Aqua Aerobic System, in the amount of \$91,311.72, re: Parts-Biological Equipment. Hydra Service, Inc. inv#121460, in the amount of \$2,718.00 re: 9-day rental 6/19-6/27/2017 of Godwin DRI Prime CD150m, trailer mounted, diesel driven 6” pump, suction hose w/Bauer fittings, strainer, automatic control panel w/floats, flanged reducer, socket x flange Bauer fitting, male Bauer, Female Bauer, Bauer 90-degree elbow, rental-delivery/set up. ServiceMaster Clean, inv#12255, in the amount of \$2075.87, re: sewer damage remediation. Hydra Service, Inc., inv#121249, in the amount of \$1,899.00, re: rental of Godwin DRI Prime CD103M, trailer mounted, diesel driven 4” pump, suction hose w/Bauer fittings, flanged 90, swing check valve, pipe plug, automatic prime guard float switches, Bauer strainer, rental-pickup, replacement of lost pipe plug. A&B electric Co. of Mobile, Inc., inv#19556, in the amount of \$19,433.63, re: labor and material to rebuild lift station for (2) 25 HP Pumps at I-65 and Highway 158. Jim House & Associates, Inc., inv#6712, in the amount of \$16,636.00 re: NP3153.095-433 (460/33/60, FLS, 20HP, 6”). Mr. Thronson made motion to pay the sewer invoices. Mr. Davis second. Motion passed.

#### **Report of Offices:**

##### **Assistant Superintendent:**

Mr. Vaughn informed the Board that the men have been over at the Sewer Plant for the past three weeks and have changed out all the diffusers and cleaned out all the Drum Screens.

**Correspondence:**

Ltr to Mrs. Liana Barnett, Mobile County Personnel Board, dtd 6/16/17, re: Lift Station Mechanic, Grade 12

Email from Environmental Finance Center, dtd 6/19/17, re: upcoming free webinars on water and wastewater rates in Alabama

Ltr from MCHD, dtd 6/27/17, re: Sanitary Sewer Overflows

There being no further business to come before the Board, Motion by Mr. Thronson to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Haines. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 P.M.

ATTEST:

RATIFIED AND APPROVED:

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