The Utilities Board of the Town of Cedar Bluff

September 19, 2018

STATE OF ALABAMA

CHEROKEE COUNTY

The Utilities Board of the Town of Cedar Bluff met for their regular business meeting Tuesday, September 19, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in the Utility Board room located at 4971 AL Hwy 68, Cedar Bluff Alabama. Meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by Vice Chair Norman Burton.

Roll Call:

Norman Burton Present Linda Pickelsimer Present

Cindy Early Absent Donald Sanders Present

James Bo Martin Absent

At this time, Linda Pickelsimer made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss good name and character, to reconvene afterward. Motion was seconded by Norman Burton.

Motion Carried (3-0)

AYE: Burton, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early, Martin

Meeting was reconvened at 4:09 pm.

Vice Chair Burton stated Mrs. Pickelsimer made the Board aware of a letter of resignation from Board Member Cindy Early. Mr. Burton made a motion to table the acceptance of the letter. Motion was seconded by Donald Sanders.

Motion Carried (3-0)

AYE: Burton, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early, Martin

Minutes for the August 21, 2018 meeting were presented for approval. A motion to approve as presented was made by Donald Sanders. Motion was seconded by Linda Pickelsimer.

Motion Carried (3-0)

AYE: Burton, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early, Martin

Treasurer Linda Pickelsimer presented financials for the month of August. She stated all financials were in order and made a motion to accept as presented. Motion was seconded by Donald Sanders.

Motion Carried (3-0)

AYE: Burton, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early, Martin

At this time, Vice Chair Burton addressed the Chairman Resignation Letter of James Martin. Mr. Martin had resigned as chairman at the August meeting. Donald Sanders made a motion to table the acceptance of this letter also to address them both at a later date. Motion was seconded by Linda Pickelsimer.  
 Motion Carried (3-0)

AYE: Burton, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early, Martin

In Manager's Report, Manager Jeff Harrell presented the Board with a printout of work performed by utility workers for the months of August. The log consisted of 27 water leaks, 2 sewer taps, 1 meter repaired, 3 meters replaced, and 1 pump station repair, with a total of 84 work orders performed.

At this time, Manager Harrell presented the Board with an information sheet referring to commercial camper parks and service deposits. In phone conversation with Chief Utility Clerk Jenni Burt, Board Attorney Jim Turnbach and Alabama Rural Water Association had given advice as to the Board's options concerning commercial camper parks and service deposits. \**Information sheet attached*

Discussion was concerning the commercial camper parks and other commercial multi user customers. After discussion, the Board agreed to set up a meeting with the owners of these properties, Manager Harrell, and two Board members informing the customers of impending changes to their rate schedules. The Board agreed upon the two following options:

1. Individual meters be installed for each unit on the property at the owner's expense. Deposit will be required for each unit.

2. Any multi user facility must pay 1/2 minimum bill per unit on the property.

Other discussion was service deposits and credit checks that were approved in August meeting. After some discussion concerning advice received from Mr. Turnbach and ARWA,

Donald Sanders made a motion to change deposit amounts and with the advice of Mr. Turnbach no credit checks. Service deposits amounts are as follows:

1. $150.00 Property Owners (with proof of ownership)

2. $250.00 Rental Property

These actions are effective immediately, override actions taken in August meeting and are not retroactive. All customers who have paid $400.00 deposits will not be refunded any monies until disconnection of service.

Motion was seconded by Norman Burton.

Motion Carried (3-0)

AYE: Burton, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early, Martin

In new business, Treasurer Pickelsimer stated that the annual budget should be ready for approval at the October meeting. Network Solutions has informed the Board of necessary computer upgrades for the coming year and are preparing a quote for the new computers.

After assuring there was no other business, Donald Sanders made a motion to adjourn. Linda Pickelsimer seconded the motion.

Motion Carried (3-0)

AYE: Burton, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early, Martin

Meeting was adjourned at 5:08pm.

Camper Parks

Mr. Turnbach suggested Jenni contact other water suppliers around rural area lakes. One system requires a meter for each camper, the others contacted has one meter supplying all campers. The ones with the single meters have a specific rate schedule for these camper parks.

Examples: 1. North Marshall Utilities

3" meter service deposit is $500.00

0-75,000 gal. $398.50 min.

all over 75,000 gal. $5.00 per thousand

2. Jackson Gap Water

Service deposits: $100.00 Owners

$200.00 Renters

Campers are all on one meter, monthly bill is 1/2 usual rates times number of campers.

Alabama Rural Water deputy director stated that you can leave the camper parks on one meter and set up a different rate schedule for commercial camper parks.

Service Deposits

All of the water systems called charge one amount for owners and a higher deposit amount for renters.

Mr. Turnbach suggests one deposit amount across the board for all customers. He does not recommend doing credit checks due to possible legal recourse for discrimination.

Jenni contacted Cherokee Water concerning deposits. At the advice of Alabama Rural Water Association, they charge different amounts for owners and renters. They charge $100.00 for owners and $200.00 for renters.

ARWA deputy director stated that you can and should charge more of a deposit for renters than you do owners. This is due to the possibility being higher for them to leave owing a bill. According to ARWA, 99% of water systems charge a higher deposit for renters.