The Utilities Board of the Town of Cedar Bluff

August 20, 2019

STATE OF ALABAMA

CHEROKEE COUNTY

The Utilities Board of the Town of Cedar Bluff met for their regular business meeting Tuesday, August 20, 2019 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 4:00 pm by Chairman Norman Burton.

Roll Call:

Norman Burton Present Linda Pickelsimer Present

Cindy Early Absent Donald Sanders Present

James Bo Martin Present

Minutes for the July 16, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. A motion to approve as presented was made by Linda Pickelsimer and seconded by Bo Martin.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

Treasurer Pickelsimer presented the financial reports for the month of July. Mrs. Pickelsimer stated reports appeared to be in order and made a motion to accept as printed. Motion was seconded by Donald Sanders.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

Manager Jeff Harrell presented the Board with a printout of work performed by utility workers for the months of July. The log consisted of 31 water leaks, 1 sewer taps, 4 meters replaced, 1 pump station repair, and 1 sewer line repair with a total of 130 work orders performed.

Next on the agenda was Richard Walker. He expressed concerns over changes in rates for multi user customers. Mr. Walker rents a camper lot in Chapman’s Campground.

Customer Rene Audette was next on the agenda. His concern was a zoning issue not concerning the utility board.

Sandra Durham spoke to the board at this time. She stated her concern for the rate changes as well. Ms. Durham also rents a lot in Chapman’s Campground.

Chairman Burton addressed guests at this time. Mr. Burton stated there was a need for changes to the Board rate structure. The Board had issues with multiple users on one meter. The previous rate schedule was not fair to the system as a whole. The Board consulted with their attorney and the new rate schedule has been put in place. This schedule is fair to all Board customers.

Fran Dickson was next on agenda and declined to comment.

Carl Chapman was next on agenda. He is co-owner of Chapman’s Campground. He also expressed his concerns over the rate changes.

Customer Steve McGuire was not in attendance.

In unfinished business, the Board addressed the hiring of an additional utility worker. At 4:16 pm Chairman Burton made a motion to go into executive session to discuss good name and character and to reconvene after. Motion was seconded by Linda Pickelsimer.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

Meeting reconvened at 4:38pm.

Donald Sanders made a motion to hire applicant Seth Dawson full-time at the rate of $13.00 per hour with a 90-day probationary period. Also, Chairman Burton stated if an annual cost of living raise was given it would be for permanent full-time employees only. Mr. Dawson would not be eligible for a raise until probationary period is complete. If position was not accepted by Mr. Dawson the Board would reopen applications.

Motion was seconded by Bo Martin.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

Also, under unfinished business was discussion of possible water issues in Legacy Park area. After some discussion the subject was tabled until problems arise.

In new business, Manager Harrell presented the Board with a quote for replacing the roof on the Board office. The quote was from Pace’s Construction and Home Improvements, LLC in the amount of $12,000.00. After discussion Donald Sanders made a motion to accept the bid with the condition of withholding 10% for 90 days after installation to ensure no problems arise. Motion was seconded by Bo Martin.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

Next on the agenda was credit card processing. Chief Utility Clerk Jenni Burt addressed the Board concerning the costs of processing with current company TSYS. Ms. Burt stated the current $3.00 per transaction fee was not covering the cost of the processing. She presented the Board with a proposal from Nexbillpay. The cost for setup with the company would be a one-time fee of $125.00. The processing fee would be passed to the customer automatically with each transaction. This would help in keeping costs down and aid in the bookkeeping process. Treasurer Pickelsimer made a motion to implement the change in companies. Motion was seconded by Bo Martin.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

At this time, Ms. Burt presented the Board with a summons received earlier in the day. After discussion, Chairman Burton instructed Ms. Burt to make Board Attorney Jim Turnbach and AMIC aware of the summons.

Manager Harrell addressed the Board at this time about impending changes to sewer lines in the area of Cedar Bluff Baptist Church. Mr. Harrell received plans from L.A.D.D. Engineering to reroute the sewer affected by the closing of Cross Street and construction of a new sanctuary. The project would be at no cost to the Board. After discussion of the plans, Donald Sanders made a motion to allow necessary changes with the assurance of sufficient utility right of way. Motion was seconded by Norman Burton.

Motion Carried (3-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Pickelsimer

ABSENT: Early

The discussion of retiree insurance was brought up. After some discussion Donald Sanders made a motion for the Board to pay employee health insurance after retirement with 25 years of service with the utility board. The Board would only pay the employee’s premium. The employee would be required to participate in annual health screenings. An amendment must also be made in the Board Employee Handbook. Motion was seconded by Bo Martin.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

Treasurer Pickelsimer informed the Board she will be unable to attend September meeting. After discussion, Donald Sanders made a motion to change the meeting to the following week. The meeting will be held September 24, 2019 at 4pm.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

After assuring there was no other business, Chairman Burton made a motion to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

APPROVED September 24, 2019:

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NORMAN BURTON, CHAIRMAN

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JENNI BURT, SECRETARY