The Utilities Board of the Town of Cedar Bluff

August 18, 2020

STATE OF ALABAMA

CHEROKEE COUNTY

The Utilities Board of the Town of Cedar Bluff met for their regular business meeting Tuesday, August 18, 2020 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 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 21, 2020 meeting were presented for approval. A motion to approve as presented was made by Donald Sanders. Motion was seconded by Bo Martin.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

At this time, Chairman Burton recognized visitor Bradley Lee. Mr. Lee has a camper lot in Money’s Bend and has a high usage of 50,100 gallons for the month of July. Mr. Lee stated there had been very little water used for this month. He stated meter had been turned off and faucets locked when he was not present. Possibilities of how water had been used and malfunction of meters was discussed. Chairman Burton made a motion to adjust Mr. Lee’s bill back to minimum and replace the meter. Motion was 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 after her review the reports appeared to be in order, and made a motion to accept as printed. Donald Sanders seconded the motion.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

Treasurer Pickelsimer also informed the Board the budget for the upcoming fiscal year should be ready to present at next meeting. Mrs. Pickelsimer also brought up discussion of the USDA Series 14 Bond that is owed by the Utility Board. After discussion of debts owed and a possible principle payment, Mrs. Pickelsimer made a motion to pay $104,000.00 toward the principle of the loan. Mrs. Pickelsimer stated monies would come from Allocations account. There is $82,240.46 currently in Debt Retirement and the remainder of $21,759.54 would come from Liability and Workers Compensation reserve. Motion was seconded by Donald Sanders.

 Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

Treasurer Pickelsimer and Chief Utility Clerk Jenni Burt also presented the Board with information from Retirement Systems of Alabama. Mrs. Burt stated that the Board has an option to adopt a resolution that would allow all Tier 2 employees to receive same benefits as Tier 1. Tier 2 currently consists of any employee hired January 1, 2013 to present. The estimated cost to the Board would be $741.00 annually. Mrs. Burt also stated an Employer Plan to Increase Tier 1 Member Contributions Rates would also need to be signed. This would increase current Tier 1 employee’s contributions to current rates set by RSA. After discussion Bo Martin made a motion to accept these changes. Motion was seconded by Donald Sanders.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

Mrs. Burt presented the Board with Resolution 2020-005 in order to make these changes with RSA. Chairman Burton made a motion to adopt Resolution 2020-005 as printed effective October 1, 2020. Motion was seconded by Donald Sanders.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

In the Manager Report, Mr. Harrell presented the Board with the work log for the month of July. The log consisted of 1 water tap, 1 sewer tap, 21 water leaks, 1 sewer leak and 5 water meters replaced, with a total of 87 work orders performed by utility workers.

At this time, Manager Harrell informed the Board of the need of a truck for utility worker Seth Dawson. Mr. Harrell asked the Board to consider purchasing a four door or crew cab truck for him and allowing Seth to take his current truck. Discussion was of bid law and the purchase of a new or used truck. Chairman Burton asked Mrs. Burt to check with auditor Todd Hindsman concerning this matter. The Board also asked Jeff to check on the state bid list and check pricing for a new truck and report back next meeting.

Manager Harrell presented the Board with a letter from ADEM. The letter had stated the Board’s yearly review had taken place on August 3, 2020, and the Board water system appears to comply with ADEM requirements.

Manager Harrell also presented the Board with a letter from TDS concerning liability of the Board for damage done to phone lines. Utility workers had damaged the lines repairing a leak in the month of April.

In unfinished business was discussion of sewer charges outside of town limits. Mrs. Burt presented the Board with a draft for an agreement drawn up by Board Attorney Jim Turnbach. The agreement would be signed by any new customer concerning sewer charges if service is available. After further discussion of the benefits of said agreement, Chairman Burton made a motion to table the discussion indefinitely. Motion was seconded by Bo Martin.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

Also, in unfinished business, Manager Harrell informed the Board of repairs needed to the dump truck owned by the Town, but in possession of the Utility Board. The Board had previously wanted to purchase the truck but an agreement has not been reached. Chairman Burton stated he would call Police Chief Chris O’Neal concerning the matter.

In new business, Donald Sanders made a motion to increase all active employee’s weekly earnings by $50.00. This increase will be considered hazard pay for all active essential Board employees. The increase will be in effect until Governor Ivey lifts all restrictions concerning COVID-19. Motion was seconded by Bo Martin.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

After assuring there was no other business, Chairman Burton asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion was made by Bo Martin and seconded by Donald Sanders.

Motion Carried (4-0)

AYE: Burton, Martin, Pickelsimer, Sanders

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Early

Meeting was adjourned at 5:17pm.

APPROVED September 15, 2020

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CINDY EARLY, VICE CHAIRMAN

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JENNI BURT, SECRETARY