

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ROCKWOOD WATER, WASTEWATER & NATURAL GAS BOARD**

May 24, 2016 @ 6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with Vice Chairman Loren Bone presiding. Roll call found Commissioner Tim Couch, Commissioner Dudley Evans, and Commissioner Joe Moore present; Chairman Darryl Meadows was absent.

Public Comment: Maecie Blackburn - 9504 Diggs Gap Rd, Heiskell - and Jonathan Burlison from Waste Management presented the Board with pricing proposals for special waste that requires hauling to a dumpsite for disposal. Ms. Blackburn was also requesting that the contract that has been in place with Waste Management continue using the pricing provided. The contract was terminated effective July 1, 2016 based on termination letter that was dated March 4, 2016. Kim Ramsey stated that a contract with another vendor had been negotiated and signed in March that helped to realize a 35% savings and would begin on July 1st. She indicated that inadequate service has been provided over a long period of time despite multiple complaints by RWSG personnel. Pricing has also been rapidly increasing and repeated attempts to contact a sales rep had failed. The new contract was signed as a means to protect RWSG against inferior service and inflated pricing. Ms. Blackburn stated that, since Waste Management containers are on site, their contract supersedes any contract signed with Santek. Ms. Blackburn stated that she had only had the contract since January and she requested a chance to provide better service. Commissioner Bone asked Ms. Ramsey and City Attorney Greg Leffew to review the two contracts and determine a solution.

Jay Gilmer, 241 Eagle Point Drive, stated that he was told when he was building his house several years ago that gas service would be extended to his area and he had his house plumbed for a gas furnace, two gas water heaters, a gas range, and two log fireplaces. He has been using electricity since he moved in around 2010-2011. A former Board member had told him he would have gas service within a year. He asked when or if he would ever have it and Ms. Ramsey responded that the line extension is not in any future plans. He asked for assistance with getting his previously purchased appliances working but was told that RWSG is not allowed to help with the conversion of his appliances. Commissioner Bone asked that Board minutes from 2010 – 2011 be checked for any Board approval of gas line extension to the area.

Approval of the April 2016 Minutes: Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve as presented and Commissioner Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of April Financials: Commissioner Couch then made a motion to accept the financials as presented and Commissioner Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

General Manager's Report: Kim Ramsey stated that her a draft budget copy had been placed at each Commissioner's seat for review. The proposed budget includes a potential of up to 4% water/sewer rate increase and a 2% wage increase for employees with no additional positions included. She asked that anyone with questions or comments call her and she would be happy to schedule a meeting to discuss. Ethan Headrick passed the test to receive his Operator 3 license and Albert Pounds passed to receive his Distribution license. New software training is underway for billing and customer service clerks. The first billing test will be attempted on Friday parallel to the Local Government billing. If all goes well, the June 15th billing will be sent to customers using the new software.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Report on I/I:** A written report was provided.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Consideration and approval of bid for disinfection installation at Rockwood Water Treatment Plant:** Bids were received and all bids were above the projected budget amount. Ms. Ramsey asked for all bids to be rejected. Commissioner Moore made that motion and Commissioner Evans seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Consideration and approval of Sewer Line Relocation Project – Front Street:** The following bids were received:

- Adams & Sons - \$417,484
- Hurst Excavating - \$422,703
- Norris Brothers Excavating - \$422,750.40

Ms. Ramsey recommended the acceptance of the low bid of \$417,484 from Adams & Sons. She added that a RWSG employee would be on site for inspection of the approximate 2600' sewer line relocation. Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept the low bid and Commissioner Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. **Consideration and approval of date and time for June meeting:** The disinfection project will be rebid and needs to be completed as quickly as possible due to old equipment at the WTP and lack of parts for repair. The budget will also be on the agenda for approval before going to City Council for first reading in the June meeting of the water/sewer rate increase. Ms. Ramsey suggested June 14th at 6:00 pm. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the meeting change and Commissioner Couch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Communications from Board members: All Commissioners thanked employees for the work they continue to do for RWSG. Commissioner Evans asked why bids are no longer opened at Board meetings to which Ms. Ramsey replied that it changed with the Purchasing Policy that had been previously approved by the Board. Bids are opened in City Hall with all bidders and the public welcome to attend.

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Couch seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Darryl Meadows, Chairman

Joan Kerley, Secretary