

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

**August 27, 2019 @ 6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at the Rockwood City Hall at 6:00 P.M. with Chairman Darryl Meadows presiding. Commissioners Bobby Anderson, Loren Bone, Joe Moore and Jeff Penley were present.

**Public Comment:** Ronnie Thompson with Alba Health asked for some relief on the industry's sewer bills. He stated that there are two water lines – 3" line to boilers and 2" line to cooler/air wash – that do not drain into the sewer system. He has been given three options for decreasing his utility cost: 1) Buy new equipment that will cut water/sewer cost for the plant, 2) Ship to Mexico for dying process, or 3) Negotiate sewer cost. The plant employs 170 people and he does not want to hurt Rockwood with any decision so is asking for a reduction in the sewer cost. Chairman Meadows set up a committee of himself, Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Bone, and Kim Ramsey to tour the facility and explore options. He asked Ms. Ramsey to set up a time with Mr. Thompson.

**Approval of July Minutes:** Commissioner Bone made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Commissioner Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of June and July Financials:** Commissioner Bone made a motion to defer and Commissioner Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**General Manager's Report:** Kim Ramsey reported that Brian Reed has been promoted to Operations Crew Leader. Gas Warm Thoughts will be promoted in the next few weeks as a benefit to our gas customers that struggle with high gas bills in the winter. She will be attending the Mitigation Plan public meeting on Wednesday. This is the final meeting before submission to FEMA by the Roane County.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **I&I report:** A written report was provided to all Commissioners.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Consideration and approval of Resolution No. 19-007, concerning term limits on the Board of Waterworks, Sewerage, and Natural Gas Commissioners:** City Attorney, Greg Leffew, has researched the term limit issue and has determined that they are not required by the state. Chairman Meadows stated that Council has the option of not reappointing Commissioners which can serve as a term limit if they are dissatisfied with performance. Commissioner Anderson added that there are bigger issues with our building program that need to be addressed by our state representatives than term limits. Chairman Meadows stated that he would like to see an outside city

representative added to the Board. Commissioner Bone made a motion to approve the Resolution and Commissioner Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Consideration and approval of employee health benefit renewal:** Commissioners were presented with a proposal that includes a 9.9% increase in insurance premiums. Due to upcoming personnel changes, our agent will pursue a decrease in the percentage. Sarah McCain will request a re-rate immediately prior to the October 1<sup>st</sup> renewal date. Commissioner Bone made a motion to remain on the same plan with UHC and obtain a re-rate as explained and Commissioner Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Consideration and approval of basin repair at Water Treatment Plant – TECHCOAT Inc, proposal:** Ms. Ramsey explained that this was an emergency purchase of \$18,960 that requires Board approval. Commissioner Moore made a motion to approve the repair and Commissioner Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Consideration and approval of Verizon fleet program additional service:** Commissioner Anderson stated that FirstNet through AT&T offers a first responder program for phones that provides better service than the Verizon plan. Commissioner Moore made a motion to waive the five-day rule and Commissioner Bone seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Moore then made a motion to defer approval of the Verizon plan and explore available options with FirstNet and Commissioner Penley seconded. That motion also passed unanimously.

Chairman Meadows asked for the next meeting to be held at the WTP so that the newer members can visit there. After a brief communication from board members, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM by motion of Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Moore.

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Darryl Meadows, Chairman

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Joan Kerley, Secretary