

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

OCTOBER 15, 2014

MEETING MINUTES

SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS

ROLL CALL

The Executive Director, Cedric S. Grant, called the roll and showed the following members present: **Ms. Suchitra Satpathi, Mr. Wm. Raymond Manning, Mr. Alan Arnold, Mrs. Robin Barnes, Mr. Marion Bracy, Mrs. Kerri Kane, Mr. Scott Jacobs, Ms. Kimberly Thomas (Eight) and a quorum.

Absent: Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Mr. Mark M. Moody and Mr. Joseph Peychaud (Three).

**Ms. Suchitra Satpathi, Mayor's Representative

Also present were: Brenda Thornton, CommuniRep, Inc.; Geneva Coleman, The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.; Randy Smith, Royal Engineers; Paul West, Chester Engineers; Marian H. Pierre, CCI; Jesse Noel, Atri Sen, HNTB; T. Cancienne, AECOM.

Staff present were: Cedric S. Grant, Executive Director; Robert Miller, Deputy Director; Joseph Becker, General Superintendent's Office; Nolan Lambert, Special Counsel; Brian Ferrara, Harold Marchand, Legal Department; Kathleen LaFrance, Executive Director's Office; Tiffany Carter, Veronica Johnson Christmas, EDBP Department; Audrey Lee, Michael LaPorte, Personnel Department; Jacqueline K. Shine, Revenue Administration Department; Rosita Thomas, Finance Administration Department; Dexter Joseph, Budget Department; Bobby Nathan, EEOC, Equal Employment Opportunity Department; Irma Mahannuar, Internal Audit Department; Paul Arceneaux, Hazel Bell, Employee Incentive Committee (EIC); George L. Myers, Engineering C,A & I Field Engineering; John Wilson, Harold Heller, Jr., Support Services Administration.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS REPORT

Ms. Kimberly Thomas moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on September 17, 2014. Mr. Alan Arnold seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HONORS AND AWARDS

(R-232-2014) – The Board honored employee, Mr. George L. Myers, Facility Engineering Specialist of the Engineering Division, he is responsible for complex technical engineering

work, as it relates to field inspections of the Sewerage and Water Board contracts that must meet Board approval according to specifications. Mr. Meyers is a dedicated employee of the Engineering Division and he has 50 years of service with the Sewerage and Water Board effective September 24, 2014. He works beyond the call of duty on a daily basis. He inspects every job with a high level of perfection to make sure all inspections are accurate and he achieves this accomplishment by reviewing detailed drawings and specifications during late evening hours. Mr. Meyers answers emergency calls with no limited time frame, as needed. He has valuable skills and knowledge accumulated over the years in design engineering of sewer, water and drainage construction.

He was honored for his actions above and beyond routine duties. Also, Mr. Myers was recognized and honored by the Board and staff for his 50 years of service with the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

The resolution was adopted by acclamation.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director, Mr. Cedric S. Grant presented a slide overview on the recent events he and staff participated in the month of September. His presentation focused on events of September 2014 as follows:

- WEFTEC 2014
 - 22,000 Water Professionals and nearly 1,000 companies from around the world attended the WEFTEC Conference in New Orleans
 - Numerous Opportunities for staff to visit interactive booths and observe new technologies
- Press Conference – September 29, 2014
 - Theme: ‘Water Works Investing Together for a Stronger America’
 - Spotlight on Economic Benefits of Water Infrastructure
- G.E. Foundation Presents \$1.5 Million Multi-Year Grant
 - Allow for training of 250 employees over the next three years
 - This commitment will support Delgado’s Infrastructure Personnel Training Program
 - Will help build advanced manufacturing and water management skills and improve water infrastructure in the city of New Orleans

- Water Environmental Research Foundation Award presented for 25 years of Commitment to Work
- Operations Challenge – ‘S&WB Water Dogz’ participated in five events including the Collection System, Laboratory, Process Control, Maintenance, and Safety
- C40 Connecting Delta Cities Conference
 - Deltas in Times of Climate Change II International Conference
 - Rotterdam, Netherlands – September 24 – 26, 2014
 - S&WB Participated with Melbourne, Australia on Green Infrastructure Presentation and Panel on the role of the Mayor’s Internationally on Climate Adaptation Strategies
- Angela Hill Talk Show
 - Participated in Integrated Infrastructure discussion with Angela Hill, WWL Radio along with participants David Waggoner of Urban Water Plan, and Robin Barnes of Greater New Orleans, Inc.
- Customer Service Initiative
 - Julia Street Site
 - Training Has Commenced
- Fix Our Streets Initiative
 - ‘A Bump in the Road’, Connecting, Correcting and Coordinating Street Repairs
 - Participated in the Algiers Community Meeting on Fix Our Streets Initiative on October 7, 2014

He also discussed the city and Sewerage and Water Board’s integrated approach of working together to address the infrastructure needs of the community. Staff would continue to communicate and keep the public informed of infrastructure repairs going on throughout the city.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Chairperson, Mrs. Kerri Kane reported on the summary and actions taken by the Infrastructure Committee. The Infrastructure Committee Report for the month of October was presented and recommended for approval.

Mr. Scott Jacobs moved acceptance of the Infrastructure Committee Report and approval of the Infrastructure Committee recommendations, therein. Mr. Marion Bracy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

PENSION COMMITTEE

The Chairperson, Mr. Wm. Raymond Manning reported on the summary and actions taken by the Pension Committee. The Pension Committee Report for the month of October was presented and recommended for approval.

Mr. Alan Arnold moved acceptance of the Pension Committee Report and approval of the Pension Committee recommendations, therein. Mrs. Robin Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairperson, Mr. Marion Bracy reported on the summary and actions taken by the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee Report for the month of October was presented and recommended for approval.

Mr. Alan Arnold moved acceptance of the Operations Committee Report and approval of the Operations Committee recommendations, therein. Mrs. Robin Barnes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Robin Barnes reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee Report for the month of October was presented and recommended for approval.

SPEAKER CARD

Mr. John Wilson, the Support Services Administrator/Pension Committee (Employee Member) addressed the Board to clarify some statements made at the Finance Committee Meeting in October re: Healthcare renewal for 2015 and its proposed changes. He stated that no one realized the process involved the potential of changing of health plan administrator.

SPEAKER CARD

Mr. Harold Heller, Jr., the Support Services Supervisor/Pension Committee (Employee Member) addressed the Board re: Healthcare renewal for 2015 and its proposed changes. He stated the Pension employee listening sessions were meetings with the employees to get feedback on the proposed change to the payment plan. They were not intended to inform any employee about the change in the healthcare administrator.

The Executive Director stated he feels confident staff can communicate with employees and provide them with reassurance of the healthcare plan inclusive of coverage and providers.

The Deputy Director stated no changes have been made in the last five years and staff decided to do a market place review re: healthcare plan. Staff recommended for the Board to adopt Healthsmart as the new healthcare provider using the Cigna network.

Following a discussion, it was recommended by the Board for staff to build a consensus among the employees relative to the proposed changes of the healthcare plan and bring more information back to the Board within the next 30 days.

Mr. Alan Arnold moved acceptance of the Finance Committee Report and approval of the Finance Committee recommendations, therein. Mr. Scott Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Wm. Raymond Manning suggested there be some formal active communication to the entire team around these issues so that staff can feel comforted that the Board has heard their comments. The Board moved ahead because these are time sensitive issues dealing with dollars and we do not want to lose this opportunity.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Chairperson, Mr. Wm. Raymond Manning reported on the summary and actions taken by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee Report for the month of October was presented and recommended for approval.

The Mayor's representative, Ms. Suchitra Satpathi requested staff to provide more information regarding the proposed changes of the Board's procurement policy.

The Special Counsel, Mr. Nolan Lambert maintained the proposed changes to the procurement policy are to keep align with best practices as outlined in the Mayor's Executive Order in 2010. Mr. Lambert explained the Selection Committee processes and procedures.

Ms. Satpathi suggested staff draft a possible amendment and bring it back to the Board re: changes to its procurement policy as it relates to the mentioned city's Home Rule Charter.

Following further discussion, Mr. Manning stated he would like to revisit this item in the December cycle of meetings re: Professional Service and Procurement Policy.

Mr. Bracy offered clarification on the original motion made at the Executive Committee, which read as follows: motion to approve in concept, revisions to the Professional Service Procurement Policy No. 95 as revised.

Mr. Lambert maintained the Board could approve the policy itself and if needed, it can be revisited in the future. Mr. Lambert suggested removing the word *revised* from the original motion made at the Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Alan Arnold moved acceptance of the Executive Committee Report and approval of the Executive Committee recommendations, as amended. Ms. Suchitra Satpathi seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were adopted:

R-210-2014 – 2014 Independent Financial Auditing Services Contract

R-211-2014 – Approval of Consultants to Provide Engineering and Consulting Services for the Replacement and Rehabilitation of SWBNO Facilities

R-212-2014 – Furnishing Grass Cutting and Debris Pick-Up of Sewerage and Water Board East Bank Canals – Req. No. YO140052

R-213-2014 – Furnishing Grass Cutting and Debris Pick Up of Sewerage and Water Board West Bank Canals – Req. No. YO140053

R-214-2014 – Furnishing Chemical Control of Foliage at Specified Sewerage and Water Board Locations within the City of New Orleans – Req. NO. YO140051

R-215-2014 – First and Final Renewal of Contract for Furnishing Sodium Chloride – Req. No. AL130026

R-216-2014 – First and Final Renewal of Contract for Furnishing Pest & Rodent Control Services for the Sewerage and Water Board – Req. No. YO130020

R-217-2014 – First and Final Renewal of Contract for Furnishing and Delivering Gasoline and Diesel Fuel – Req. No. YG140001

R-218-2014 – First and Final Renewal of Contract for Furnishing and Delivering Lubricant Petroleum Products – Req. Nos. YG140002 & GI140002

R-219-2014 – First and Final Renewal of Emergency Letter Bids for 2013 Rental Installation of a Temporary Generator at Carrollton Water Plant

R-228-2014 – Revisions to the Professional Services Procurement Policy No. 95

R-229-2014 – Public Officials and Employee Liability Insurance Policy for Operations

R-230-2014 – 2015 Health Insurance Renewal

R-231-2014 – 2015 Health Insurance Employee/Retiree Contribution/Deduction

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were submitted for informational purposes only:

- FEMA Status Report
- Report of the General Superintendent
- Report of the Special Counsel
- 2014 Committee/Board Meeting Schedule
- Financial Statements

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.