

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 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. Scott Jacobs, *Mrs. Kerri Kane, Mr. Joseph Peychaud, Ms. Kimberly Thomas (Eight) and a quorum.

Absent: Mr. Marion Bracy, Dr. Tamika Duplessis, Mr. Mark M. Moody (Three).

**Ms. Suchitra Satpathi, Mayor's Representative

Also present were: Brenda Thornton, Communirep, Inc.; Richard Rainey, Times Picayune; Geneva Coleman, The Hawthorne Agency, Inc.; Paul West, Chester Engineers; Renee' Lapeyrolerie, CDM Smith; Stephen Stuart, BGR; John Weiler, Weiler & Rees; Octave Francis, Marcia Culotta, FFC Capital Management; Jason Akers, Foley & Judell.

Staff present were: Cedric S. Grant, Executive Director; Robert Miller, Deputy Director; Joseph Becker, Madeline Fong Goddard, General Superintendent's Office; Nolan Lambert, Special Counsel; Brian Ferrara, Harold Marchand, Legal Department; Raymond Gable, Irma Mahannuar, Internal Audit Department; Willie Mingo, Purchasing Department; Rosita Thomas, Finance Administration Department; Robert Jackson, Community & Intergovernmental Relations Department; Monique Rainey, Emergency Management Department; Bobby Nathan, EEOC, Equal Employment Opportunity Department; Kathleen LaFrance, Executive Director's Office; Dexter Joseph, Budget Department; Paula Arceneaux, Julia Thomas, Employee Incentive Committee (EIC); Jerome Marshall, Clarence Monet, Sean Weber, Eric Neason, and Carlton Allen, Members of the Sewerage and Water Board's "Water Dogz".

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS REPORT

Mrs. Robin Barnes moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on October 15, 2014. Ms. Kimberly Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HONORS AND AWARDS

(R-252-2014) – The Board the employee group, Mr. Jerome Marshall, Mr. Clarence Monet, Mr. Sean Weber, Mr. Eric Neason, and Mr. Carlton Allen, are team members of the “Water Dogz” for the Water Environmental Federation (WEF) competition. Their normal duties vary from pipeline repair maintenance to monitoring water quality.

Mr. Marshall, Mr. Monet, Mr. Weber, Mr. Neason, and Mr. Allen are being honored and recognized for representing the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans at various, State, Regional and National conferences over the past several years as the “Water Dogz”. This team competes in water quality and safety competitions. Most recently, the “Water Dogz” represented the Sewerage and Water Board at the WEF Conference held in New Orleans and successfully completed at an international level of the conference in the WEF Operations Challenge. In addition, since the conference was in New Orleans, at that last minute, the team was requested to host an international team from Buenos Aires that was also attending the conference. Staff received glowing reviews on their hospitality both at the WEF conference and as hosts. These activities were performed on their personal time. Lastly, for the team’s hosting efforts, the S&WB received a letter of appreciation from Dr. O’Neill, the Executive Director of the Water Environment Federation.

These employees were honored for going above and beyond their normal duties.

The resolution was adopted by acclamation.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director, Mr. Cedric S. Grant presented a slide overview which focused on the following topics:

- Bond Ratings Upgrade
- Bond Sale Results
- Healthcare Information Rollout
- BGR Breakfast Meeting
- Proposed Changes to Pension Plan Rules

He also discussed the ‘Water Hammer’ project of the Sewerage and Water Board which is a direct result of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant fund re: improvements of the Carrollton Water Plant systems. He also reported on the improved results in the Telephone Center for October and November. In October staff was able to answer 94.5 % of customer calls, regular calls, and 92.4% of emergency calls, and in November, those percentages increased to 94.9 to 95%.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. Scott Jacobs reported on the summary and actions taken by the Operations Committee. The Operations Committee Report for the month of November was presented and recommended for approval.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Wm. Raymond Manning reported on the summary and actions taken by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee Report for the month of November was presented and recommended for approval.

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

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

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

Mr. Joseph Peychaud moved acceptance of the Infrastructure Committee Report and approval of the Infrastructure Committee recommendations, therein. Mr. Alan Arnold seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Alan Arnold asked staff if the Black and Veatch copy of the report was revised.

Mr. Miller stated yes, the Black and Veatch report has been revised re: recommendations from the Infrastructure Committee meeting in November.

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 November was presented and recommended for approval.

Mr. Alan Arnold stated for the record, he was a “No” vote re: Pension Consultant Fees portion of the report. However the minute report does not indicate it.

The Deputy Director, Mr. Robert Miller noted that during the previous Pension Committee meeting concerns were raised re: Pension Consultant Fees. Staff was able to renegotiate the fees to a lesser value set at \$105,000.00 per year.

Following a brief discussion, the Special Counsel Mr. Nolan Lambert recommended the Board make a motion to accept the Pension Report itself and the recommendations as amended, as separate motions.

- Ms. Suchitra Satpathi moved approval of the Pension Committee Report is accepted as amended, re: Mr. Arnold's noted corrections of his "No" vote re: Pension Consultant Fee. Ms. Kimberly Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Mr. Scott Jacobs moved to accept the Pension Committee Report recommendations with the exception of resolution, R-251-2014, therein. Mr. Joseph Peychaud seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- Mr. Alan Arnold moved approval of the recommendations of the Pension Advisory Service Contract Amounts for the previous contract that was awarded on September 17th, of \$105,000.00 per year. Mrs. Kerri Kane seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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 November was presented and recommended for approval.

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

CORRESPONDING RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were adopted:

R-233-2014 – Amendment to Agreement with MWH Americas, Inc. for the Water Line Replacement Program

R-234-2014 – Acceptance of the Report on Operations 2013

R-235-2014 – Award of Contract to Provide Scheduler for Capital Program Management

R-236-2014 – Award of Contract to Provide Design & Engineering Services for Structural Repairs and Improvements to DPS 17/Station D

R-237-2014 – Furnishing Liquid Ferric Sulfate – Req. Nos. ALW140037 & CM140018

R-238-2014 – Furnishing Fire Hydrant Anti-Tampering Devices – Req. No. YW140064

R-239-2014 – Furnishing 4” and 5” Fire Hydrant Repair Parts SWB Drawing Numbers 11824-w-62 & 11825-w-62 – Req. No. YW140065

R-240-2014 – Furnishing Brass Water Service Fittings – Req. No. YW140098

R-241-2014 – Furnishing Meter Boxes and Meter Box Parts – Req. No. YW140099

R-242-2014 – Leak Detection Services – Req. No. CN140033

R-243-2014 – Contract 8129 – Katrina Related Repairs to Garage #2 at Central Yard

R-244-2014 – First and Final Renewal of Contract of Furnishing Solid Wall (PVC) Pipe SDR 26 & 35 Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) C-900 Pipe for the Water Distribution System – Req. No. YW140001

R-245-2014 – First and Final Renewal of Contract for Furnishing Full Circle Stainless Steel Repair and Tap Clamps, Bronze Service Saddles and Transitional Couplings for Cast Iron, Ductile Iron and Transite Pipe – Req. No. YW130099

R-246-2014 – First and Final Renewal of Contract 3696 – Cleaning and CCTV Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Mains at Scattered sites within Orleans Parish

R-247-2014 – Final Acceptance and Close Out to Contract 3698 – Restoration of Existing Gravity Sewer Mains by Excavation & Replacement from Manhole to Manhole at various sites throughout Orleans Parish

R-248-2014 – Resolution of the Board of Directors of the S&WB in Reference to the Employees’ Retirement System of the S&WB

R-249-2014 – Ratification of Change Order No. 3 for Contract 4188 – Emergency Repairs to the Florida Canal

R-250-2014 – Ratification of Change Order No. 9 for Contract 3661 – Modifications to East Bank

NEW BUSINESS

Submission of Proposed 2015 Operating and Capital Budget and 2015-2024 Capital Program

Mr. Miller presented a slide overview which focused on the proposed 2015 Operating and Capital Budgets and the 2015-2024 Capital Program. He reported on key initiatives and key projects recommended for additional funding in 2015. He noted staff would ask the Board’s consideration for adoption at the December Committee/Board cycle of meetings.

He also discussed the Customer Satisfaction Survey which is in progress and staff will bring more information back to the Board re: results of the survey at the January 2015 Committee/Board meetings.

Mr. Alan Arnold suggested for staff to include additional information in the Financial Statements inclusive of the combined increase of the rate increases and to add this to the report.

Following a discussion, the Executive Director, Mr. Grant stated staff would have more meetings if needed to discuss budgetary issues and pension benefits of 2015, and staff will bring more information back to the full Board.

Following a discussion, the Board thanked staff for presenting a well-planned budget for 2015.

COMMUNICATION

2014 Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project (SELA) – Breakfast Meeting

Mr. Grant invited the Board to attend the SELA Breakfast Meeting being held on December 5, 2014 from 7:30AM to 9:00AM at the Westin New Orleans Canal Place, Terrace Room on the 12th Floor. The breakfast meeting is being hosted by the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the Department of the Army.

Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans 2014 Annual Employee Award Ceremony

Also, the Board was reminded to mark their calendars for the 2014 Annual Employee Award Ceremony, to be held on March 7, 2015 at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Staff would keep the Board apprised of the upcoming event.

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.