

**MINUTES**  
**WINFIELD SANITARY BOARD**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**March 7, 2024**  
**5:00 p.m.**

On Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. the meeting of the Winfield Sanitary Board was called to order by Mayor Randy Barrett, at Winfield City Hall, 12248 Winfield Road, Winfield, West Virginia.

**ATTENDANCE**

Those attending: Rod Burns, member; Clarence Litton, member; Randy Barrett, Mayor; Nikki Phillips, City Clerk/Secretary

Others present: Tim Lafon, City Lawyer; Billy Harper, Plant Operator

**PUBLIC:** Jack Ramsey, Engineer; Laura Cox; Thomas Ramey, Solar Holler; Lee Casto, Revolt Energy

**MINUTES**

Hearing no comments, the minutes of February 1, 2024, regular meeting were approved as presented.

**FINANCIAL**

**Bill Approval.** The bills paid for the month of February in the amount of \$93,683.34; hearing no comments the bills pass as presented.

**Income/Expense.** The financial statement for the month of February; hearing no comments, the financial statement passes as presented.

**Adjustments.** The adjustments for the month of February in the amount of \$1,358.36; hearing no questions the adjustments pass as presented.

**REPORTS**

**Staff report**

Billy Harper reported that the plant is still running good. Woodbend Cove pump station has had some issues, the pump that was in the station had to be taken out for repair; the back up pump that we had on hand was from 2009, when it was put in there were some issues. The call out system that we use also has a bad radio and was not working. Jack Ramsey reported that submissions have been made to the Hurricane landfill and we were told that they need additional testing before we can take our sludge there; Mayor Barrett said to send the samples to Pace as a rush. A load of sludge is currently ready and will have to be taken to the Raleigh landfill. Jack does have drawings for the Hayes project, Tim Lafon was told by the contractor that the project was not a rush and he could wait till the end of the month to do his part on that location coming into city limits.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 1. **Solar Panels.** Solar panel bids will be opened and an award will be granted pending city attorney's review of the packets.

- 1<sup>st</sup> packet opened was from Revolt Energy in Section 3 of the packet the net cost to the city would be \$20,000. \$1.2million in utility savings, the packet does reflect 40% Direct Pay tax credits of \$186,622 but does not reflect any loans to cover the cost/time between install and receiving the tax credits, includes the sale of SREC credits to Revolt of \$259,469, and does not reflect any grants. Lee Casto stated that Revolt Energy will work with the city in getting grants.
- Solar Holler price breakdown is on page 7 of their bid packet with a net cost of zero dollars to the city. Project cost is \$890,849 less a purchase rebate from Solar Holler of \$148,168, 40% Tax Credits 356,340, FEMA Grant of \$386,342. It does state that the company has finance free for 0% bridge loan if needed up (\$35,000).
- Tax Credits are filed with the City's Tax Return the following calendar year, since the city does not file a return as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, the federal government will send a reimbursement check for the amount of the tax credits. Thomas Ramey stated in Solar Holler's bid packet that his company would provide a Zero Percent Bridge Loan until that check is received the following year so that the City of Winfield is not out any out of pocket expenses. It was questioned if the bridge loan would cover the entire cost of the credit and if it was Zero Percent Interest and he confirmed "YES" on both points, Tim Lafon asked that this statement be reflected in the minutes. Lee Casto from Revolt Energy said that they could do the same thing through the Appalachian Solar Fund. Clarence Litton asked if that was a Zero Percent Loan and Lee Casto stated that it was. Tim Lafon asked that this statement be reflected in the minutes. Thomas Ramey from Solar Holler said that his company had talked to the Appalachian Solar Fund, and they were told that the fund was out of money until the end of the year.
- Tim Lafon asked both companies again if everything was guaranteed including the Zero Percent Loans to cover costs until the tax credits were received and both representatives from the solar companies stated that it was a guarantee.
- Tim Lafon stated that 1. Both bids are the same except the bottom dollar; 2. He requested that he minutes reflect guarantees of Zero Percent Interest Loans; 3. Laura Cox stated that her company was not here as the City Planner, but her company was contracted by Solar Holler. Tim stated that Laura's decision/grant should not be part of the decision because of her position in the city.

- Mayor Randy Barrett said he understands that both companies are making guarantees in this meeting, but the city's policy has always been to go with the bid that has it in writing. Solar Holler has the bridge loan in writing and the bottom dollar amount is zero, Revolt does not mention bridge loan and the bottom dollar amount is \$20,000.
  - Clarence Litton made the motion to move forward with Solar Holler since the bottom line of their bid was \$0 compared to Revolt Energy's bottom line of \$20,000, and the bridge loan is part of the presentation. As part of this motion, it is understood that there is limited time in this meeting to review the bids in detail and award of the bid is dependent on the city's lawyer more in-depth review of the bid packets and approval of all guarantees made today and in those packets.
- 2. Chapman Lawsuit.** Review of Thrasher Invoice #1031361 in the amount of \$3,850.00 for the expert witness testimony of Jonathan Carpenter in this lawsuit. Tim Lafon advised that the bill needed to be paid, he stated that the matter we sent to the Supreme Court is to be heard on March 15, 2024. Rod Burns made a motion to pay Thrasher Invoice #1031361 in the amount of \$3,850.00. Motion carried.
- 3. New Hire Wastewater Treatment Operator.** Mayor Barrett stated that we had more than 30 applications for the position; 2 individuals had their Class I Certification. After interviewing those individuals, the mayor and plant manager decided to review and interview some of the applicants that did not have the Class I Certification but had other qualifications that we were looking for pertaining to other aspects of the job. Mayor Barrett pulled 8-10 good application; from that batch 4-5 interviews have been completed with one scheduled for tomorrow. Mayor Barrett will be out of town next week, so a decision will be made tomorrow after that interview, a background will be run on the individual that is chosen to fill the position and notifications will be made to both the applicant we decide to hire and those that we did not hire.

Nikki Phillips will reach out to Chad Judge with the Unemployment office to see if we can get any reimbursements for training the new hire.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Upcoming Precision Pump Invoices.** As discussed in the staff report, we have issues with the Woodbend Cove Pump Station. The pump in the station went bad (Invoice #1), it had to be pulled out with a lift that is going (Invoice #2), 2009 backup pump from storage was put in the station and is experiencing issues and will need to be fixed (Invoice #3), possible 2<sup>nd</sup> pump in hole will need repairs (Invoice #4) and the Omni Call out for this station needs repaired (Invoice #5). The lift estimate was around \$1,800 and the rebuild for the first pump was around \$12,000. There was also an explosion proof unit in the station for floats that was not needed. Clarence Litton asked about taking it out and gases. Billy Harper stated it was not an issue. The mayor suggested that the bills be paid for from the R&R account in Charleston. Clarence Litton made the motion to pay for invoices for three rebuilds and replacement of the omni call out system to be paid for from R&R and the cost not to exceed \$45,000. Motion carried.
- 2. Sludge-Republic Services.** There are still hurdles to jump before we can take sludge to the Hurricane landfill (Republic Services). Currently we are taking the sludge to Raleigh Landfill at \$43/ton plus time, tolls, and the danger of traveling the turnpike. Republic Services is in Hurricane and cost is \$72/ton but as reported in the Staff Report they need more sample testing done before we can take a load there. Rod Burns made the motion to send sludge to Republic Services if our waste analysis comes back sufficient.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Next meeting will be April 4, 2024.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Rod Burns to adjourn at 5:36 p.m.

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Randy L. Barrett, Chairman

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Nikki Phillips, Secretary