

Bolivar Utility Board

September 4, 2024

12:00 P.M.

The Bolivar Utility Board met in regular session on September 4, 2024 with the following in attendance:

Members Present:

Dr. Jerry Wilhite, Chairman
Mayor McTizic
Suzanne Rhea, Councilmember
Paul Fuller
Randy Hill
Linc Polk

Others Present:

Jim Nuckolls, Director
Kevin Snider, Attorney
Carri Beth Rhea, City Recorder
Chris Koczaja, Lightwave Solar

Dr. Jerry Wilhite called the meeting to order and asked if there were any changes from the August 7, 2024 regular session meeting minutes. There being no corrections. Randy Hill made a motion, seconded by Paul Fuller to approve the August 7, 2024 minutes as written. All voted "Aye".

Community Comments: NONE

Old Business:

- a. A2H has submitted the assessment plan for the lagoon to TDEC for approval.

New Business:

a. Sewer Camera

Jim let the board know that the sewer camera has quit working and the department is in need of one. They use this camera to go into sewer lines to see what issues there may be. He has collected quotes for a new camera as well the cost to repair the current camera. To repair the 12+ year old camera it will cost around \$5,000. A new camera will cost anywhere from \$8,000-\$12,000. Mid-South Septic quoted a new camera at \$8,200 and Rumfola Sales and Services quoted \$8,455. Jim stated he would like to use Mid-South Septic if the board approves. Paul Fuller made a motion, seconded by Link Polk to approve the purchase of a new sewer camera from Mid-South Septic for \$8,200. All voted "Aye".

- b. The Utility department has received their second Marketing Assistance Program (MAP) payment in the amount of \$27,628. The MAP payments are assistance to promote 811 awareness.

c. Gas Prices for September- \$0.65

Updates:

- a. The gas line on Smalley and New Hope Roads is complete.

b. Update from Chris Koczaja from Lightwave Solar

Jim welcomed Chris from Lightwave Solar to discuss the proposals given to the board last month to review. Chris thanked the board for welcoming him to come speak and answer any questions they may have. He then went over the highlights of both proposals sent in, and noted that after review and assessment they decided starting with the water plant would be best for the city. Dr. Wilhite asked if there was any infrastructure changes and the cost of the changes. Chris noted they had worked with Bolivar Energy Authority (BEA) and any changes that would be required were built into the cost of the proposal. Suzanne Rhea asked about the warranty of the panels as well as the disposal of them. Chris noted that the panels were guaranteed for 30 years, and that the disposal of solar panels has evolved over the last few years. The disposal of solar panels is a lot more accessible than it has been in years past then went to explain a short version of the process. Randy Hill asked what happens after the 30 year life of the panels. Chris noted that there were 3 options, re-power the panels by putting new ones down, remove the panels if the city decides not to go forward with solar energy, or become capable of storing the energy. Paul Fuller asked if the proposal was a contract or will the city buy the panels out right. Chris noted that the city would be purchasing the panels out right, however the city could go into contract with Lightwave to service the panels. Jim Nuckolls asked about changing out breakers and such in order to accommodate the panels. Chris stated with the age of the equipment at the water plant they rather not mess with any of the breakers and that they would connect at the BEA pole where the transformer is located. Chris noted that the 184kW was the fastest return on investment with a payback period of 11.8 years, and the 340kW has the more room for growth and a payback period of 12.5 years; as he felt the 184kW option was the most optimal for the city. Dr. Wilhite thanked Chris for coming, and for his useful insight on the proposals. He believes the next step is for the board to look at the financials and what kW proposal they see is the best fit.

There being no further business, Randy Hill made a motion, seconded by Linc Polk to adjourn the meeting. All voted "Aye".

Chairman

Director

Member

Member

Member

Member