

Bolivar Utility Board  
September 8, 2021

The Bolivar Utility Board met in regular session on the above date with the following in attendance:

Members Present:

Dr. Jerry Wilhite, Chairman  
Randy Hill  
Paul Fuller  
Larry Crawford

Absent: Linc Polk

Others Present:

Cliff Henson, Director  
Julian McTizic, Mayor  
Wes Clayton  
Carri Beth Rhea, City Clerk and Recorder  
Angelia Beauregard  
Lacey Beasley

Chairman Wilhite called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the August 4, 2021 minutes.

Mr. Larry Crawford made a motion to approve minutes as written, second by Mr. Paul Fuller. All voted "Aye."

**Old Business:**

**a. Security Cameras at the Gas Shop**

Mr. Cliff Henson brought before the board a security camera option from a company that Mr. Randy Hill had recommended and that the school board uses for their security cameras. Mr. Cliff told the board the representative came down and they met to go over the perimeter of the gas shop and where the cameras should be placed. The representative came back with the proposal of \$8,450.00 for 8 cameras, mounted, and 16 channel DVR recording device. The cameras also have motion detection sensors that will send alerts to designated cell phones. Mr. Randy Hill made a motion, second by Mr. Paul Fuller to approve the purchase of security cameras for the gas shop at the price of \$8,450.00. All voted "Aye".

**b. Royal Oaks Update**

Mr. Henson updated the board about discussions with Royal Oaks, stating he had contacted them but had not heard back from them at the time of this meeting.

**New Business:**

**a. Presentation from Lacey Beasley with Retail Strategies**

Ms. Beasley gave her background in retail development and familiarity of the City of Bolivar. She went on to explain to the board how her company, Retail Strategies, recruits businesses for areas and how involved they will be in the recruitment and implementing of getting a business established in Bolivar. Ms. Beasley came to the board to present and asked the City of Bolivar for a 3 year contract agreement. Mayor McTizic explained to the board he reached out to Lacey to help the city grow with new retail businesses. The Mayor also explained that state had sent out a new regulation several months ago that gas funds can be used for economic development. He also asked the board for financial support for the first year of this agreement. Mayor McTizic also noted for the last two years of the 3 year agreement he will work into the city's budget to offset the cost and may look to other entities for financial support. Mr. Larry Crawford made a motion, second by Mr. Randy Hill

for BUD board to pay for the first year of the 3 year agreement with Retail Strategies out of the gas fund. All voted "Aye".

**b. Discussion on increasing fees for backflow testing**

Mr. Cliff gave a brief history of the backflow testing issues. The City of Bolivar set up a fee of \$75.00 to make sure backflows are compliant. If households and businesses were not compliant with the state guidelines within the given time frame the city utility department would come and do the testing for the \$75.00 fee. Mr. Henson explained to the board how much of a burden it is on the city's time and resources to make sure establishments are compliant when the owners do not do the yearly backflow testing themselves. For this reason, Mr. Cliff is asking the board for approval to raise the backflow testing fee to \$250.00. Ms. Angelia Beauregard, who handles the backflow testing notices for the utility department, explained that she sends out a notice to establishments 30 days before the backflow testing is due, then if it is not done in 30 days a second notice gets sent to the locations giving another deadline to have the testing completed, and if the testing is not completed in that time-frame she sends a third notice out telling the establishments if their backflow is not tested and complaint with the state their water will be cut off in 15 days. Mr. Henson stated the city utility department wanted to keep within state compliance with backflow testing and raising the fee will help the city employees from spending so much time testing backflows and will urge establishments to do their own testing. Mr. Larry Crawford made a motion, second by Mr. Paul Fuller to increase the city's fee for backflow testing to \$250.00. All voted "Aye".

**c. Discussion of adding cameras to the Utility Department front office**

Mr. Cliff Henson started off telling the board Ms. Beauregard, Utility Department office manager, came to him asking for additional security cameras on the front cash drawers. Mr. Cliff said he had a bid from the current security camera provider they use there in the office and for the 3 additional cameras it would be at \$2, 918.59. Mr. Randy Hill made a motion, second by Mr. Larry Crawford to approve the purchase of 3 additional security cameras for the Utility Department's front office at the price of \$2,918.59. All voted "Aye".

**d. Discussion on marketing agreement with Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc.**

Ms. Angelia Beauregard told the board the backstory of the agreement with Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc. (dba. Service Line Warranties of America) that was a 3 year agreement signed in May of 2018. They are a third-party company that uses the city's and utility's department logo on campaigns they send out on average 4 times a year to offer extra insurance on homeowners' utility meters. This third-party company has only gotten 65 customers out of the 3,000 plus over the three years. The utility department feels it is best to not renew this agreement and cut ties with Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc. It was noted the City of Bolivar does not benefit from anything on this agreement. It was sked by the board if the utility department will start adding statement at the bottom of their customer's bills for the next 3-4 months letting them know they are no longer affiliated with this third-party company. All were in agreement to not renew this contract.

**e. Replacing anode ground bed**

Mr. Cliff stated it was thought this bed would go out 3 years ago and it was put in the budget then but it was it was taken out this fiscal year's budget. The estimated cost is

around \$6,500.00 to replace the anode. This anode bed has been in use for 45 years. A motion was made by Mr. Paul Fuller, second by Mr. Larry Crawford to move forward replacing the anode ground bed with an estimated cost of \$6,500.00. All voted "Aye".

- f. Gas prices are up to \$0.79 for September
- g. Utility Board Training- all members need to get 12 hours of training completed within the year

There being no further business, Mr. Larry Crawford made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Paul Fuller. All voted "Aye."

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Chairmen

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Director

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Member

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