

BUSINESS OFFICE, 4725 MOFFETT ROAD, MOBILE, ALABAMA
April 5, 2021

The Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile met virtually this Monday in their regular session at 2:00 p.m. at MAWSS' Park Forest Plaza.

PRESENT:

Mr. Walter Bell, Chair
Ms. Sheri N. Weber, Vice Chair
Mr. Thomas Zoghby, Secretary-Treasurer
Ms. Barbara Drummond, Commissioner
Mr. Kenneth Nichols, Commissioner
Mr. Raymond L. Bell, Jr., Commissioner

Mr. Bud McCrory, Jr., Director
Mr. Douglas L. Cote, Assistant Director

ABSENT:

Ms. Maria Gonzalez, Commissioner
Mr. Bradley Dean, Attorney

Chair W. Bell called the meeting to order and Commissioner Drummond gave the invocation. **Committee Reports** was next. Commissioner Weber updated the Board on the Human Resources Committee meeting held today at 11:00 a.m. The committee discussed several topics, which included the Committee Charter, benefits update from Willis Towers, Tier 1 versus Tier 2 employees, and the Directors Performance Evaluation. The minutes from the meeting will be forwarded for review and will aid in familiarization of the direction the organization is headed towards. The committee will meet again in June 2021.

Minutes of the meeting of the Board April 5, 2021, continued

Visitors was next and Mr. McCrory read the following Resolutions for Retirees into record:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, MR. RICHARD A. ADKINSON, Electronic Technician, began his employment with the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners on March 10, 1990, as a classified employee, and has worked continuously since; and

WHEREAS, he served the System faithfully for over 30 years, performing his duties with the highest quality, working in a cooperative spirit with his fellow employees, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF MOBILE that **MR. RICHARD A. ADKINSON**, whose retirement was effective April 1, 2021, be recognized and commended for his years of service to the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile and to the citizens of Mobile.

ADOPTED this 5th day of April, 2021.

Mr. Adkinson was employed in the Water Treatment Plant and although Mr. McCrory did not know him personally, his supervisor Mr. Hanke has stated that Mr. Adkinson was dependable and very well versed in instrumentation with electrical troubleshooting and repairs. His role at MAWSS was important and he has mentored other employees by passing his knowledge on to them continuing the skillset that keeps our instrumentation systems operating efficiently. He was comically funny and will be missed amongst his fellow coworkers. We wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, MR. NORMAN D. GREEN, SR., Public Service Worker II, began his employment with the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners on June 26, 1995, as an hourly employee, became classified on March 30, 1996, and has worked continuously since; and

WHEREAS, he served the System faithfully for over 25 years, performing his duties with the highest quality, working in a cooperative spirit with his fellow employees, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF MOBILE that **MR. NORMAN D. GREEN, SR.**, whose retirement was effective April 1, 2021, be recognized and commended for his years of service to the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile and to the citizens of Mobile.

ADOPTED this 5th day of April, 2021.

Mr. McCrory continued by saying that he had the pleasure of working with Mr. Green and he was a dedicated, hard worker. He was always willing to take on the tough jobs and enjoyed thoroughly enjoyed working on the largest vehicles and equipment in our fleet. His strength and tenacity was amazing to see and we wish him the best in his retirement.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, MS. CYNTHIA A. WILLIAMS, Human Resources Coordinator, began her employment with the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners on June 16, 1976, as a classified employee, and has worked continuously since; and

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WHEREAS, she served the System faithfully for over 44 years, performing her duties with the highest quality, working in a cooperative spirit with her fellow employees, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF MOBILE that **MS. CYNTHIA A. WILLIAMS**, whose retirement was effective April 1, 2021, be recognized and commended for her years of service to the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile and to the citizens of Mobile.

ADOPTED this 5th Day of April, 2021.

Ms. Williams was a longer tenured employee, having over 44 years of service to the Board. She has been a motherly figure to a number of MAWSS employees including Mr. McCrory. Well known is her willingness to help others and her knowledge of employee history within this organization is consummate. She could answer any question regarding an employee based entirely from her memory. We will definitely miss her and we wish her the happiest retirement.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, MR. CHARLES E. HYLAND, JR., Director, began his employment with the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners on February 27, 1988, as Warehouse Manager, and

WHEREAS, he was promoted to Water & Sewer Administrator in 1992, and while serving in this capacity he supervised the Customer Service Department, Meter Reading, Collections/Disconnections, Operations and Communications, and Facilities, and

WHEREAS, he was promoted to Director of Mobile Area Water and Sewer System, better known as MAWSS, in March 2013; working with sixteen different MAWSS Board members, progressively building the organization's performance improvements while focusing on healthy drinking water, environmental protection, and low service rates; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Director, he has guided the organization safely and productively through a global pandemic, from March 2020 to present, making rational decisions and doing all that was necessary to keep the employees of MAWSS safe, while continuing to provide essential services to the community, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hyland has performed in many leadership roles, serving on St. Mary's School Board, Lebanese American Club of Mobile, American Water Works Association Utility Management Institute, Water Environment Federation, American Water Works Association, Board of Directors of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce and as Chair of United Way of Southwest Alabama; and

WHEREAS, he has served the System faithfully for over 33 years, distinguishing himself through his innate ability to lead others, working tirelessly to serve the City of Mobile and surrounding areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF MOBILE that **MR. CHARLES E. HYLAND, JR.**, whose retirement was effective April 1, 2021, be recognized and commended for his years of service to the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile and to the citizens of Mobile.

ADOPTED this 5th Day of April 2021.

Mr. McCrory continued and said in reading this resolution, while bittersweet; it is an honor to have the opportunity to be able to recite it into record. Mr. Hyland was a mentor in countless ways and a friend to himself and numerous others. He has left a legacy in quite a few areas of this organization. During his final week at MAWSS, while conducting meetings of introduction with City leaders, County leaders and others, one described Mr. Hyland as a

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'cool cat'. This description of his temperament is true, as he was always even keeled, no matter the situation or the time of day. His demeanor never changed, even if conditions called for it. His calming presence contributed to the lessons he taught and I have learned a lot under his tutelage. We will miss his expertise, knowledge and willingness to lend a listening ear or helping hand.

With confidence, it can be said that MAWSS is a better organization today because of Mr. Hyland's leadership and as I step into my role as Director, I know the utility has been well taken care of under his direction. In keeping with the person he is, he is here today *offering free labor*, assisting with the Human Resources Committee meeting this morning and continuing the path he started during his time as Director of MAWSS. Thank you on behalf of MAWSS staff, you have been a great person to work with and a wonderful leader for this organization and we all wish you a full and happy retirement.

Mr. Cote spoke and said he has worked with Mr. Hyland for over 25 years. They have stood together handling the latest crisis's to hit MAWSS in order to have them taken care of and addressed. Mr. Hyland and I spent Y2K in the upper room on Catherine Street anticipating everything falling apart due to computers crashing as experts had predicted. We have spent many hours on the causeway and other areas inspecting broken lines and there are not words that would do justice to describe the regard in which I think of Mr. Hyland.

We started as friends; he then moved under my supervision and ultimately became Director. I was always pleased to work with him and for him in managing because of his even-tempered character. He always had insight to situations that I may not have had, helping me tremendously. In agreeing with Mr. McCrory, all of our new facilities here at Park Forest and Shelton Beach Road occurred under his guidance and management. It was a great benefit to MAWSS to relocate from the downtown area and into the new settings.

Moving forward with the master plan on infrastructure, we have done well and I am certain Mr. McCrory will continue as we carry on implementing changes and growth. We will always remember Mr. Hyland in respect to his outstanding service to this organization and to the people of this community.

Mr. Jackson expressed his appreciation to Mr. Hyland for over thirty years of friendship. There are many stories that could be shared as to how he has helped him grow within the company. He has been a positive, encouraging, driving force and will definitely be missed. I am proud to have had him as a Director and more importantly as a friend.

Mrs. King thanked Mr. Hyland for all he has done to help her over the last 33 years. He started as the Warehouse Manager, moving to Water and Sewer Administrator. As co-workers, they were able to solve employee issues and his support will always be appreciated. Mr. Hyland is well respected among the employees due to his uplifting and supportive words and actions. His friendship and all that he has accomplished here at MAWSS is well appreciated. The support he has extended to her throughout her career at MAWSS, especially once she moved to the Human Resources Department invariably helped her and led to the betterment of this organization.

Ms. Allen communicated to Mr. Hyland that she appreciated his support and all of the treasured candid conversations over the years. As a new employee to MAWSS, the considerate atmosphere meant a lot to her and he has been a wonderful Director, leaving us prepared to continue working hard, doing the best for our customers and employees.

Mr. Butt stated that he has enjoyed working with Mr. Hyland over the last 13 years. They have completed several projects together and it was always a pleasure. They are both Alabama Football fans and he will miss their conversations about the games. He appreciates all he has done for MAWSS and wishes Mr. Hyland well in his retirement.

Mrs. Cassidey said she has also enjoyed working with Mr. Hyland and he has been a great inspiration to her. His memory is unmatched, demonstrated by how he always knew where to research information on any subject. He has contributed to her desire to be a better employee for MAWSS and we will most certainly miss him.

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Mr. Hyland said he appreciates the kind words from everyone. It has been an honor to be a part of the MAWSS family for 33 years. He is very thankful for the career opportunities that enabled him to provide for his family. The friendships that have developed over the years are countless and as he has said many times over the years, MAWSS is a great place to work. There are wonderful employees and Board members here.

Coming from a public health environment at Mobile County Health Department, he realized the importance of having clean drinking water and the treatment of wastewater. The challenges to accomplish those tasks are often not realized and many take them for granted. Our employees continue to do those tasks every day, regardless of inclement weather restrictions, aging infrastructures, or COVID-19. None of his accomplishments would have happened were it not for the team at MAWSS and he is very proud and appreciative to have been a part of the group.

He would like to thank all of the Board members, both past and present, his management team and all of the employees, past and present, at MAWSS. Anything that he has accomplished during his time as Director has been because of a group effort.

It was a challenge moving into the Director position and he could not have done it without the help of all present today, and those that have already retired. In reviewing the minutes from his first Board meeting as Director, which was March 18, 2013; it should be noted that during that meeting, he not only thanked the Board for giving him the opportunity to serve in that position, he also thanked the employees, co-workers and the management team. It is his feeling that the only reason he received the opportunity to serve as Director, is because of and due to all the help from those mentioned.

Those feelings remain today and he appreciates it very much. Commissioner Weber was on the Board in 2013 serving as Secretary-Treasurer and he thanks all of the Board members, but especially Commissioner Weber for her support during the time he has been Director. It is difficult to name specific people, but Mrs. Rambo's assistance in the beginning and Ms. Barnes' assistance at the end was invaluable during his tenure. Thank you to all that spoke kind words, those that have weathered storms with me, your friendships and what we have done together is so very much appreciated.

Mr. Hyland concluded and said best wishes as the organization moves forward under the capable leadership of Mr. McCrory, continuing to provide critical services to our community. MAWSS will continue being a great place to work and he appreciates everything the Board does for the organization on a daily basis. The foundation from actions in the past is what we stand on today.

Chair W. Bell said it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Hyland; he has always led with such a calming effect, never reactive, evidenced by the words spoken today. Today we are retiring employees with 132 collective years of service to the organization between them. Their longevity has been tremendous moving us to where we are today. We have a master plan in place to take us forward under the direction of good leadership and management. From the Board he thanks Mr. Hyland and wishes him well in his retirement.

Commissioner Drummond commented that Mr. Hyland might be unaware of how much she appreciated his support during her bereavement after the passing of her dear brother shortly after she was appointed to the Board. Mr. Hyland came to the funeral and his communication of true support was exceptional and well received. It was unexpected that he would attend, and it meant so much to her. As a new Board member, he took her under his wings and demonstrated compassion and care. It was appreciated and she wishes him blessings in his future during his retirement.

Commissioner R. Bell spoke and said he has known Mr. Hyland for 20 years and he is one of the kindest people he has ever met. He appreciates everything Mr. Hyland has done for him and all of the advice over the years.

Commissioner Zoghby told Mr. Hyland to enjoy his retirement, he has done well and he deserves it.

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Chair W. Bell said this is a virtual send off and congratulations on retirement for Mr. Hyland, but we should look forward to coming together in the near future for a proper demonstration of our appreciation. The organization will be planning a formal gathering that all will be able to attend.

The **Minutes of March 1, 2021** were presented for approval. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval and Commissioner R. Bell seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Bids and Purchasing was next:

**Item 4A HDR Project No. 10195981
 Stickney Reservoir Improvements**

Original Estimate:		Current Estimate:	
Construction:	\$5,750,000.00	Construction:	\$7,100,000.00
Engineering:	<u>\$ 834,000.00</u>	Engineering:	<u>\$ 834,000.00</u>
Total Original Estimate:	\$6,584,000.00	Total Current Estimate:	\$7,934,000.00

Mr. Cote addressed the Board and said the engineers estimate for this project is \$7,100,000. There were two bidders and the apparent low bidder was RJ Baggett in the amount of \$9,806,787.50. This amount is 38% higher than the engineers estimate and most likely because of the recent increase to material prices. After review, we will be able to determine where the unit pricing went above the estimate and make a decision on how to move forward. Staff does not have a budget to cover this overrun indicating a need to fallback and re-scope.

Market turnaround is an unknown at this time, meaning staff may need to move some of the projects to later in the year and rebid them. Chair W. Bell said he has noticed rising prices on lumber as well. Mr. Cote said yes, ductile iron prices are now lower than polyvinyl chloride (pvc) and that is not because of a pricing decrease for ductile iron, but that pvc has risen so high in price. Chair W. Bell thanked Mr. Cote and said the Board will look forward to his report on this project.

Item 4B IFB 21-015 Annual Contract – Back Flow Preventers
Supplier: Core & Main
Contract Period: 5/1/21-4/30/22
2021 Est Value: \$61,000
2020 Est Value: \$60,000

Mr. McCrory presented this item to the Board for approval. Commissioner R. Bell moved for approval and Commissioner Drummond seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 4C IFB 21-014 Equipment Wash Facility REBID M5712-2691
Supplier: Harwell & Company
Project# M5712-2691
Value: \$77,000

Mr. McCrory continued with this item for the Board and requested Board approval. This will help clean up and filter out debris as crews clean the lawn equipment and dump trucks. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval and Commissioner R. Bell seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 4D IFB 21-010 Annual Contract – Tapping Saddles, Clamps & Couplings
Supplier: Core & Main
Contract Period: 4/1/21-3/31/22
2021 Est Value: \$37,400
2020 Est Value: \$36,000

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Mr. McCrory continued addressing the Board and asked the Board to approve this item. Commissioner Weber moved for approval and Commissioner R. Bell seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 4E IFB 21-009 Annual Contract for Easement Herbicide Treatment

Supplier: ChemPro Services
Contract Period: 5/1/21-4/30/22
2021 Value: \$151,476
2020 Value: \$174,740

Mr. McCrory reviewed this item and said this treatment is where crews spray our fence lines and easement lines. He asked Board approval of this item. Commissioner R. Bell moved for approval and Commissioner Drummond. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 4F State Contract MA 999 1600000087 – Purchase Fortinet Switches

Supplier: Carousel Industries
Contract Period: 7/21/16-7/20/21
Value: \$74,474.50

Mr. Butt addressed the Board and said this item is for a core switch. It will replace the existing switch in the data center and is the first step towards the replacement of our SCADA equipment. We request approval of this item by the Board. Commissioner R. Bell moved for approval and Commissioner Zoghby seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 4G Sole Source Purchase of Sensus Ally Meters for Warehouse Inventory

Supplier: Core & Main
Value: \$368,000

Mr. McCrory presented this item to the Board for approval. This item is sole source because of the AMI program and Sensus being the only provider that will work with that system. The ally meter is building upon the AMI system and is more than just the reading of a meter. It will be placed in areas of the distribution system to monitor pressure and temperature giving staff data from the field. The meters also have the ability to remote disconnect services for nonpayment. Commissioner R. Bell moved for approval and Commissioner Zoghby seconded.

Chair W. Bell asked Mr. McCrory to explain what is done from the DBE side in regards to product vendors. Mr. McCrory answered and said normally there is not a requirement. Elle Waterworks Supply, LLC is a certified WBE/DBE company based in Birmingham, Alabama and MAWSS does solicit bids from them. Many times a diverse supplier is unable to purchase name brand products as specified by MAWSS, eliminating them from the product side of a bid. Chair W. Bell said that is an issue that may need to be revisited in the near future. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 4H Purchasing Authority Increase Request for Annual Sole Source Contract for Hydra-Stop Insertion Valves **Change was made to supporting memo after Agenda submission**

Supplier: Hydra-Stop
Contract Period: 11/1/19 – 10/31/22
2021 Current Annual Contract Value: \$100,000
Requested Increase: **\$130,000**
Annual Contract Increased Value: \$230,000
2020 Est Value: \$100,000

Mr. Lomax presented this item for approval. An updated memo was sent via email to the Board regarding changes to the wording of this request. Staff is asking for additional purchasing authority for this contract in the amount of \$130,000 bringing the contract total to \$230,000. Chair W. Bell acknowledged receiving an email with the updated

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information. Commissioner Zoghby moved for approval and Commissioner R. Bell seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 4I Annual Support for Infor’s Lawson and EAM Systems & Cloudsuite Modules 2021

Supplier: Infor
Contract Period: 3/18/21-3/17/22
Value for Lawson and EAM: \$302,503.61
Value for Cloudsuite: \$64,000.00
Total Value: \$366,503.61

Mr. Butt reviewed this item; it is paid annually with the additional \$64,000 being to keep maintenance on the Payroll and HR modules until the Paylocity conversion is completed. We will not have to pay for this addition starting in 2022. Staff recommends to the Board and asks for approval of this support for Infor, Lawson and EAM. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval with a question and Commissioner R. Bell seconded.

Commissioner Drummond said in addition to the \$64,000 that will not be due in 2022, what is the annual cost once we have converted to the new system? Mrs. Cassidey said she believes the cost will be \$100,000 per year but she will confirm and get that information back to the Board. Commissioner Drummond asked if the total amount saved per year would be \$200,000. Mrs. Cassidey said there is a combination of savings to the Board on this item. Savings will be rendered on maintenance and current payroll personnel being assigned to other projects. Staff will get those numbers and report to the Board. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Legal was next and Chair W. Bell said Attorney Dean is not in attendance today but there will be matters appropriate for discussion in an Executive Session.

There were no items of **Unfinished Business**.

New Business was next and they are as follows:

**Item 7A McDonald Avenue Waterline Improvements
Neel Schaffer – Project No. 15593.000**

Mr. Lomax addressed the Board and stated that on March 1, 2021 we received bids for this project. There were four bidders and the low responsive and responsible bidder was Circle S Contracting in the amount of \$112,577.85. Staff received recommendation from the engineer and we concur and request approval of this award. Commissioner R. Bell moved for approval and Commissioner Drummond seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

**Item 7B Big Creek Lake Gate Automation Project
Stantec Project No. 175668273**

Mr. Cote addressed the Board and asked for approval of a change order in the amount of \$113,868.54 to this project. The additional work includes work required by the County to permit the project as enumerated in the supporting documents, structural modifications to the gates at the point where the cables will pull and lift the gates and there is also a request to replace the initially designed galvanized wire rope to stainless steel. The replacement of the rope to stainless steel is not only less expensive, it will last much longer than the galvanized wire, which only has a 10 year useful life guarantee. The gate currently has stainless steel in its design and has been intact and performing well since 1952. Commissioner Weber moved for approval and Commissioner Zoghby seconded.

Commissioner R. Bell said he noticed this is Change Order #1, does staff anticipate further change orders? Mr. Cote said he does not anticipate more change orders at the point, but there may be something in regards to a request for additional time. That request could entail supply delivery or the testing of the hoist equipment at the manufacturer after the wire rope has been approved and installed.

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Chair W. Bell queried the County permits. Was Stantec unaware they would need the permits prior to bidding the project? Mr. Cote answered and said the permits are requested from the County as the project nears completion with the County asking for drawings that are nearly finalized. When projects are bid, sometimes the response from the County comes back late and the engineer has to incorporate that into the design. There are times the permit comes in prior to and pricing can be determined in a timely manner before the bid, but they do come in late at other times. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

- Item 7C Facilities for Acceptance:**
- 1. Magnolia Springs Phase 8 – Water and Sewer Facilities**
Value: \$276,912.82
 - 2. Magnolia Springs Phase 10 – Water and Sewer Facilities**
Value: \$129,582.70

Mr. Russell presented these facilities in the Magnolia Springs Subdivision to the Board for acceptance. Phase 8 facilities are located west of Schillinger Road with a water and sewer value of \$276,912.82. Phase 10 has fifteen lots with a water and sewer value of \$129,582.70. Staff has reviewed the facilities and recommends acceptance. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval and Commissioner Weber seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 7D Easement Tree Maintenance
Annual Contract: MAWSS 20005

Mr. McCrory addressed the Board and reported that staff after walking the lines and determining post hurricane damage, we are requesting a budget increase of \$100,000 in order to remove downed limbs and trees on Board easements. The increase will bring the total contract amount to \$159,000 and we ask the Board to approve the increase. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval and Commissioner R. Bell seconded with a question. Is the contractor already working in the affected areas? Mr. McCrory answered and said this is an annual contract put in place to maintain vegetation. As part of the consent decree, we contracted to have 10'-20' easements cleared allowing our crews to see erosion and/or cave-ins. After the last few hurricanes, the cleared easements were covered with debris and now need to be cleared. The funds in the annual contract did not allow for the additional work.

Commissioner R. Bell asked if this is a new scope of work. Mr. McCrory said contractors are paid by line item (*size of the debris/trees to be removed and/or cleared*). Hurricane debris in the easement created additional work not foreseen when the Board awarded the contract. The contractors are used on an as-needed basis and to the extent of the awarded contract amount.

Chair W. Bell said he assumes this was an annual contract that was placed for bid and we have a request before us for three times the amount of the award without going back for another bid. Will the additional \$100,000 be for the current contractors? Mr. McCrory said yes, we are asking to add to the existing contract.

Commissioner R. Bell suggested this might have been an opportunity for other contractors to receive work. He wants to be certain a contractor was not already stationed in the affected areas. Mr. McCrory said the contractors are called only when needed.

Chair W. Bell reasoned that it is not a lot of money based on the dollar amount, but the percentage is much higher than the initial award. Mr. McCrory said an option would be to place the additional work for bid, but with current market and fuel prices, there is a risk of the price going up even more.

Commissioner R. Bell said he appreciates this point of view, but this is a tremendous increase in scope. While it may save MAWSS the cost of an expensive re-bid by staying with the current contract, it may not be a transparent provision for additional bidders. It is understood that this increase request is because of unforeseen circumstances. Commissioner Nichols said he would like to clarify for everyone and explain you have an annual contract that goes out and the line items are for a *12" pine tree, 60' in length and \$XX to remove if it is already on the ground. Once you factor in hurricanes coming through the area, the site goes from 50 items for removal to 2,000 items needing to*

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be removed; he agrees with staff on this request and feels it is a good move to utilize pricing already locked in with the annual contract.

Commissioner R. Bell thanked Commissioner Nichols for that example and stated he is clear in this circumstance. He would just like to make sure if there is not a predetermined advantage to the Board and this degree of an increase presents itself, others are giving the opportunity to receive work. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 7E Volkert Project No. 644114 Task 1 – Change Order No. 2 (Final) MAWSS IFB 17-044 SRF Water Meter Purchase

Mr. McCrory presented this item to the Board and said this will be the final AMI Change Order. The project escalation and estimated budget numbers in the beginning of the project led to staff requesting the referenced change order. Please reference *Item 8H Volkert Project No. 644123 Task 1 – Change Order No. 2 (Final) SRF Water Meter Replacement Installation Phase 2* located in the Information Only section of the agenda, showing the difference in the two projects. In the original budget, more funds were approved for the meter change out portion of the project than the meter purchase portion of the project. The total of both contracts does not exceed the overall project amount and does not exceed the \$25,000,000 SRF loan amount and we ask for the Board's approval of this change order.

Commissioner R. Bell moved for approval and Commissioner Drummond seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Item 7F AMI Project Update

Mr. McCrory shared his screen showing a PowerPoint presentation with graphs and the latest update of the referenced project.

- 95594 – residential meters installed
- 730 – commercial meters installed
- 3676 – residential meters remaining to be installed
- 1028 – commercial meters remaining to be installed
- Predicted annual savings in 2016 were \$3,004,907.57
- Predicted annual savings in 2023 are \$3,389,000
- Potential annual savings \$5,200,000 (*increased revenues*)
- Original payback period on the investment – 11 years (*it is now 5.79 years*)

Commissioner Drummond asked for a report on the area/routes showing a 9% increase for MAWSS. Mr. McCrory said he would get that information to the Board. Commissioner Drummond continued and said she is interested in the older portions of areas that are served by MAWSS.

Staff is anticipating a completion timeline towards the end of 2021 or in the first quarter of 2022. Chair W. Bell thanked Mr. McCrory for the update. The Board has made this wonderful investment in terms of the AMI Project in keeping with the changes to technology as we move forward.

Item 7G Reports on COVID-19 Pandemic

Mr. McCrory stated there are three employees in quarantine and 62 total employees that have tested positive for COVID since March 2020. This number is approximately 16% of our workforce. We requested 200 vaccines on January 11, 2021 and the CareHere Facility has received them. The Human Resources Department will be coordinating schedules with the facility to have them administered to our employees, their spouses, dependents over the age of 18 and our retirees as requested. We are encouraging all employees to receive the vaccination. MAWSS continues to collaborate with USA, Mobile County Health Department, Springhill Memorial and ProHealth to administer vaccinations.

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NACWA and LIHEAP have spoken about receiving grant funding in the amount of \$638 million dollars and we have recently heard about more assistance becoming available to assist utilities. Staff is in contact with individuals in the State to have them research options on our behalf.

Social distancing will continue to be practiced in addition to the wearing of facemasks/coverings within MAWSS for the near future. The numbers of cases continue to be uncertain in Mobile County ensuring that we will continue with those practices along with the increased sanitization.

Item 7H Resolution to allow Director of MAWSS Temporary Additional Authorizations during COVID-19 Event with expiration date of June 30, 2021.

It is entered here for the record:

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW DIRECTOR OF MAWSS TEMPORARY ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATIONS DURING COVID-19 EVENT

Whereas, both the State of Alabama and the City of Mobile have proclaimed that, due to the onset of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, a state of emergency exists; and

Whereas, in order to facilitate the continued daily operation of the Mobile Area Water and Sewer System some changes to normal procedures may be needed;

Be it Resolved by the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile that the following temporary authorizations be given the Director of the Mobile Area Water and Sewer System during the COVID-19 event with the parameters given below:

1. The Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile Purchasing Policy 92-6 is temporarily amended to raise the Director's purchase approval to \$100,000. All purchases made with this temporary amendment will comply with all existing Board policies including the DBE policy. A list of all purchases made in excess of \$25,000 and approved by the Director under this amended temporary authorization will be sent to the Board on a weekly basis.
2. In the event the Board Chair or Secretary-Treasurer are not able to execute contracts the Director will be authorized to execute contracts with either party. A list of all contracts approved by the Director with either the Chair or Secretary-Treasurer under this temporary authorization will be sent to the Board on a weekly basis.

This Resolution, originally approved on April 6, 2020, extended on May 4, 2020, June 1, 2020 and August 3, 2020 is hereby extended and will expire June 30, 2021.

Commissioner Weber moved for approval and Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Items presented to the Board for **Information Only** were:

Item 8 Information Only

- A. Resolution of Reappointment of Commissioner Thomas Zoghby
- B. Annual Maintenance and Support for the Compellent Storage Area Network (SAN)
Supplier: Dell Marketing
Contract Period: 4/1/21-3/31/22
Value: \$18,400.85
- C. Ext 1 Annual Contract MAWSS 20006 Hurricane Equipment Rental
Supplier: Herc Rentals

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Contract Period: 6/1/21-11/30/21
Est Value: TBD

- D. IFB 21-013 Purchase of Two (2) Laboratory Fume Hoods for the Lab
Supplier: Fox Scientific
Value: \$20,349.50
- E. Sole Source Purchase of H-TEC Air Release Valve (ARV) Parts at Big Creek Lake
Supplier: Utility Sales & Services, Inc.
Est Value: \$14,750 + Freight
- F. State Contract T191L – Purchase of a 2020 RAM 1500 Pickup Truck
Supplier: Tallahassee Automotive
Value: \$20,323
- G. Ext 1 Annual Contract MAWSS 20009 – Lime Slurry at HE Myers WTP
Supplier: Burnett Lime Company
Contract Period: 6/1/21-5/31/22
2021 Est Value: \$175,000
2020 Est Value: \$526,395
- H. Volkert Project No. 644123 Task 1 – Change Order No. 2 (Final)
SRF Water Meter Replacement Installation Phase 2
Original Contract Amount: \$2,509,105.00
Change Order No. 1 (Year 2 +50%): \$3,763,657.50
Change Order No. 2 (Final Summary): ~~\$2,051,695.60~~ -33%
Total Revised Contract Amount: \$4,221,066.90
- I. Volkert Project No. 1025614
Craft Highway 20” Water Main
[Confirmation of Directors Award]
Low Bidder: Grant Nichols Construction Company
Amount: \$391,132,36
- J. MM395044DR Dog River Lift Station Relocation Project
Change Order #2
Original Contract Amount: \$998,800
Previous Change Order Amounts: + \$29,220
Total Amount: \$1,028,020
This Change Order Amount: +\$10,350
Revised Contract Amount: **\$1,038,370**
Percentage of Contract Amount (All Change Orders): +3.96%
- K. 2020 Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual Reports (MWPP)
Williams & Smith WWTP’s (For Review)
- L. Sensitive Positions Memo
- M. Consultant Project Status Reports
(February 2021)
 - 1. Asarisi & Associates, LLC
 - 2. Constantine Engineering
 - 3. Dewberry
 - 4. Driven Engineering, Inc.

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5. GMC
6. HDR
7. Isaiah Engineering, Inc.
8. Jacobs
9. McCrory Williams
10. Mobile Group, Inc.
11. Mott McDonald
12. Neel Schaffer, Inc.
13. Stantec
14. Volkert, Inc.

Chair W. Bell welcomed Commissioner Zoghby to another term on the Board.

Commissioner Drummond said she is out of town and unable to access Board Vantage. In regards to *Item 8 M Consultant Project Status Reports*, does staff have the dollar amount each engineer has been paid for the period as shown in the agenda? If the information is already included, she will review it once she returns to Mobile. Mr. Cote said he will check to be certain, and if not, he will send the information to the Board.

Commissioner Nichols questioned *Item 8 F State Contract T191L – Purchase of a 2020 RAM 1500 Pickup Truck*, is there a specific reason for the purchase of different makes and models of the vehicles? Mr. McCrory said he has asked Mr. Sumrall about this and it sums up to the parts being readily available for the American made Dodge, Chevy, and Ford. We can begin the process of streamlining the fleet to one make and model if the Board desires.

Commissioner Nichols continued and said his thought process is that from a financial standpoint and a maintenance perspective having one make and one model serving in various capacities would be better for the company.

Mr. Cote said staff goes to the co-op or the state bidders list; the low bidder drives our purchases. The state bid list changes at will and it may offer Ford vehicles one year and Dodge or Chevrolet vehicles the next. Competitive pricing could be lost if we request one brand of vehicle.

Commissioner Nichols said it might be fruitful to research annual maintenance costs for each make or model of vehicle in the fleet and see what the numbers reveal. Mr. McCrory said he will contact Mr. Sumrall and provide these answers to the Board.

Chair W. Bell spoke and said that as Mr. Cote alluded to in his statement, the fleet dealers move around from year to year. His interests lie with carbon-neutral vehicles and he knows that staff is in the process of running tests on that project.

Chair W. Bell said he would like to have an in-depth presentation at the May 3, 2021 meeting on *Item 8 K 2020 Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Annual Reports (MWPP) Williams & Smith WWTP's*. Mr. Cote said he will certainly do that, he would also like to make a correction to the report for review in the agenda. On *slide #8 SSO Point Breakdown*, the number of notifiable SSO's at the Williams Plant should be 69 and not 80.

Chair W. Bell asked about *Item 8 I Volkert Project No. 1025614 Craft Highway 20" Water Main*. The cost of the project is \$391,132.36 and we have \$500,000 in that budget for the year. If there are problems, staff will come back to the Board and request additional funding? Mr. Cote replied and said yes, that is correct.

Mr. McCrory said in reference to *Item 9 3 Remembrance Ceremony Photos*, he would like to thank the Board on behalf of the Reed/McCall family. There was a tremendous turnout from staff and Mr. Willie 'Mack' McCall's family was very appreciative of what the Board did to celebrate his life.

The AWWA Conference initially thought to be in-person this year will instead be held as a virtual event. They were unable to work out the logistics with the host city. If the Board is interested in attending virtually, please let us know and we will make those arrangements.

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Mr. McCrory concluded and said the Summer Worker Program will not be in place once again this year due to the uncertainty with COVID-19. We look forward to re-implementing the program in 2022.

There being no further business to come before the Board at 3:30 p.m., Commissioner R. Bell moved to adjourn to Executive Session and Commissioner Zoghby seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present. At 3:40 p.m. the Board convened into **Executive Session**.

At 4:19 p.m. the meeting reconvened. Mr. Cote reviewed Item 9.1 **Jacobs Project No. D3197100 Smith WWTP Headworks Replacement**. The Creel Company has requested the addition of four subcontractors, and they are as follows: Bay Area Contracting

Empire Construction
Melvin Pierce Painting, Inc.
Kemko, Inc.

Staff asks the Board to approve this request. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval and Commissioner Zoghby seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

Commissioner Drummond moved for adjournment at 4:20 p.m. and Commissioner R. Bell seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board present.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2021 at 2 p.m.



Thomas Zoghby, Secretary-Treasurer