

**BUSINESS OFFICE, 4725 MOFFETT ROAD, MOBILE, ALABAMA**  
**August 2, 2021**

The Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners of the City of Mobile met 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

Ms. Maria Gonzalez, Commissioner

Mr. Raymond L. Bell, Jr., Commissioner

Mr. Bud McCrory, Jr., Director

Mr. Douglas L. Cote, Assistant Director

Mrs. Calressia Clark, W&S Engineering Manager

Mr. Daryl Russell, W&S Engineering Manager

Mr. Bradley Dean, Attorney

Chair W. Bell called the meeting to order and then gave the invocation. **Committee Reports** was next and Commissioner Drummond updated the Board on the **Growth & Development/Infrastructure/Property Committee** meeting, held on July 15, 2021. The committee discussed several pending issues including one topic as discussed in depth during the Board Retreat earlier today. The committee will be meeting again to finalize those topics and bring those results to the Board.

Chair W. Bell thanked Commissioner Drummond and then mentioned that on July 27, former Director Mr. Hyland and Director Mr. McCrory were invited to the Mobile City Council meeting. Mr. Hyland was presented with a resolution for his retirement and Mr. McCrory was introduced as his successor. The Board extends appreciation to Commissioner Weber for making those arrangements; the presentation and the introduction were very well received.

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

**WHEREAS, MR. ROBERT C. BROWN**, Public Service Worker II, began his employment with the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners on December 20, 1993, as an hourly employee, became classified on September 3, 1994 and has worked continuously since; and

**WHEREAS**, he served the System faithfully for over 27 years, performing his duties with the highest quality, working in a cooperative spirit with his fellow employees, and

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF MOBILE** that **MR. ROBERT C. BROWN**, whose retirement was effective August 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of August 2021.**

Mr. Brown worked in the Right of Way Adjustment and Manhole Department raising manholes, risers and valves prior to city paving projects. He was always prompt, performing his duties enthusiastically and with great knowledge.

Mr. McCrory continued:

**WHEREAS, MR. TONY L. TOLBERT, SR.,** Equipment Operator II, began his employment with the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners on September 15, 2007, as a classified employee and has worked continuously since; and

**WHEREAS,** he served the System faithfully for over 13 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. TONY L. TOLBERT, SR.,** whose retirement was effective August 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of August 2021.**

Mr. Tolbert primarily worked in the Field Operations Department installing temporary pavement after water and sewer repairs had been completed. He was a willing team player and always ready to serve our customers.

On behalf of the Board and the employees of MAWSS, we would like to wish both of these retirees well and that they have a long and happy retirement.

The **Minutes of July 12, 2021** were presented for approval. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval and Commissioner Nichols seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board.

**Bids and Purchasing** was next:

**Item 4A           HDR Project No. 10199152**  
Stickney WTP Electrical Upgrade

Original Estimate:		Current Estimate:	
Construction:	\$8,640,000.00	Construction:	\$11,852,982.00
Engineering:	<u>\$1,014,550.00</u>	Engineering:	<u>\$1,144,079.00</u>
Total Original Estimate:	\$9,654,550.00	Total Current Estimate:	\$12,997,061.00

Mr. Cote addressed the Board and said the engineers estimate for this project was \$11,852,982.00. There was one bidder, Moody's Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$13,997,000.00.

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### **Item 4B IFB 21-028 Annual Contract for Powder Activated Carbon**

Supplier: CarbPure Technologies  
Contract Period: 9/1/21-8/31/22  
2021 Est Value: \$300,000  
2020 Est Value: \$875,000

Mr. Cote continued addressing the Board and requested award of this contract to CarbPure Technologies in the amount of \$300,000 at a cost of \$0.83 per pound. Commissioner R. Bell moved for approval and Commissioner Nichols seconded.

Chair W. Bell questioned the difference in the amount of the estimated value in 2020 as opposed to the estimated value for 2021. Mr. Cote responded and said the reason for the \$575,000 difference is that the product selected is more effective in the removal of total organic carbon than what was previously used. Moving away from looking at the cost per pound to considering the *total cost* per month or per year, it was discovered that the higher cost per pound was more effective over the course of a year or month due to the effectiveness of the product in removing total organic carbon.

Chair W. Bell stated this will save a significant amount and Mr. Cote said, yes, that is correct. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board.

### **Item 4C IFB 21-031 Valve Replacement for Virginia St Lift Station 154**

Supplier: Ferguson Waterworks  
Value: \$163,950.44

Mr. Cote continued and requested approval of this item. The pricing includes four 14" check valves, four 16" gate valves and four 20" gate valves. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval and Commissioner R. Bell seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board.

### **Item 4D Sole Source Purchase of Ultramag Flow Meters for Raw Water Customers**

Supplier: Core & Main  
Value: \$29,397.60

As we move through the system replacing residential and industrial meters with the AMI meters, we are now moving to replace the meters of our raw water customers. In performing these replacements, it is anticipated there will be an increase in raw water revenue. Commissioner Nichols moved for approval and Commissioner Weber seconded.

Commissioner Drummond asked the amount expected from the probable increase. Mr. Cote responded and said we do not have that information at this time, but a meter that has been placed on a fireline used for processed water did reveal a \$250 increase per month in revenue from that one customer. This was a direct result of metering the line. The customer has 1,000,000 gallons per month in consumption. MAWSS has seven raw water customers that will need meter replacements. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board.

### **Item 4E Annual Support for Premier Oracle (enQuesta) CIS Hardware and Software 2021**

Supplier: Mythics  
Contract Period: 7/24/21-7/23/22  
2021 Est Value: \$37,098.17  
2020 Est Value: \$34,375.75

Mr. Harper addressed the Board and requested approval of this item. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval and Commissioner Zoghby seconded. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board.

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**Item 4F**            **Blanket Approval to Purchase PVC Pipe, Fittings and Ball Valves up to \$127,000 (GL 44580), Copper Tubing up to \$34,000 (GL 44580), and 10” Lamphole Castings up to \$45,000 (GL 44530)**  
Supplier: Various  
Contract Period: 8/1/21-12/31/21  
Value: \$206,000

Mr. McCrory presented this item for approval to the Board. Due to force majeure status on several contracts, some of the providers continue to be unable to provide or hold their pricing. Staff requests blanket approval as referenced in this request, which will carry us through December 31, 2021. Commissioner Gonzalez moved for approval and Commissioner Nichols seconded.

Commissioner R. Bell asked for clarification. As Mr. McCrory stated ‘the other contracts were unable to hold their pricing’, if that is so, have those contracts been terminated? Mr. McCrory responded and said the annual contracts have two-year renewal options and they have been unable to provide pricing past year one. Ms. Russell confirmed this and the contracts were not renewed for the second year, ending those contracts. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board.

**Item 4G**            **State Contract MA 999 16000000087 – Fortinet Cyber Security Annual Support (FortiGuard)**  
Supplier: Carousel Industries  
Contract Period: 7/9/21-7/8/22  
2021 Value: \$27,895.70 (1 year)  
2019 Value: \$39,264.29 (2 years)

Mr. Harper presented this item to the Board for approval. This item provides the organization with firewall security and web content filtering. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval and Commissioner Nichols seconded.

Chair W. Bell asked if the 2019 amount was per year. Mr. Harper responded and said the 2019 amount was for a twenty-three month interval. The vendor only offered a twelve-month interval for 2021. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board.

**Item 4H**            **RFP 21-002 Professional Safety Consulting**  
Supplier: Safety Plus, Inc.  
Value: \$67,500

Mr. McCrory addressed the Board and stated that the current Safety Manager, Mr. Steve Nelson will be retiring at the end of August 2021. In preparation for his retirement, and to ensure a smooth transition, staff attempted to fill the position through a listing from the Mobile County Personnel Board. However, we were not successful and interviews determined the selections would not be a good fit for the organization. Staff shifted focus to manage our in-house safety program with an outside consulting firm. As a liaison between staff and the consulting firm, we have promoted an employee into the position of Safety Coordinator. The employee will work in conjunction with the consulting firm, if it is approved today.

This is an annual contract and staff is anticipating having a new Safety Manager in place by the end of the year, we ask the Board to approve the referenced item. Commissioner Nichols moved for approval with a question and Commissioner Weber seconded.

Commissioner Nichols continued and said there are three consultants on the supporting documentation. He would appreciate clarification on the amounts from staff. The requested value is \$67,500.00; is that annually? Mr. McCrory said in response to Commissioner Nichols question, yes this is for a twelve-month period. In regards to the documentation reading as three consultants, it is just for Safety Plus with a *price breakdown* for their Professional Safety Consulting Services [in the amount of \$55,500]; Environmental Consulting and Management [in

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the amount of \$6,000] and DOT Consulting and Management [in the amount of \$6,000]. All three services are included in the requested amount. Commissioner Drummond asked if the amount of the annual contract is comparable to the salary offered for the Safety Manager position. Mr. McCrory said that it is close.

The current listing received from the Mobile County Personnel Board is active for a full year and will not expire until May 2022. We are unable to hire anyone else until the listing expires. If by chance, a selection is made *prior* to December 2021, the consulting firm would first bring the new hire up to date and then the contract would be ended.

Commissioner Zoghby questioned the value of having the consultant versus hiring someone at the salary level, which would include additional benefits. Mr. McCrory replied there is potential for the Safety Coordinator to phase into the Safety Manager position during this time as he works with the consulting firm.

Commissioner Nichols asked if there was a monthly option instead of signing for an entire year. Mr. McCrory said that option is available. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board.

**Legal** was next and Attorney Dean said there were no 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**            **USGS Joint Funding Agreement**  
October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022

Mr. Cote reviewed this item and stated this item is brought to the Board for approval each year. We ask the Board to approve the agreement for MAWSS' portion of payment which is \$32,100 [USGS' portion of payment totals \$12,900]. Commissioner R. Bell moved for approval with a question and Commissioner Drummond seconded.

Commissioner R. Bell asked if staff is comfortable with the wording of the organization's name within the agreement. This is an ongoing agreement and MAWSS is not listed under its legal name. Mr. McCrory and Mr. Cote responded and said we have run into this issue while researching other documents. This document identifies the organization as City of Mobile – Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners. Commissioner R. Bell said if staff is at ease with the wording, then he is in agreement. The motion then carried with the unanimous vote of the Board.

**Item 7B**            **Mobile County Water, Sewer, and Fire Protection Authority Service Agreement**

Mr. McCrory addressed the Board and requested approval of the referenced agreement pertaining to the sewer service and billing of the South Alabama Logistics Park. Commissioner Drummond moved for approval, Commissioner Weber seconded and Commissioner Nichols abstained from the vote. The motion then carried with the aye majority vote of the Board.

**Item 7C**            **COVID-19 Report**

Mr. McCrory commented that there has been a recent increase in cases. Within the organization at this time, there are eight employees in quarantine and seven employees have tested positive for COVID-19. In recent weeks, quarantine has affected several departments. Staff asks Board approval to offer an incentive of \$100 to each vaccinated employee. This would include those that have already been vaccinated and those that complete the full vaccination by September 24, 2021. Once they have been confirmed, their names would be entered into a drawing for a grand prize.

Commissioner R. Bell moved for approval and Commissioner Gonzalez seconded. Commissioner Weber voted nay. The motion then carried with the aye majority vote of the Board.

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

**Item 8 Information Only**

- A. Emergency Repair of #1 Secondary Pump at Wright Smith  
Supplier: Sheppard Services, LLC  
Value: \$16,348
  
- B. Sole Source Purchase of Sensus Hidden Revenue Locator Application  
Supplier: Core & Main  
Value: \$15,000
  
- C. Ext 1 MAWSS 20013 Annual Contract – Employee Uniform Purchases  
**Year Two**  
Supplier: Unifirst  
Contract Period: 10/1/21-9/30/22  
2021 Value: \$281,250  
2020 Value: \$281,250
  
- D. Ext 1 MAWSS 20014 Annual Contract – Wire Fencing at Big Creek Lake  
**Year Two**  
Supplier: Construction Labor Services  
Contract Period: 10/1/21-9/30/22  
2021 Value: \$32,300  
2020 Value: \$32,000
  
- E. Co-op Purchase of Fleet Management Software  
Supplier: Verizon Connect  
Contract Period: 9/1/21-12/31/21  
Value: \$15,007
  
- F. Driven Engineering Project No. 21068  
2021 Various Sewer Repair Locations  
[Confirmation of Directors Award, July 12, 2021]  
Low Bidder: Construction Labor Services, Inc.  
Amount: \$858,176.00
  
- G. McCrory & Williams, Inc. Project No. M5712-2650  
Eslava Creek Force Main Replacement Phase 3: Baker Street to Williams Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Change Order No. 1 (FINAL)  
Original Contract Amount: \$8,154,150.00  
This Change Order: (\$1,142,547.00) <-14.01%>  
Total Revised Contract Amount: \$7,011,603.00
  
- H. Stantec Consulting Inc. Project No. 175668273  
Big Creek Lake Gate Automation Project Change Order No. 2  
Original Contract Days: 343  
Contract Days After CO#1: 405  
Additional Contract Days This CO: 45  
Revised Contract Days: 450 Days

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I. Volkert Project No. 1025611 CC Williams Digester Seal Replacements and Structural Repairs Change Order No. 1 (FINAL)

Original Contract Amount:	\$234,100.00	
This Change Order:	<u>(\$150,274.34)</u>	<-64%>*
Total Revised Contract Amount:	\$83,825.66	

\*Cancellation of remaining contract scope due to unforeseen corrosion of P3 Digester Dome.

J. Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood Project No. CMOB160039  
Three Mile Creek Trunk Sewer Upgrades Change Order No. 3 (FINAL)

Original Contract Amount:	\$18,530,339.00	
This Change Order:	<u>(\$1,029,237.83)</u>	<5.55%>
Total Revised Contract Amount:	\$17,501,101.17	
Original Contract Days:	540	
Additional Contract Days This CO:	<u>15</u>	
Revised Contract Days:	555	

K. Sensitive Position Memo

L. Consultant Project Status Reports  
(June 2021)

1. Asarisi & Associates, LLC
2. CERM (No Active Projects)
3. Constantine Engineering
4. Dewberry
5. Driven Engineering, Inc.
6. GMC
7. HDR
8. Isaiah Engineering, Inc.
9. Jacobs
10. McCrory Williams
11. Mobile Group, Inc.
12. Mott McDonald
13. Neel Schaffer, Inc.
14. Stantec
15. Volkert, Inc.

Commissioner Drummond questioned **Information Item 8B** Sole Source Purchase of Sensus Hidden Revenue Locator Application. She asked staff to clarify its use. Mr. McCrory responded and stated it is an automated software that monitors AMI system data on a daily basis. If revenue begins to drop on a meter, the software will send an alert and flag the meter for investigation and testing. It does not interfere with the data a customer is able to access.

Commissioner Nichols commended staff on their efforts concerning **Information Items 8G and 8J**, stating he is pleased to see the underruns on these large projects.

Commissioner Drummond followed up her initial request made during the April 5, 2021 Board meeting in regards to DBE participation dollar amounts to date for each consultant as shown in **Information Item 8L** Consultant Project Status Reports. It is included on the spreadsheet, but if staff would aggregate it and share with the Board how much each firm has made as a result of doing business with MAWSS, it would be appreciated. She concluded her request by saying that the Board Retreat held today was presented very well and the Directors Report that is emailed monthly is very informative and easy to follow.

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Chair W. Bell confirmed the start time for Board meetings commencing on September 13, 2021. Bid Openings will continue at 12:30 p.m. there will not be a 1:00 p.m. Discussion and the regular Board meeting will now begin at 1:00 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board at 2:40 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.



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Thomas Zoghby, Secretary-Treasurer