

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK
WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

A meeting of the North Little Rock Wastewater Treatment Committee was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at the administrative offices located at the Faulkner Lake Treatment Plant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matthews at approximately 12:15 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present. Those in attendance at the meeting were Mr. K.W. Matthews, Mr. Sylvester Smith, Mr. Ed Nelson and Ms. Karen Bryant. Also in attendance were Mr. Michael Clayton, Director, Ms. Gina Briley, Ms. Sarah Smith, Mayor's Chief of Staff, with the City of Maumelle, Mr. Richard Penn, City Engineer with the City of Sherwood, Mr. Sam Hilburn and Mr. Scott Hilburn with Hilburn & Harper, Ltd. and Dawn Harmon.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to excuse the absence of Mr. Stephens from the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the minutes of its August 10, 2021 meeting. After review, a motion was made by Ms. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the August 10, 2021 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, the Committee reviewed the cash disbursements for the month of August 2021. There being no questions or comments, a motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bryant, to approve the cash disbursements for August 2021 reflecting total cash disbursements of \$1,764,201.80 and fund transfers between accounts of \$1,305,400.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon motion made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Ms. Bryant, the Committee unanimously approved the Financial Statement for August 2021.

The Committee then discussed RJN, Inc. a professional services company which specializes in conducting Sewer System Evaluation Services (SSES). RJN has completed multiple SSES projects for NLRW since 2012. These projects have been selected by the staff and sized to be completed in a one-year period. The staff has reviewed Requests for Qualifications from professional services companies and has considered the services provided over the previous nine years by RJN. Based on these considerations, the staff wishes to enter into a one-year contract with RJN. The 2021 SSES scope of work includes approximately 1,900 manholes and 350,000

LF of gravity pipelines in the Maumelle Basin. The projected cost of the 2021 SSES is \$641,570.00. The work will be paid for with general revenues and is included in the 2021 budget in the amount of \$510,000.00. The estimated remaining funds will be in the 2022 budget. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Bryant, to authorize the staff to enter into a one-year contract with RJN, Inc. to include the 2021 scope of services in the amount of \$641,570.00. The motion carried unanimously.

The Collection Systems Maintenance Department under the Construction Division has a new Construction Manager to lead and manage five construction crews. It is necessary for the Construction Manager to use a utility vehicle for job related activities, and there is \$30,000.00 in the 2021 budget to purchase a new vehicle for this position. A motion was made by Ms. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to authorize the staff to purchase a 2021 Ram 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 from the current State Contract in the amount of \$24,573.00. The motion carried unanimously.

The Administration Building has a low sloped (flat roof) and a steep sloped roof area in need of replacement. The existing low sloped roof is a modified bitumen roof over a plywood roof deck and the steep sloped roof is a shingle mansard roof over plywood roof deck. Water collects along the south wall and in between the roof drains. The existing roof drains are set about ½" too high and the existing roofing systems are at the end of their service life. The staff obtained three quotes from three North Little Rock contractors which are as follows:

	PI Roofing 501.707.3548	C.B.M. 501.945.0829	Fraley Roofing 501.834.9602
Administration Building	\$66,957	\$87,700	\$56,376

The flat roof was quoted with complete tear-off using a 135 Mil fleece back TPO (membrane) with 3" insulation and the steep sloped roof will be a shingle mansard with similar color of the surrounding buildings. There is \$145,000 in the budget for replacement of Utility owned roofs. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee expressed that the vast difference in quotes gave them great pause. A motion was then made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Ms. Bryant to take another look at the project and numbers and then authorize the staff to accept the lowest acceptable bid. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee then discussed the Dixie and Baring Cross Basins Pipe Bursting 2021 Rehabilitation Project. The staff prepared bid documents for the

pipe bursting rehabilitation in the Dixie Subdivision and Baring Cross areas as part of an ongoing effort to reduce chronic maintenance problems in the gravity collection system. The project includes pipe bursting of approximately 18,834 linear feet of 6", 8" and 10" gravity sewer mains. The estimated cost for the project is \$1,600,000.00 which will be funded from the NLRW reserves and will be in the 2022 budget. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to authorize the staff to advertise for bids for the Dixie and Baring Cross Basins Pipe Bursting 2021 Rehabilitation Project. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Clayton then advised the Committee that Michael Marlar, P.E. of Half Associates developed an engineering report on the need to expand the White Oak Treatment Plant based on near future diversion of wastewater from the Maumelle Treatment Plant. Mr. Marlar's report on July 6th recommended acquiring an additional 11.15 acres immediately West of the existing treatment plant. Ferstl Valuation Services was hired to provide NLRW an appraisal report for the 11.15 acres and a copy of the report dated August 23, 2021 was provided to the Committee. The appraisal report determined the value of the 11.15 acres at \$14,898.00 per acre to be \$165,000.00. Field surveys and evaluations were also performed to develop a legal description in alignment with the objective of expanding the White Oak Treatment Plant by additional lagoons or equalizations basins. Based on actual field data and topography, it is recommended to purchase 18.7 acres. Expanding the White Oak Treatment Plant using lagoons requires a larger footprint of land than a mechanical treatment plant, and the cost to operate a facultative lagoon treatment facility is more economical than a traditional activated sludge mechanical treatment plant. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Nelson to authorize Director Clayton to attempt to negotiate a price with Mr. Pfeifer and if not successful, authorize him to proceed with the acquisition of land with the assistance of Hilburn & Harper, Ltd. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Clayton then informed the Committee that on August 11, 2020, the staff discovered two sinkholes in the roadside ditch of Landers Road at the city limits of North Little Rock and Sherwood over a critical 24" gravity interceptor. Based on the Court Ordered Agreement between Sherwood and NLRW, it was understood the 24" interceptor was under the control and ownership of Sherwood and Sherwood Wastewater was notified of the potential sinkholes linked to the interceptor. RJN Group was hired by Sherwood Wastewater to dye test the two sinkholes and both sinkholes were confirmed positive on November 3, 2020. NLRW hired Ace Pipe Cleaning to perform a Multi-Sensor Inspection on Five Mile Creek 24" interceptor on June 18, 2021. The results of the inspection revealed a 24" cast iron pipe with severe tuberculation that is beyond salvaging. Several experts in the

large pipe sewer business had similar opinions that a new pipe replacement is required. The existing 36" steel encasement pipe has been previously damaged from one of the pilings of the bridge piers and utilizing the existing encasement pipe is ruled out. A new bore with a 48" encasement will be necessary to provide the working room for a 30" carrier pipe. Once the 30" interceptor under Highway 67/167 is installed, the downstream connection to the existing 30" interceptor will be part of this project. The upstream connections include one 24" interceptor, one 15" gravity line, one 10" force main (Oakbrook Pump Station) and one 10" gravity line. Cost sharing with the City of Sherwood will be necessary using the 1989 agreement between Sherwood Wastewater and NLRW. The repair is expected to cost in the range of \$750,000.00 to \$1,000,000.00. Funds will come from the Emergency Repairs line item in the 2021 budget which currently includes \$1,000,000.00. A motion was made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Ms. Bryant, to declare an emergency and authorize the staff to use the services on Halff & Associates and Diamond Construction Co., Inc., on a cost plus basis contract, for an emergency design and replacement of the 24" interceptor with connecting sewer facilities. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Clayton then updated the Committee on the following:

- The Service Line Incentive Program has been submitted to Mayor Hartwick.

- The Utility is working on a new web-site design of its own. It currently shares one with the City.

- One of the residents from North Cedar Street sent an email to Mayor Hartwick thanking him and the NRLW for the relocation of the sewer lines.

- Received a report of leaking gas into a sewer line. The fire department was contacted and the leak was from a leaking fuel tank at a convenience store. Horseshoe Construction was contacted to fix the problem.

- The staff is working to save approximately \$2 million on bio-solids and getting away from Waste Management.

- The staff is meeting with ANRC on Thursday to lower the interest rate on the Revolving Loan Fund.

There being no further action to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Nelson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 p.m.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



K. W. MATTHEWS, CHAIRMAN

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

SYLVESTER SMITH,
VICE-CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY

