

September 25, 2024

The Board of Directors of Bell County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 of Bell County, Texas met in Regular Session, open to the public, in the Conference Room, 201 South 38th Street, Killeen, Texas 76543, at 09:00 a.m., on the 25th day of September 2024, and the roll was called of the duly constituted officers and members of the Board.

Robert R Robinson	President	Richard Grandy	Director
Kenny Wells	Vice President	Brian Dosa	Fort Cavazos Representative
Sandra Blankenship	Secretary	Ricky Garrett	General Manager
Ricky Wilson	Director		
Dr. Joyce Bateman Jones	Director		

Public attendees were Dale Treadway, Copperas Cove City Council; Fred Welch, Copperas Cove EDC; Dr. Camron Cochran, citizen of Killeen; Erik Walsh, Killeen Daily Herald; Gerry Furrier, CDM; Bear Jones, citizen of Killeen.

With all said members present except the following absentee(s): none, thus constituting a quorum.

President Robinson called the meeting to order at 09:00 am. No public comments were made.

The first item of business was the consent items, which included the minutes of the regular Board Meeting, held on August 21, 2024, minutes of the Called Board Meeting, held on August 26, 2024 and approval of August Financial Statements. A motion was made by Secretary Blankenship to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2024 meeting and seconded by Director Wilson. All members present approved the motion unanimously. A motion was made by Vice President Wells to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2024 meeting and seconded by Secretary Blankenship. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

The final consent item was to discuss and consider approval of financial statements for August 2024. LaFranshonna McAllister went over both the water and wastewater financial statements. Water spent 27% of their total budget and wastewater spent 28%. A motion was made by Secretary Blankenship to approve August financial statements and seconded by Director Grandy. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

New Business Items: The first new business was to discuss and consider an order declaring cancellation of the 2024 election for board of directors for precincts 3, 4 and 5 and take the appropriate action. A motion was made by Director Wilson to declare cancellation of the 2024 election for board of directors for precincts 3, 4 and 5 and seconded by Director Jones. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

The next item of business was to discuss and consider adopting water and wastewater rates for October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, and take the appropriate action. Ricky Garrett, General Manager stated that the new rates were approved at the April 2024 board meeting. The water rate to increase to .86/1000 gallons and wastewater to 1.15/1000 gallons. A motion was made by Director Wilson to approve the water rate from .85 to .86/1000 gallons and the wastewater rate from 1.14 to 1.15/1000 gallons and seconded by Vice President Wells. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

The next item of business was to discuss and consider proposal from Power Quality Engineering, Inc., Cedar Park, Texas to clean, inspect and test electrical switchgear for Belton Water Plant number 3 in the amount of \$22,141 and take the appropriate action. Mr. Garrett, General Manager, stated that high service pumps 15 and 16 have been offline due to switchgear issues after an arc flash in July damaged nearby gear. A quote was obtained from PQE to clean, inspect, and test the gear to ensure it's safe to energize. While replacement was budgeted, it's now part of the Belton Water Plant Upgrade project. Pump capacity is currently sufficient. A motion was made by Secretary Blankenship to award the proposal to Power Quality Engineering, Inc., Cedar Park, Texas to clean, inspect and test electrical switchgear for Belton Water Plant number 3 in the amount of \$22,141 and seconded by Vice President Wells. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

The next item of business was to discuss and consider replacing the Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) for the Plant 3 Effluent Generator in the amount of \$50,255 to Power Quality Engineering, Inc., Cedar Park, Texas including all parts and labor and take the appropriate action. Trevor Butler, Deputy General Manager, stated that Wastewater

Treatment Plant 3 has five standby generators with an Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) for secondary power. In April, the Effluent Generator's ATS failed, damaging most of its components. Due to outdated parts, it was recommended to replace the entire ATS with a newer model. The proposal includes a temporary connection for effluent pumps during installation. Due to long lead times, the replacement will be included in next year's operating budget. A motion was made by Secretary Blankenship to award the purchase of replacing the Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) for the Plant 3 Effluent Generator in the amount of \$50,255 to Power Quality Engineering, Inc., Cedar Park, Texas including all parts and labor and seconded by Director Grandy. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

The next item of business was to discuss and consider purchase of camera and surveillance package from Progressive Protection, Belton, Texas in the amount of \$45,663.16 and take the appropriate action. Mr. Garrett, General Manager, stated the Belton Water Treatment Plant's outdated camera system, over 10 years old, has lost functionality, with only a few working views remaining. A new surveillance package from Progressive Protection includes 16 wireless access points, fixed and PTZ cameras, and a 128 TB recorder capable of viewing up to 32 cameras on a separate server. The system is designed to allow for future expansion. A motion was made by Secretary Blankenship to award a surveillance and camera installation project to Progressive Protection, Belton, Texas in the amount of \$45,663.16 and seconded by Vice President Wells. All members present approved the motion unanimously. Director Wilson thanked the staff for the detailed report.

The final item of business was to discuss and consider awarding a change order to Air Mechanical, Moody, Texas in the amount of \$49,053.00 for changes to the scope of the natural gas pipeline installation at the Lake Belton Water Treatment Plant and take the appropriate action. Mr. Garrett, General Manager, stated the board awarded Air Mechanical \$216,079 to replace the original 1954 natural gas line at the water plant for heating purposes, essential for protecting vulnerable instruments from freezing. During testing, an unexpected segment failed a pressure test, requiring an alternate route for 200 feet of gas pipe installation over the roof to avoid significant concrete removal. Staff recommend a \$49,053 change order for these adjustments, with identified savings of \$400,000 from other areas to help fund this and other priority projects like the Stillhouse Lake bathymetric survey. A motion was made by Secretary Blankenship to award a change order to Air Mechanical, Moody, Texas in the amount of \$49,053.00 for changes to the scope of the natural gas pipeline installation at the Lake Belton Water Treatment Plant and seconded by Director Grandy. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

Staff Reports: Keith Baker, Operations Manager, gave an update on the Backup Generator Project. The generators have been synchronized, and Oncor will need to conduct relay setting tests. A plant load test is expected to be scheduled within the next few weeks.

Regarding the Transmission Main Partial Replacement Project, the contractor is continuing trenching for the new pipeline. The pipe delivery is expected by mid-October.

A density test was completed last Friday for the 3MG Surge Tank Project, and contractors are now excavating some of the tank pad because it was 6 inches too high.

When the Gas Line Project is completed it will supply gas to 83 heaters at the Belton Water Plant, including those housed in cabinets containing SCADA equipment.

Trevor Butler, Deputy General Manager, informed the board that Lake Belton is down 1.2 feet and Lake Stillhouse up .6 feet. Belton treatment plant averaging 42 mgd and max is 48 mgd.

Plant 4's clarifier received a new gearbox, which has been installed. However, the startup has been delayed to allow for an inspection to check for excess sludge buildup.

The High Service 5 pump, which was experiencing excessive vibration, has been pulled, and a purchase order has been issued for the necessary repairs.

202 Texas 8-1-1 call-out tickets for locates recorded for the month of September.

Another meeting with FEMA was scheduled for an in-person recovery scoping and site inspection of the Belton Water Treatment Plant. The damage inventory is currently in progress and is due for submission by November 3.

Wastewater plant flows have been steady. Plant 1 is averaging 10mgd and Plant 3 is averaging 3.5mgd.

At Plant 1 the digester gearbox arrived, but installation is delayed due to the crane being down because of a leaking hydraulic cylinder. Once the crane is repaired, the gearbox will be installed.

The Plant 3 SBR blower, which was recently rebuilt but had vibration issues, has been sent back to the company, awaiting diagnosis. The roll-up doors on the new building have been installed, and a scope of work is being prepared to provide electricity to the building.

Working with Progressive Protection to develop a proposal for upgrading the camera security systems at Plant 1 and Plant 3.

During the recent TCEQ inspection at Plant 1, we had a week's notice to prepare. Thanks to our Wastewater Superintendent, Ernesto Ortiz, who organized all necessary paperwork. Inspectors conducted a thorough review and identified three violations: missing stormwater documentation, missing exemption documentation, and issues with the calibration frequency and standards of a CL2 meter. All issues were addressed by submitting the required documentation the same day for approval. Special thanks to Ernesto and our operations and maintenance crews for ensuring the plant was clean and well-prepared for the inspection.

Ricky Garrett, General Manager, provided an update on the Station 3 recoating project, part of the bond fund initiatives, with Mr. Gerry Furrier from CDM Smith available for questions. Most paint samples tested for lead were below the 5,000 parts per million threshold, except for one near a ladder, which likely indicated residual coating from a prior abatement, as the tank dates back to 1945. The estimated costs for the project are approximately \$3.6 million without lead abatement and \$6 million for full abatement. To manage costs and safety, additional sampling in hard-to-reach areas is planned, and an overcoat approach for non-hot areas has been proposed to address identified lead spots.

The design phase for the filter pipe coating project at the Belton plant is 97% complete. The emergency water agreement with Kempner Water Supply has one month remaining. The next board meeting is scheduled for October 23, unless changes arise.

Items from the Board: none.

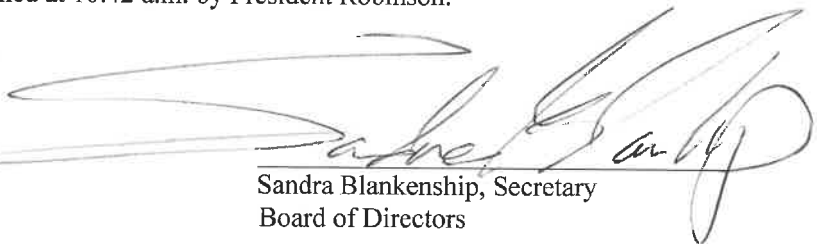
At 10:09 a.m. the board went into executive session to discuss General Manager's annual evaluation.

At 10:28 a.m. the board reconvened back in open session; no action was taken in executive session.

In open session, a motion was made by Secretary Blankenship to approve a pay increase of 5.0% The motion was seconded by Director Jones. All members present approved the motion unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m. by President Robinson.




Sandra Blankenship, Secretary
Board of Directors

