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Augusta County Service Authority
Special Called Board Meeting, Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.
Middle River Regional Treatment Plant Training Room

PRESENT: Andrew C. Middleton, Chairman, North River District
Garry R. Gordon, Vice Chairman, Middle River District
Harvey Almarode, South River District
Allen Dahl, Beverley Manor District
Timothy Simmons, Pastures District, *via conference call from Staunton, VA due to being on vacation*
Phil Martin, Executive Director
Jean Marshall, Board Secretary

ABSENT: Matthew Egeli, Wayne District
Michael L. Shull, Riverheads District
Brent Canterbury, Treasurer

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CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:51 p.m.

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ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Almarode to adopt the Agenda as presented.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

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MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were in attendance to make comments and no public comments were brought forth by Staff.

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AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILL RIG

Staff explained in the course of completing Substandard Water Line (SSWL) projects, new connections and service replacements, water services crossing roads have typically been installed with a pneumatic “thumper”. Many times, the thumper deviates from alignment if

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rock is encountered, or at worst cannot be installed without cutting the pavement and installing the service by open trench.

Over the years, horizontal directional drilling (HDD) has been used to install long water services where rock is expected. HDD has been utilized on average for 10 new connections and 3 maintenance repairs per year. Pricing for these few HDD installations averaged about \$1,500 each.

Phase I of the Howardsville Turnpike SSWL project has 45 long connections where HDD could be used. Phase II has an additional 34 long connections. The Mount Torrey Road SSWL project (expected to be budgeted in FY-23) will have in excess of 50 long connections. All of these are in areas where we expect rock to be encountered.

Typically, as the volume of HDD installation increases, the unit price would be expected to decrease, due to spreading the mobilization cost over a larger number of connections. Inquiries have indicated \$1550 would be the lowest pricing available to the Service Authority for the Howardsville project.

In order to perform the work in the most efficient and economical method, Staff has investigated the option of purchasing an HDD rig and self-performing the work. Each connection would require approximately \$600 of labor, materials, and other equipment, allowing \$950 per connection to be allocated toward the purchase of an HDD rig. It is estimated this equipment could be used for approximately 58 long services per year. With this level of usage and recouping \$950 per connection, a 2.6-year return on investment is expected. A SourceWell quote in the amount of \$143,887.88 for a new DitchWitch JT10A and necessary equipment was secured from DitchWitch of Roanoke, Inc.

Based on a \$950 recoupment per long connection, the 79 long connections in the Phase I and Phase II Howardsville SSWL projects could provide \$75,000 toward the total purchase price.

After discussion by the Board and Staff, Mr. Almarode moved, seconded by Mr. Dahl to approve the Purchase Order to DitchWitch of Roanoke, Inc., in the amount of \$143,887.88, with \$75,000 of funding coming from the Howardsville SSWL projects and the remainder from general funds.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were no comments from the Board members.

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There being no further business, Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Dahl to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

Board Secretary

Chairman