



MEETING DATE: August 19, 2023
AGENDA ITEM: 6.C. Utility Management
DATE: August 11, 2023
TO: Members of the Board
FROM: Prepared by Mike Bourne, Treasurer
SUBJECT: Utility Management Contract

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Motion to approve engaging Southwestern Utility Management for BRDWID in an effort to make the transition from SWC to BRDWID as smooth as possible.

BACKGROUND:

BRDWID did competitive bidding for utility management services in 2021. Southwestern Utility Management (SWUM) was selected due to having the historical information and current accounts information making the transition from SWC to BRDWID much easier than engaging another firm to learn everything from the start and being the lowest cost of the competitive bidders.

Recent concerns from the community with SWUM caused the Board to reach out to meet with SWUM. SWUM revealed there were only 2 complaints recorded by SWUM (late fee charges and meter mis-read resulting in charging for 20K gal more than consumed) since January 1. Both complaints resolved.

We have received fresh proposals from other companies including Arizona Utility Billing Solutions (AUBS). Cost for SWUM is \$4.80/connection vs \$4.43 for AUBS.

SWC owners Barbara & James Studnek strongly encouraged BRDWID to retain SWUM to make the transition as smooth as possible.

SWUM will have a representative at this meeting to answer any questions.

ALTERNATIVES:

Starting up with AUBS may incur additional costs for transition due to additional time needed for system education (meter deposits, inventories, current expenses), learning the meter routes and understanding the system operation. AUBS has the advantage of working with HDJ and A Quality Water where HDJ and A Quality Water have not worked with SWUM.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Annual cost difference would be ~\$3450.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.