

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: February 7, 2017

TO: Carlotta S. Stauffer, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk

FROM: David Frank, Public Utility Analyst I, Division of Accounting & Finance *DF*

RE: Docket No. 160065-WU - Application for increase in water rates in Charlotte County by Bocilla Utilities, Inc.

Please place the following email and its attachment in the above-referenced docket file.

RECEIVED-FPSC
2017 FEB -7 AM 8:44
COMMISSION
CLERK

David Frank

From: CRAIG NODEN <craig@bocillautilities.com>
Sent: Monday, February 06, 2017 10:16 AM
To: David Frank
Cc: Martin S. Friedman; Ray Flischel
Subject: BOCILLA UTILITIES CONCERNS ON ISSUE # 13
Attachments: ISSUE 13 (002) (002).docx

Good Morning David,

Ray Flischel asked me to send this prior to the Wednesday meeting.

Craig Noden
Bocilla Utilities

ISSUE 13

The utilities part-time field worker is both a meter reader and a distribution workman.

Every month the distribution worker drives the eight (8) miles of distribution system allowing inspection of the following:

- Inspect all the meter boxes and connections to the distribution system. Every year a number of meter boxes are damaged by contractors and homeowners. Also, connections to meter boxes develop leaks as most of the service connections are between 20 to 30 years old.
- The utility has 100 + valve pads that service the fire hydrants and isolation valves. Every year many of the valve pads are damaged or destroyed by delivery trucks, cars, and road grading activities.
- The utilities fire hydrants, valve pads, meter boxes and above ground connections have vegetation that grows and needs to be trimmed on a regular basis.
- Every year the utility has had distribution water main breaks. Some of these breaks require the utility to bring in very expensive underground service contractors. The utility can fix about half of the main breaks with the certified operator and distribution workman services which saves the utility considerable money.

While driving the distribution system a list of the items above are recorded and under the supervision of the certified operator the distribution workman completes the repairs and required maintenance.

The utilities test year annual expense for the part-time distribution worker is reflective of what the utility needs to provide the maintenance to keep its distribution system in good working order.

Please see attached the attached Englewood Water District 2016 competitive hourly pay ranges for meter readers and water distribution workman in the local area.

The hourly rates do not include paid holidays, health insurance, vacation pay, retirement/savings plans.

Part Time Administrative Assistant:

Please see responses to Staff's First Request (# 1), Staff's Second Request # 2 (1a. – 1e.), and Staff's Third Request # 20 (a. – e.).

Please also refer to James A. Elder P.E. letter and the attached Englewood Water Districts 2016 Grade and Wage Scale that shows that the current hourly pay is below the mid-range for this position.

Hourly employees of the utility receive no paid holiday, health insurance, vacation pay or retirement plans.

Running a small utilities office and accounts is very demanding with only two days a week allocated to performing all the services required to be compliant, helpful and professional all within a regulated budget.

Christmas Bonuses:

Hourly employees of the utility receive no paid holidays, health insurance, vacation pay or retirement plans. The Christmas bonuses add less than 2 % to employees' wages.

The utility paid the full time licensed operator a \$ 1000 Christmas bonus and this added to his salary still puts him within the range of reasonable compensation.

Salaries & Wages – Officers

Please see attached Englewood Water Districts 2016 Grade and Wage Scale and James A. Elder's letter describing the Utility Officer/Administrator position.

The duties performed equate to Officer/Administrator, Finance Director, HR Director and Tech/Operations Manager. The mid-range pay for this position is above the current salary being paid to the Officer.

The utility believes that the salary of the officer is reasonable.

The utility does not agree that the additional eight hours (8) hours per week added to the administrative employee will reduce the responsibilities or workload of the officer and therefore should not be deducted from the officer's salary.