AQUARION WATER AUTHORITY

July 23, 2026

Special Meeting Transcription

David:

I'll call the inaugural meeting of the Aquarion Water Authority to order. We have 100% attendance. Firsts item on the agenda is the Safety Moment. Please make sure you review when you have a chance.

Next is public comment. Jennifer are there any members of the public present?

Jennifer:

No public is present

David:

Next, Lucy is going to review a request for public bid exemptions, so please go ahead and give us a report on that.

Lucy:

So, we have a couple of exemptions from public bidding requests. I'm not going to read every single word. If there's anybody who has any questions, if you've had a chance to read, it's really brief.

So, the first one is the Security Incident and Event Management. This one, we're asking for exemption due to the cybersecurity risks with publicly announcing our security tools. We don't want those to go out into the public, so we're asking for an exemption on this. And then, we will go to a bid process, but we want it to be private. So, once we get the bids, we will go to awarding a renewal amount. I'm sorry, I don't know, are we going to do these all individually, or you guys take them away and do them?

David:

Yeah, so all exemptions, we can do all of those together as one.

Lucy:

Okay.

David:

That would be fine.

Lucy:

Okay. The next one is the renewal of backup and recovery software for maintenance for the period of 8/1/2026 to 8/1/2027. Again, we've cited security risks associated with publicly announcing the security tools.

And then, with this one, again, a closed bid process. We'll solicit three bids, and then award renewal on that one. This one, replacing the platform would require a significant investment of at least three times the cost of the annual renewal. So, that's why we're asking for the exemption as well. I guess we would request a motion to approve-

David:

Yeah, do we have a motion? I didn't see one.

Rochelle:

Well, we can do it after [inaudible 00:01:43]-

David:

Okay. While it's in here, continue, and then we'll discuss.

Lucy:

Okay. The third one is a request for the maintenance and mechanical vegetation removal for various reservoirs during the calendar year 2026. This one, there's only a small number of vendors in the area with the equipment to do the work with the flexibility to meet our desired schedule.

So, C&D Underwater is familiar with our reservoir contours, the boat launch locations, and has consistently met our requirements and requests for timing. So, we are asking for an exemption on this one. It would give us availability, providing flexibility, and we would be able to maximize the results of the required vegetation management.

And the last one is, we're requesting the exemption from the public bidding for the renewal of the MPX payments for the period of December 31st, 2026 to December 31st, 2028. So, Kubra, we've had them for many, many years as far as the billing process, and so, we would like to be exempt from bidding on this one. So, transitioning to a new vendor at this time would require significant investment in time and resources, and right now we're going through the SAP, that's for monitor emission. So, it would just add complexity to that. So, we're asking if we could get an exemption from that bid as well.

David:

Are there questions? [inaudible 00:03:15].

Mario:

How long have you had the contract with, is it Kubra?

Lucy:

Kubra, I believe five or maybe seven years. It could be closer to eight years that we've had that relationship. We had a different portal vendor, and then, we moved over to Kubra. They do our e-billing, our one-time payments, and it's heavily integrated with our SAP system.

Mario:

And so, it's a significant software-

Lucy:

Yes.

Mario:

... integration to micro.

Lucy:

[inaudible 00:03:47].

Mario:

[inaudible 00:03:47].

Lucy:

Yeah. And we're willing to look at this once our SAP project is up and running, and then we can look at what's the new RFP for that. Those new [inaudible 00:04:06], they handle a lot from us.

Mario:

Okay.

Catherine:

[Inaudible 00:04:06]. Excuse me. I'm sure it's in here. Is the $72,000 for two years? Because the extension request is for two years. You said $700,000 a year?

Lucy:

That's an annual basis.

Catherine:

That's the annual, okay.

Lucy:

That's the annual basis. So, that includes the ongoing cost of using the software, but in that 705 is also the cost that we incur for the one-time payments and the issuance of e-bills. So, it really does fluctuate based on usage from our customers. And we just modified this. It used to be something that was charged to the customer every time they wanted to make a one-time gig. They paid $1.95, and it was a huge-

Catherine:

Detractor.

Lucy:

... detractor. People were upset, and so, we in-sourced that cost, and now it becomes an operating cost for the company.

Catherine:

Okay.

Mario:

I'd be happy to... Must be the inflation. No, before you make the motion and approval of the request for exemption from the public bidding, as outlined in the July 23rd, 2023 memo for those four companies, with the caveat that the exemption is just for one year. So, you bring back Kubra a year from now-

Lucy:

Okay.

Mario:

... for another exemption.

Lucy:

Got it.

Mario:

[inaudible 00:05:41]-

David:

Incur a two, three-year contract.

It's a two-year contract, correct.

Lucy:

I apologize. The year should be 2026.

David:

'26-

Speaker 11:

'27 and '28.

Mario:

It's '28. So, it's a two-year contract.

Lucy:

Well, we're in the middle of [inaudible 00:05:56]-

Mario:

[inaudible 00:05:59] ... balance. I was just reading.

Thank you for catching me reading it wrong.

Speaker 9:

You have three more years and you're going.

Lucy:

No.

Speaker 9:

Yes.

Lucy:

So we motion the same time should be approved, even though this says [inaudible 00:06:12].

Mario:

It's a two-year contract?

David:

Yes.

Lucy:

It is, it is.

Mario:

Oh, okay.

Lucy:

But we'll just-

Catherine:

In that case, just since no one seconded it, say two years from that one.

David:

Yep. So-

Mario:

I'll second it.

David:

Okay. All right. It's been seconded twice. It's been made. Any further discussion? All right. Sensing you're ready to vote, all those in favor of the motion for the attention, signify by saying, "Aye."

Board members:

Aye.

David:

Thank you. Very good. All right. Next item on the agenda is a review of financial and operating reports. There is more in here than we will often see from the-

Speaker 13:

[inaudible 00:06:51] group.

David:

... which is fine, but I think that requires, because of what is in there, it requires that we ask that it be an executive session. So I would ask a motion that we go into executive session inviting the senior executive team from both companies here.

Catherine:

Mr. Chairman, I move for going to executive session for purposes of discussing documents that are exempt under 1-210 of the... I'm sorry, 1-100 of the General statutes and also 1-210B5.

Todd:

I second.

David:

There's a second. All those in favor of going into the executive session, inviting those present, signify by saying, "Aye."

Board members:

Aye.

David:

Pass is unanimous.

[EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM 12:37 P.M. TO 1:31 P.M.]

David:

[inaudible 00:00:03].... they wanted reports regarding financing and the closing and the transition plan, and we look forward to continuing to meet and working in a very collaborative way to get with that through AWA. All right, with that, I will ask for a motion to adjourn. Is there a second?

Mario:

Second.

David:

All those in favor signify by saying aye.

Board members:

Aye.

David:

That's unanimous. All right. The AWA is adjourned. We will reconvene in... Thank you. Give us nine minutes. We'll have-

[MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:36 P.M.]