

TOWN OF BAILEY MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC MEETING OF THE SEWER/WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 10/1/2025

This meeting was held in the Conference Room at Bailey Town Hall on October 1, 2025, at 1:30 PM.

Mayor Pro Temp/Commissioner Walter Wells and Commissioner David Evans met with Mrs. Amy Pearson (Member of the Sewer & Water Advisory Committee), Mr. Rich Moore (Engineer with McDavid Associates), Mr. Jesse Horne (New Area Manager with Envirolink), Mayor Owen H. Strickland II, and Town Administrator/Town Clerk/CFO Joel Killion.

Mrs. Lisa Matthews, another member of the Sewer & Water Advisory Committee, was unable to attend.

Mayor Pro Temp/Commissioner Wells welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a general update on where Bailey's sewer and water systems stand since the last Sewer & Water Advisory Committee Meeting. Then, he introduced Mr. Rich Moore, Engineer with McDavid Associates.

Mr. Rich Moore started by summarizing the 2019 Clean Water State Revolving Project (CWSRP) funded by ARPA grant funds focused on addressing inflow and infiltration (I&I). He said this project was completed and ended up with about \$69,000 of contingency money that the Town requested to be used toward additional sewer improvements. So far, this request has been denied, twice.

He then summarized the 2020 CWSRP targeting sewer replacement in the Brock Circle area, utilizing about \$533,000 in ARPA grant funds. This project has also been completed and has ended up with \$90,000 in contingency money that the funding agency has said Bailey can use if it utilizes the funds to address I&I reduction, as the project was originally designed to do. He claimed this would be doable, depending on upcoming projects.

Then, he proceeded to discuss the current \$14,800,000 ARPA grant funded project that was originally intended to pump sewer to the city of Wilson and to address the remaining collection system assets with regards to evaluation and to target I&I reduction. But the Town decided, instead, to use this money to focus long-term on internal improvements for the sewer and water systems, rather than just connect to Wilson without fixing Bailey's internal issues. With that said, the state divided what was a single project into two projects – \$9.8 million to address sewer issues and \$5 million to address sewer and water issues. The overall goal for the sewer work is to get the town off the moratorium.

He added that some of these ARPA funds have been used already to do an updated hydrogeological evaluation of the wastewater treatment plant spray field that shows that the spray field can take more than what is currently permitted by the DEQ. And so, he said that Bailey is going to request that the DEQ expand the permitted capacity.

He shared that the bid and design packages for these two projects had already been submitted and the state had approved the bid and design package for the \$9 million project. And so we are prepared to move forward with the advertisement and bidding of that project as we wait to get approved for the \$5 million project so we can move forward with bidding advertisements on that.

He then said that we've got all the construction permits for the \$5 million project in place, which are required to submit the bid design package. We are not waiting on any construction permits but are waiting for the state to give us the bid and design approval to allow us to advertise. And we are seeing movement as they have reviewed it and approved it in the order it was submitted in. We submitted the \$9 million project first and then I submitted the three contracts for the \$5 million project. So, we've got all that in and ready to go.

Mayor Pro Temp/Commissioner Walter Wells then shared that he reached out to Mr. Hall with the DEQ to initiate a meeting with him and his people, Mr. Rich Moore, Envirolink, the Sewer/Water Advisory Committee, etc. to talk through where we are, what we are looking to do, our project status, etc. The goal would be get on the same page about what all is needed to get Bailey off the sewer moratorium.

Mr. Moore affirmed the Town's decision to use the \$14.8 million on rehabbing its own sewer and water systems to serve the people, to maintain the Town's control of its own systems, so that its rates pay for its own activities, operations, personnel, and facilities. Otherwise, Bailey would have ended up surrendering control to Wilson, while paying them in the process, essentially subsidizing them.

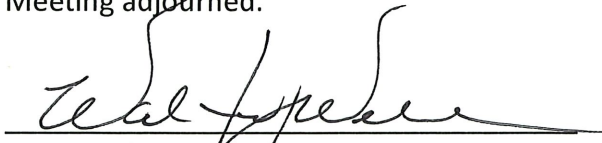
Commissioner Evans then said that due to this very exciting news, he believes now would be a good time to do a press release to inform the public that things are about to change in Bailey regarding the sewer moratorium.

Mayor Strickland agreed to handle the press release and to email it to everyone for review before it's released to the Commerce Department, the media, and the public.

Mayor Pro Temp/Commissioner Walter Wells stated the need to have a second, follow-up community meeting for the public to provide them with this update and what is to come.

Mayor Strickland asked for dates for the community meeting to be provided soon so he could proceed with securing the location and planning the event.

Meeting adjourned.


Walter Wells, Mayor Pro Tempore


Joel Killian, Town Administrator