

Beulah Utilities District
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
June 16, 2015
5320 Lee Road 270 Valley, AL 36854
6:00 pm CST

The Board of Directors of Beulah Utilities District met in a regular meeting on June 16, 2015 at the Beulah Water Department.

1. **WELCOME**

Chairman Sims welcomed those in attendance.

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Sims called the meeting to order.

3. **ROLL CALL**

The following Board Members were present: Shane Franks, James Majors, Linda Holt, Dan Roberts and Lamar Sims.

Visitors in Attendance - See attached Visitor Sign In Sheet.

4. **DECLARE QUORUM**

After the roll was called, Chairman Sims declared that a quorum was present.

5. **ADOPT AGENDA**

Chairman Sims presented the proposed agenda for adoption. Mr. Roberts motioned to adopt the agenda. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and the agenda was unanimously adopted.

6. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES** May 19, 2015

Chairman Sims asked for approval of the minutes from the May 19, 2015 Regular Meeting. Mr. Franks motioned to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and unanimously adopted and the minutes were approved.

7. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Chairman Sims reviewed the financial statements. Mr. Majors motioned to accept the financial statements. Motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts. The motion was unanimously adopted and the Financial Statements were accepted.

Chairman Sims presented and asked for approval of the revised Budget. Mr. Roberts motioned to approve the revised budget. Motion was seconded by Mr. Franks and unanimously adopted by the Board.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Project Update

Mr. Houston Black from Clearwater was recognized and stated that he had two invoices from the District's engineering firm, Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Inc. (GMC) The first was for preliminary work done on the Lee Road 270 Water Main/Tank project and for the remaining costs associated with the Highway 29/Lee Road 262/263 project. He said the total invoice was \$6,510.19. The second invoice was \$4,800.00 for work done on the Loop Project.

Mr. Franks motioned to pay both of the invoices. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and unanimously approved.

Ms. Holt motioned that the money to pay those invoices come from the District's System Development Fund. Motion was seconded by Mr. Franks and unanimously approved.

Mr. Black then updated the Board on the status of the various projects ongoing in the District:

The Lee Road 270 Water Main and Storage Tank project bid dates had been set for July 15, 2015 at 3:00 PM and that the results would be ready for the July 21, 2015 meeting of the Board.

Work began on the Lee Road 835 Loop Project on June 9th and was about 75% complete. He said that the project was expected to be complete by July 4th.

Mr. Black stated that GMC was in discussion with Lee County representatives about funding options for the Lee Road 375 Bridge Water Line Relocation Project.

Finally, Mr. Black stated that Clearwater and GMC representatives had met at the home of Mr. Burk to look into relocating the water line which ran underneath it. He stated that the cost would likely be about \$8,000 and that Clearwater could perform the work for cost plus 10 percent.

b. Update on ARWA Board Member Class

Chairman Sims stated that the Board was scheduled to attend the Alabama Rural Water Association training session on July 28, 2015.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Water Contract with Opelika Utilities

Chairman Sims stated that Mr. Majors, Mr. Black, Commissioner Ham and himself had met with representatives from the Opelika Water Board to discuss a new water supply agreement. Chairman Sims stated that Opelika had provided the District with proposed terms and had agreed not to raise the rate/1000 gallons during the first two years of the new contract but that it would go up every year afterwards for the next five years so that by 2023, the rate would be \$2.10/1000 gallons. Chairman Sims stated that the appropriate committees would meet to further investigate and discuss the proposed terms with Opelika before the Board voted on them.

Chairman Sims also stated that the District would investigate the feasibility of purchasing a spare water tank from Opelika to install in the eastern area of the District to relive some of the pressure issues.

b. Fire Department Report

Chief Jacob Geiger was recognized to give the report on the Fire Department.

He stated that the Department ran a total of 97 emergency calls in the month of May, down slightly from April. He said he did not have a breakdown of the type of calls as the system which created that report was down for maintenance.

He mentioned that the first phase of the Volunteer 160 training course was completed and that the trainees from Beulah had a 100% pass rate. Chairman Sims asked Chief Geiger to share everyone's thanks and congratulations with the trainees.

He said that the F-550 rescue truck is in the shop for a blown turbo and that this was the second such problem the truck has had with the turbo. He stated that the Yukon was being used as an EMS response vehicle until the F-250 could be equipped to serve as the backup. Ms. Holt asked if there was a defect with the

truck and if a recall in effect. Chief Geiger said the mechanic was checking on that.

Chairman Sims asked how the Department would go about selling the old red truck. Chief Geiger stated that the Board needed to set a minimum amount the District would accept for the truck and then an ad would be run in the paper. Ms. Holt motioned to not accept less than \$1000.00 for the truck. Motion was seconded by Mr. Franks and unanimously approved by the Board.

c. Clearwater Solutions Report

Mr. Houston Black was recognized to give the Clearwater Report for the Month of May.

He stated that he had three rate adjustments for the month of May:

Vickie Holloway	\$191.19
Nakisha Huguley	\$124.25
Lindsey Morgan	\$677.90

Ms. Holt motioned to approve the adjustments. Motion was seconded by Mr. Franks and unanimously approved.

The drawing was held of the names of the people who had participated in the Leak Incentive Program in the last month. Christina Braxton's name was drawn as the winner of the \$20 credit.

Mr. Black informed the Board that an issue had come up where after the change from East Alabama to Beulah, some customers didn't change the payment address with their banks and therefore their checks went to East Alabama instead of Beulah. As a result some customers incurred late charges and cutoff fees. Mr. Black mentioned that some of these individuals had asked that these fees be waived. Mr. Black said he declined to waive the fees as a notice had been on the bills since February stating that customers needed to update the address to Beulah and that in September of 2014 an insert was included in all of the bills telling customers to change the address to Beulah. Mr. Black did tell the customers that he would bring the matter before the Board to ask if they would approve waiving the fees. An unidentified water customer was recognized and stated that she had been paying online and on-time and felt that the District should have done more to inform its customers of the need to change addresses. She also expressed her concern that her water was cutoff without notice. Mr. Black stated that before cutting anyone's water off, Clearwater would attempt to call and talk with or leave a voicemail with the customer. Ms. Holt motioned to adopt a one-time waiver of the \$40 late/cutoff fee incurred last month by customers in good standing who failed to update the payment address with their banks. Motion was seconded by Mr. Roberts and approved by a majority of the Board.

Mr. Black then briefed the Board on Clearwater's activities over the past month.

Mr. Black discussed with the Board the equipment needed to start taking debit/credit cards and phone payments at the office. He mentioned that thanks to the help of Ms. Holt, the prices and fees were lowered or waived from the original quote so the District's only out of pocket cost would be the cost of the card readers. Ms. Holt motioned to purchase two credit card readers from CNI for a total of \$140.00 and to add a new phone line to the office for phone payments. Motion was seconded by Mr. Franks and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Black stated that Clearwater's total repair and maintenance expenditures in May were \$5,801.31. Mr. Franks motioned to pay Clearwater \$5,801.31. Motion seconded by Mr. Majors and unanimously approved.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Black showed everyone a mockup of a typical residential water meter hookup and explained where the District's responsibility ends and the homeowner's begins.

11. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Mr. B.J. Crenshaw, 52 Lee Road 965, was recognized and thanked the Board for undertaking the Loop Project to help with water pressure in his area.

Chairman Sims stated that the next Regular Meeting would be at 6:00pm on July 21, 2015. He also stated that depending on how things progressed with the Opelika Water Supply Agreement, a Special Meeting might be called before the next regular meeting to deal with that.

There being no further business, Mr. Franks motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m. C.S.T.

Signed _____

