

Beulah Utilities District
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
March 21, 2017
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 March 21, 2017 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: Linda Holt, David Jackson, James Majors, Shane Franks and Lamar Sims.

Visitors in Attendance - See attached Visitor Sign In Sheet.

Chairman Sims introduced new Board Member David Jackson and welcomed him to the Board.

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. Ms. Holt motioned to adopt the agenda. Motion was seconded by Mr. Franks and the agenda was unanimously adopted.

6. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES** February 21, 2017

Chairman Sims asked for approval of the minutes from the February 21, 2017 Regular Meeting. Mr. Franks motioned to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and the minutes were unanimously approved.

7. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Chairman Sims reviewed the February financial statements. Mr. Majors motioned to approve the February financial statements. Motion was seconded by Mr. Franks and the February financial statements were unanimously approved.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. System Improvements (various projects)

Mr. Houston Black was recognized to give an update on the projects. He stated that the engineers were 60 to 90 days from submitting the final paperwork to the USDA. He stated that the USDA interest rate rose to 2.75% but that it was expected to stay there which would enable the District to afford all of the projects previously approved.

B. Asset – Land 4 acres by the Baptist Church Cemetery

Mr. Stephen Clay said that the appraisal was still not back and that he would check with the appraiser to get a time frame. Chairman Sims discussed the possibility of setting up public bidding on the property should the Board decide to sell it.

C. Annual Salary Review – Fire Dept.

Chairman Sims stated that it might be better to move the reviews and raises to August 31 of each year to coincide with the end of the District's fiscal year. He said that this would help when it came to budgeting. He proposed that the District use the CPI number as a base to give the employees a raise to cover the period from now until August 31. Mr. Franks thought that the Board should give the employees the raise from February to February and then do a prorated raise in August. He said that this would prevent the employees from having to wait over a year for the next raise. Chief Padgett said he would adjust the Fire Department's review schedule to coincide with the new salary review date.

Mr. Franks motioned to move the employee salary review date to August 31 of each year. Motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and unanimously approved.

The Board then discussed the salaries of the hourly Fire Department employees.

Ms. Holt motioned to give the Fire Department hourly employees a 3% raise retroactive to February 1, 2017. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and unanimously approved.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Fire Dept. Report**

Chief Padgett was recognized to give a report on the Fire Department. He stated that in February the Department ran a total of 58 calls.

The Chief briefed the Board on some of the work done to the District's fire stations. He stated that Station 5 was cleaned out and could possibly be turned into the District's training center. The Chief also briefed the Board of the Department's community involvement. He recognized volunteers Zack Tally for passing his National Registry EMT Basic and Zack Padgett for becoming a National Registry Paramedic.

The Chief informed the Board that the Department had accumulated a total of \$8,700 in donations. He requested that the Board approve the expenditure of some of those funds to enable the Department to purchase some equipment. He stated that he would like to purchase a Stairmaster Treadmill for \$1,926 and three Scott Sight Masks for a total of 3,080. Chief Padgett said that the total to be spent was \$6,006. Mr. Majors motioned to approve the expenditure of \$6,006 of Fire Department donations for the treadmill and the three masks. Motion was seconded by Mr. Franks and unanimously approved.

B. **Clearwater Solutions Report**

Mr. Black was recognized to provide the Clearwater Solutions Report.

He recognized Ms. Sabrina Chapman to give a report to the Board on possible collection agencies to contract with to assist the District in collecting on overdue accounts. Ms. Chapman briefed the Board on the District's debt situation and also some of the debt collection agencies she had researched and contacted.

Mr. Black said that there were four qualifying rate adjustments for the month:

Lucy T. Brown	\$177.10
Timothy Butts	\$300.30
Roy Schaub	\$254.10
GCI c/o John Rice	\$229.76

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

Mr. Black then announced the winner of the leak incentive program for February.

He then briefed the Board on Clearwater's activities over the prior month.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Todd Holt was recognized to give a presentation to the Board. He introduced himself and his company, ITC, and told the Board that they were in the telecommunication and internet business. He told the Board about a new internet company they were starting called Point Broadband. He said that his company would provide internet service via wireless signals and that they were focused on taking this service to rural areas in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi. He said the company was looking for vertical assets to which the wireless infrastructure could be placed on and that the company would like to come to the Beulah area and that the District's water tanks might make good sites to place antennas on. The Board Members asked various questions which were answered to their satisfaction.

Chairman Sims announced that the reception in honor of Dan Roberts was set for March 30 at the Fire Station.

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

None

Chairman Sims stated that the next Regular Meeting would be at 6:00pm C.S.T. on April 18, 2017.

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 7:28 p.m. C.S.T.

Signed _____

