

Beulah Utilities District
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
January 16, 2018
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 January 16, 2018 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, Garnett McCollum 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. Jackson motioned to adopt the agenda. Motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and the agenda was unanimously adopted.

6. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES** December 19, 2017

Chairman Sims asked for approval of the minutes from the December 19th, 2017 Regular Meeting. Mr. Majors pointed out an error with the minutes that needed correcting. Mr. Majors motioned to approve the minutes as amended by the correction. Motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and the minutes, as amended, were unanimously approved.

7. **HILYER & ASSOCIATES FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT**

Chairman Sims recognized Mr. Jeff Hilyer from Hilyer & Associates to go over the District's audit report for fiscal year 2017. Mr. Hilyer praised the cooperation received from Houston Black and other Clearwater personnel in assisting with the audit. He then introduced Ms. Jackie Moon to go over the District's audit report.

Ms. Moon stated that the District received a clean audit with no findings. She stated that the District had approximately \$90,000 in net income for the fiscal year. She summarized a few new items appearing in the audit and stated that she was available to any Board members that had questions about the audit.

Mr. McCollum motioned to accept the audit report. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and the audit report was unanimously accepted.

Chairman Sims stated that the District would need to vote to retain Hilyer & Associates to conduct the audit for the next fiscal year. Mr. Jackson voted to retain Hilyer & Associates. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and unanimously approved.

8. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Report on Pending System Updates

Mr. Houston Black was recognized and said there was nothing new to report but that he had received an email from the engineers stating that land acquisition for the water tanks needed to remain a priority.

B. Report on Potential Land Acquisition for Pending System Updates

Chairman Sims recognized Mr. Jackson who reported to the Board the status of the various pieces of property he was looking at. He said that he had an inspection tour set up for one of the properties and was hopeful that the owner would be willing to sell it to the District.

C. Report on Proposed Maintenance Building

There was nothing new to report.

D. Bank of New York 2010 Bond Issue

Chairman Sims stated that the District had received a letter from Joe Jolly regarding the refinancing of the remaining 2010 Bonds to save on interest. Chairman Sims stated that this would lower the interest rates on the 2010 Bonds that weren't eligible to be refinanced in 2016.

Mr. Majors motioned to approve the District working with Mr. Jolly and his firm on refinancing the 2010 Bonds. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and unanimously approved.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Update on Board Chairman Responsibility

Chairman Sims discussed his desire to ensure that the Board Chairman was at the top of every reporting chain in the District so that the Chairman could ensure compliance with policies and regulations. He said he would work with the District's legal counsel to review the various District policies and bring any recommended amendments to the Board for approval.

B. Clearwater Solutions Report

Mr. Black was recognized briefed the Board on Clearwater's activities over the prior month.

He said that some of the District's equipment in the Opelika Master Meter box was damaged and that he had a quote of \$3,682 to repair the equipment. He said that in the future the District would be adding a pump to the Master Meter box to prevent it from flooding and damaging the equipment again.

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

Gurdip S. Lamba	\$371.13
Preston Morgan (Jet Works)	\$158.46

Mr. Lamba was recognized and spoke about the bills showing high water usage at his store and stated that he could not find a leak. He stated that his water bills had returned to normal and asked the Board to approve his adjustment.

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

C. Fire Dept. Report

Chief Keith Padgett was recognized to give a report on the Fire Department. He reviewed the December call report for the Board. He said there were 60 total calls. For the year of 2017, he said the Department ran a total of 798 calls, 76 of which were fire calls.

He said that he had spoken to the manager of the Lee County EMS provider regarding establishing protocols for volunteer first responders to handle emergency calls until the ambulance personnel arrive on the scene.

He announced that Assistant Chief Blake Simpkins had been elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Lee County Firefighters Association.

He said that members of the Department joined with the Auburn Fire Department to assist the Red Cross in installing smoke detectors in a mobile home park in Auburn. He said members of the Auburn Fire Department would come out to Beulah to assist with smoke detector installation.

Chairman Sims stated that the Fire Department assisted Commissioner Robert Ham in playing Santa Claus to children in the area. Commissioner Ham was recognized and thanked the Department for helping.

Chairman Sims said that he would be working with Mr. Black to identify the monies to move from the Fire Department Operating Account into the Savings Account.

Chairman Sims also said that it was time to look at revising the rate to be charges for responding to emergency calls for those who were not customers of the District.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Houston Black stated that he had forgotten to announce the winner of the Leak Incentive Program for December and proceeded to do so.

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

None

Chairman Sims stated that the next Regular Meeting would be at 6:00pm C.S.T. on February 20, 2018.

There being no further business, Mr. Jackson 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 _____

