

Beulah Utilities District  
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting  
March 20, 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 March 20, 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, James Majors, Garnett McCollum, and Lamar Sims. Absent: David Jackson.

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. Majors motioned to adopt the agenda. Motion was seconded by Mr. McCollum and the agenda was unanimously adopted.

6. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES** February 20, 2018

Chairman Sims asked for approval of the minutes from the February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Regular Meeting. Ms. Holt motioned to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and the minutes were unanimously approved.

7. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Chairman Sims reviewed the February financial statements and noted that the District was half way through the fiscal year. He stated that money had been moved from the revenue accounts to savings. He said approximately \$250,000 had been moved to water savings and about \$153,000 to fire savings. Ms. Holt motioned to approve the February financial statements. Motion was seconded by Mr. McCollum and the February financial statements were unanimously approved.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Report on Pending System Updates

Mr. Houston Black was recognized and said he and Chairman Sims had met with Charter Bank to discuss interim financing. He said they would meet with other banks to find the best interest rates.

Mr. Black said that he was informed that the District's median house income was approximately \$48 too much for the District to qualify for grant money. Mr. Black said the matter was being passed on to USDA higher ups to determine if something could be done to get the grant money.

B. Report on Potential Land Acquisition for Pending System Updates

a. Tank near Long Bridge

Mr. Black stated that Engineer had moved the tank site property to the edge of the overall property so as to not be in the center. He said that this new proposal was being sent to Crown Castle for their approval.

b. Tank on Lee Road 270

Chairman Sims said he would follow up with Commissioner Ham regarding purchasing the property from Medicaid.

c. Booster Station on Lee Road 266

Mr. Black said that he had spoken with the property owner and they were agreeable to selling to the District. He said a subdivision plat had been prepared and submitted to Opelika Planning Department. He said a purchase contract was being prepared by legal counsel.

C. Report on Proposed Maintenance Building

Chairman Sims stated that he instructed Mr. Black to get bids on pre-fabricated buildings.

D. Bank of New York 2010 Bond Issue

Chairman Sims said that the process was moving forward. He said that he, Mr. Majors and Mr. Black had met with S&P people regarding the District's bond rating and that the District was given a top rating. He said that they also answered some questions about the District and its operations.

E. Update on Board Chairman Responsibility

The matter was addressed at the February meeting and no further action was necessary.

F. Dump Truck for Water Dept.

Chairman Sims stated that he, Commissioner Ham, Chief Padgett went to Montgomery to look at dump trucks that were being auctioned. He said that the District didn't buy as the bidding went higher than they were willing to pay. Chairman Sims stating they were waiting to find the right bargain.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Clearwater Solutions Report

Mr. Black was recognized and said that Joe Jolly had brought to the District's attention the fact that the District had approximately \$2.1 million in bank accounts and suggested that the District put some of that money in an interest bearing account. The Board discussed the best method to do that.

Mr. Black suggested the Board implement a policy to encourage Fire only customers who were getting their water from wells to connect to the District's water system. The Board discussed various issues relating to implementing such a policy. Mr. Black stated that he would begin drafting the policy to bring before the Board.

Ms. Sabrina Chatmon was recognized to present the Clearwater Solutions Report.

She said that were three requests for rate adjustments for the month:

Andrea Wright	\$325.26
Charles Langley	\$366.96
Christopher Yates	\$307.85

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

Ms. Chatmon announced the winner of the leak incentive program for February.

She then briefed the Board on Clearwater's activities over the last month.

B. Fire Dept. Report

Chief Keith Padgett was recognized to give a report on the Fire Department. He reviewed the February call report for the Board. He said there were 50 total calls, 5 of which were fire calls.

He said that the Department was working with the Lee County Firefighters Association and the American Red Cross to create school inspection and fire prevention programs.

He announced the hiring of Brian Oppenlander as a part-time firefighter.

He said the Department had received three volunteer firefighter applications and that interviews would be conducted soon.

Chief Padgett presented proposed changes to the Department's Standard Operating Procedures. He said the changes were to make the Procedures more standardized and formal. Mr. McCollum motioned to approve the new Standard Operating Procedures. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and the Procedures were unanimously approved

He stated he would be continuing to revise the other Standard Operating Procedures and would bring them before the Board for approval as they are ready.

He informed the Board of the preliminary communications he had with Kathy Carson, Director of the Lee County EMA, regarding a Community Safe-room grant for the construction of a community storm shelter. He informed the Board that the Beulah area was identified as possible location for the storm shelter and that things were still in the preliminary stages and no decision had been made regarding the awarding of the safe-room. The Board discussed various details involved in the matter.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Holt thanked Chief Padgett for the Fire Department's response to her nephew's house.

11. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. James Clarke, 358 Lee Road 380, was recognized and spoke to the Board about his high water bill.

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

There being no further business, Ms. Holt motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. C.S.T.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

