

Beulah Utilities District  
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting  
March 19, 2019  
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 19, 2019 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, Andrew Bryan, and Lamar Sims.

Absent: None

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

6. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES** February 19, 2019

Chairman Sims asked for approval of the minutes from the February 19, 2019 Regular Meeting. Mr. Jackson motioned to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and the minutes were unanimously approved.

7. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Mr. Houston Black was recognized and reviewed the February financial statements for the Board. Mr. Jackson motioned to approve the February financial statements. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and the February financial statements were unanimously approved.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Report on Potential Land Acquisition for Pending System Updates**

a. **Tank near Long Bridge-Crown Castle**

The Board was given an update by legal counsel on the contract negotiations with Crown Castle. The Board was informed that the contract was just about finished and a contract package to execute was being prepared. The Board was told that once the contract was signed, title work would be reviewed and the closing would be scheduled.

b. **Appraisal of Tank Property on Lee Road 270/266**

Legal counsel informed the Board that the property owner, Ms. Dawson, had passed away a few weeks ago. The Board was told that in order to proceed with the condemnation process all of the heirs of Ms. Dawson would need to be identified and served copies of the paperwork.

The Board discussed alternate sites in the area for the tank and contacting the owners of those sites to inquire about the purchase of an acre.

c. **Booster Station on Lee Road 266**

The Board was informed that the purchase on the property was complete and that the deed had been recorded and delivered to the District. Chairman Sims stated that this item would come off future agendas.

B. **Wholesale Water Contract Review**

Chairman Sims stated that the District has still not heard back from East Alabama Water and that they were still in the process of conducting studies regarding the proposed increase in rates. He stated that there was nothing for The Board to act on at this meeting.

C. **SOP Documents for Fire Department**

Chairman Sims stated that given upcoming changes in Fire Department leadership, he suggested that this matter be tabled until a future meeting. Ms.

Holt motioned to table the matter until the April meeting, motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and unanimously approved.

D. Fire Committee Report

Chairman Sims reviewed the information that had been gathered from discussions with Opelika regarding their fire and water service areas and compared that information to where the District showed its water and fire service areas. The Board discussed the District's service area and how to handle the expansion of Opelika's city limits into that area.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Clearwater Solutions Report

Mr. Black was recognized and announced the winner of the leak incentive program for March.

Mr. Black next presented the Board with the engineer's proposals for the two water main extensions. The Board reviewed the proposals and discussed the costs of the projects. After discussion, Mr. Jackson motioned to move forward with the Chambers County line water main project, motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and was unanimously approved.

Mr. Black stated that there were four request for rate adjustments for the month:

Walter Wade, Jr.	\$714.12
Charles Brock, Jr.	\$183.61
William Locke, Jr.	\$493.28
Jane Murphy	\$509.42

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

Mr. Black informed the Board that the District had received a letter from Opelika Utilities notifying the District that Opelika had recently exceeded DBP levels at their test site. Mr. Black stated that this meant Opelika has exceeded the maximum allowed levels and this notification was required to be sent to the District. Mr. Black stated that the District's DBP levels did not reach the maximum limit. Mr. Black stated he met with Mr. Hilyer at Opelika and discussed the efforts Opelika was taking to remedy this problem.

Mr. Black then briefed the Board on Clearwater's activities over the prior month. Mr. Black updated the Board on the Water Department's staffing situation. He reported that Mr. Waites was taking on more responsibility and that a new Field Technician had been hired and would be starting Monday. He said Clearwater had also found a

person to fill the Field Supervisor position and the person would be relocating to the Beulah area to take the job.

Mr. Black concluded by stating that at the April meeting he would have Clearwater's yearly report to present to the Board.

B. Fire Dept. Report

Assistant Chief Simpkins was introduced and reviewed the monthly run report for the Board. He stated there were 47 total calls, two of which were fire calls. Assistant Chief Simpkins then provided the Board with a summary of the payroll report. He stated the Department's training recently had involved a lot of fire science training.

Assistant Chief Simpkins updated the Board on the efforts to sell the fire engine with the broken pump. The Board discussed the various options to sell the vehicle as well as the amount the District could expect to receive from the sale. Mr. Jackson motioned to set a reserved price on the sale of the vehicle for \$15,000, motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and was unanimously approved.

10. **FIRE CHIEF POSITION**

A. Accept Resignation of Chief Padgett

Chairman Sims announced that Chief Padgett had submitted his resignation. He stated that Chief Padgett was resigning in order to spend more time with his family. The resignation would be effective March 28 at 5:00 p.m. Chairman Sims thanked Chief Padgett for the work he had done and for bringing changes to the department to make it more professional as well as his leadership of the department over the last three years. The Board offered their thanks to Chief Padgett as well. Chief Padgett told the Board that he appreciated the opportunity the Board had given him. Ms. Holt motioned to accept the resignation of Chief Padgett, motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and was unanimously approved.

B. Approve Promotion of Assistant Chief Blake Simpkins to Chief

Chairman Sims announced that the Board had received an application from Assistant Chief Blake Simpkins to apply for the Fire Chief position. He stated that Chief Padgett has recommended Assistant Chief Simpkins for the position and Mr. Jackson motioned to promote Assistant Chief Simpkins to the Chiefs position, motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and unanimously approved.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

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

Mr. Patrick Lynn from East Alabama Canine Search and Recovery was recognized and read a letter to the Board thanking the District's Fire Department for their service in response to the Beauregard tornado.

Chairman Sims stated that the next Regular Meeting would be at 6:00pm C.S.T. on April 16, 2019.

There being no further business, Ms. Holt motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. C.S.T.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

