

Beulah Utilities District
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
April 16, 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 April 16, 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. Mr. Jackson motioned to adopt the agenda. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and the agenda was unanimously adopted.

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

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

7. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Mr. Houston Black was recognized and reviewed the March financial statements for the Board. Mr. Majors motioned to approve the March financial statements. Motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and the March 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 informed that the closing of the purchase was completed and the property was now owned by the District.

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

Mr. Jackson stated that he has reached out to the owners of the first choice tank site regarding the opportunity to purchase an acre from them but as of the meeting time he had not heard back from the owners. Mr. Jackson stated that he would follow up with the owners and would inform the Board of their response.

The Board was also updated on the efforts to locate the heirs of Mr. Dawson.

B. **Wholesale Water Contract Review**

Chairman Sims stated that there was no action to be taken on the contract with East Alabama at this time.

Mr. Black provided the Board with an update on the bid process for the water main project approved at the March meeting. Mr. Black stated that the request for bids was being advertised and that the bid opening was scheduled for May 15, 2019.

C. **Fire Committee Report**

Chairman Sims announced that the District would be doing away with the \$100 per month computerized time clock system and moving to a manual time clock. Chairman Sims stated that the District would save money this way as the time spent manually computing the time would not be greater than the price of the software that the District is currently paying.

Chairman Sims informed the Board of revised procedures for the processing of firefighter time cards. Chairman Sims stated that the new procedures would add additional checks and balances to the process. Chairman Sims stated that Chief Simpkins would represent the District at an ISO conference in Florida next week, April 22, 2019. Chairman Sims stated that the information obtained at this conference would give the District a better idea of the improvements needed in order to secure a better ISO rating.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Insurance Renewal

Mr. Black was recognized and informed the Board that May 9 is the renewal date for the District's insurance policy. Mr. Black stated that the new premium would be \$27,282 which was a slight increase over the prior year's premium. Mr. Black stated that this increase reflected additional insurable assets acquired by the District, including new vehicles and the maintenance building. Ms. Holt motioned to approve the renewal of the insurance policy and the motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and was unanimously approved.

B. Clearwater Solutions Report

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

Mr. Black informed the Board that the District's DBP levels continued to come down and that the DBP levels on the water coming from Opelika were lower as well. Mr. Black stated that the goal was to get the water tank back on line in the coming months.

Mr. Black informed the Board that a lightning strike on Lee Road 357 cracked a six-inch water main. Mr. Black briefed the Board on the District's response and efforts to restore water to its customers.

Mr. Black stated that there were three requests for rate adjustments for the month:

Martha Steele	\$418.46
Clanton Adams	\$383.47
Paul Brumfield	\$1,146.22

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

Mr. Black then announced the winner of the week incentive program for April.

C. Fire Dept. Report

Chief Blake Simpkins was recognized and briefed the Board on the monthly run report. Chief Simpkins stated that there were a total of 74 calls, nine of which were fire calls.

Chief Simpkins briefed the Board on the major fire calls and a traffic accident the Department had worked.

Chief Simpkins gave the Board a payroll report summarizing the over-time paid to employees. Chief Simpkins stated that due to the tornado relief efforts the District paid a lot of over-time for the previous month. Chief Simpkins informed the Board that he did submit paperwork to the County seeking reimbursement for some of the over-time paid.

Chief Simpkins then briefed the Board on the training sessions the Department held in March.

Chief Simpkins updated the Board on the sale of Engine 613. Chief Simpkins informed the Board that he had listed the Engine for sale and had received an inquiry from an interested purchaser. Chief Simpkins stated that he hoped to have more information for the Board at the next meeting.

Regarding the Assistant Fire Chief position, Chief Simpkins informed that Board that he was holding off on filling that position until the next budget year. Chief Simpkins stated that he would use the time to figure out what he was looking for in that position.

Chief Simpkins announced that he would like to use some of the Department's surplus funds to do improvements and updates to Department stations and equipment. Chief Simpkins stated that he was planning to provide the Board with more details on these improvements and updates at the next monthly meeting.

Chief Simpkins announced that Lee County E-911 used surplus funds to buy all of the fire departments in the county new radios. Chief Simpkins stated that they bought five new radios for the District. Chief Simpkins also announced that the Beauregard Fire Department had given the District a YETI cooler as a thank you for the work they had done in the tornado aftermath.

Chief Simpkins announced that several nursing students had come by the fire station to give a presentation on health issues in the Beulah community.

Chief Simpkins announced that Country Financial Insurance Company would be making a \$500 donation to the Fire Department.

Chief Simpkins then recognized John Findley to discuss with the Board starting a Scouts Fire Explorer Program. Mr. Findley discussed with the Board the aspects of a Fire Explorers Program and the benefits it would have for the District. Mr. Findley stated that there would be a charge of \$33 per person for adult leaders and that there would be a

\$40 charter fee and he requested that the District pay these fees. Mr. Findley stated that the program and participants would be insured through the Scouts and that this program would allow Scouts ages 14-18 to train as a Fire fighter. After discussion, Ms. Holt motioned to establish a Fire Explorers Program, motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and the motion was unanimously approved.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Jackson provided an update on the maintenance building construction.

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 May 21, 2019.

There being no further business, Ms. Holt motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m. C.S.T.

Signed _____

