

BEULAH UTILITIES DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
July 18, 2023
5320 Lee Road 270, Valley, Alabama 36854
6:00 PM CST

The Board of Directors of Beulah Utilities District met in a Regular Meeting at 6:00 pm on July 18, 2023, 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, Lamar Sims, Andrew Bryan. Absent: None.

For 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. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and the agenda was unanimously adopted.

6. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Sims asked for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 20, 2023. Mr. Jackson motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

7. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

A. **Audit Report, Mr. Jeff Hilyer CPA**

Chairman Sims recognized Mr. Jeff Hilyer to review the District's audit report. Mr. Hilyer stated that overall the District had a good year, seeing an increase of approximately \$53,000 in net income. He stated that the audit was clean and showed no issues. Mr. Hilyer informed the Board of the additional audit work that was needed due to the USDA loan.

Mr. Hilyer then announced that his accounting firm was getting out of the audit business. He provided a recommendation for a new firm to handle the District's audits.

After discussion, Mr. Jackson motioned to accept the audit report. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and the audit report was unanimously approved.

B. Approval of June 2023 Financial Statements

Chairman Sims stated that due to an error in the payroll that needed to be fixed, the Board would review the June Financial Statements but would not approve them. He said the Board would approve the June Financial Statements at the meeting next month.

Chairman Sims then recognized Mr. Jeff Aston to review the financial statements for the month of June. Mr. Aston briefed the Board on the District's June financial statements.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. New Fire Station No. 2 Building on Lee Road 266

Mr. Jackson was recognized and updated the Board on the progress of the construction. He said that sheet rock had been hung and that the building was still a few weeks away from being operational.

B. ARPA Funds

No Update

C. DWSRF Funds

No update.

D. East Alabama Agreement

Chairman Sims stated that the engineers were still studying whether the District could accommodate East Alabama's requests. The Board's attorney, Stephen Clay was recognized and confirmed that the current agreement had been extended to August 31, 2023.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Clearwater Management Review

Chairman Sims said he and Mr. Jackson had met with Clearwater representatives to discuss some of the issues in the District's management. He said that the meeting went well. Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized and told the Board that Clearwater appreciated the District's business and that Clearwater was working to address the issues raised at the meeting.

B. Alabama Rural Water Evaluation

Chairman Sims announced that he had reached out to the Alabama Rural Water Association to request that they perform a comprehensive review of the District. He said he was working with the Association to schedule a time in the coming weeks for them to start the review.

C. New Auditor - CPA

Chairman Sims stated that he had been interviewing and reviewing candidates for the District's new auditor. He said that in addition to the firm recommended by Mr. Hilyer, two other firms were under consideration. He said that he was waiting on information back from some of the firms. Chairman Sims said that after that information was received, he would call a special meeting for the Board to vote to hire a new firm.

D. Budgets for 2023-2024 Reminder

Chairman Sims announced that proposed budgets had been sent to the Board members by the Fire and Water Departments. He asked the members to review and provide feedback on the proposed budgets.

E. Clearwater Solutions Report

Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized and briefed the Board on Clearwater's activities over the past month.

Mr. Aston then informed the Board that there were two adjustments for the month:

Pamela Cervenka	\$488.20
Edward Clark	\$374.10

After discussion, Mr. Jackson motioned to approve the adjustments, and Ms. Holt seconded the motion, and the adjustments were unanimously approved.

Mr. Aston then announced the leak incentive winner of for the month.

Chairman Sims and the Board then discussed issues with the County garbage service trucks hitting water meters and mains as they turned around. He said this issue would be addressed with the County.

The Board then discussed issues with the filling of the Long Bridge Water Tank. The issue was that the pressure required to completely fill the tank was causing blowouts on lines and mains down on the lake. The Board discussed possible solutions with Clearwater. After discussion, Chairman Sims said that the issue and possible solutions would be addressed with the engineers.

E. Beulah Fire and Rescue Report.

Chief Blake Simpkins was recognized, and he briefed the Board on the monthly call report. He stated that there had been 96 total calls, six of which were fire calls. He briefed the Board on the notable calls for the month.

He informed the Board there had been 98 hours of overtime worked during the month. He said that this was the result of sick and vacation leave, storm cleanup and the Fourth of July holiday.

Chief Simpkins then briefed the Board on the training activities conducted by the Department and the prior month.

He announced there has been one random drug test the prior month.

Chief Simpkins then reviewed a few items on his proposed budget with the Board.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board discussed studying the compensation paid to board members of similar districts in the surrounding area. After discussion, Mr. Jackson motioned to begin a study of board member compensation. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and unanimously approved. Ms. Holt was appointed to conduct the study.

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

Douglas and Tammy Blackmon, Jacqueline Grander, and Betty and Carl Cupp were recognized and discussed with the Board a water service issue they were experiencing on their properties. The Board informed the speakers that it was a private matter between them and that the Board had no authority to get involved.

12. **NEXT MEETING**

Chairman Sims stated that the next regular Board meeting would be at 6:00 PM CST on August 15, 2023.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Jackson motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 PM CST.

Signed _____

