

BEULAH UTILITIES DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
August 15, 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 August 15, 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, James Majors, Lamar Sims, Andrew Bryan. Absent: David Jackson.

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. Mr. Bryan motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Holt 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 July 18, 2023, and the special meeting on July 25, 2023. Mr. Bryan motioned to approve both sets of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

7. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

A. **Approval of June 2023 Financial Statements**

The Board reviewed the corrected June 2023 financial statements.

- B. Approval of July 2023 Financial Statements
Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized, and he reviewed financial statements for the Board.

After review, Mr. Majors motion to approve the June and July financial statements. The motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and the financial statements for June and July were unanimously approved.

Chairman Sims presented the Board with a couple of vendor requests for automatic drafting from the District's bank account. Chairman Simms appointed James Majors to study the requests and report back to the Board.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. New Fire Station No. 2 Building on Lee Road 266
Chief Blake Simpkins was recognized, and he informed the Board that the electrical had been hooked up and that the interior furnishings had been purchased. He stated that they were currently working on a drainage issue on the exterior of the property. He said the building was still few weeks away from being finished.

- B. ARPA Funds
No Update

- C. DWSRF Funds
Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized and said that there was no update on the funds themselves, but the staff had identified an issue with the Crown Castle tank fill line being connected to the wrong water main. He stated that he was working with the Engineer to address the issue.

- D. East Alabama Agreement
Chairman Sims announced that he had received a report back from the Engineer on East Alabama's requested volume and flow increases to the Water Agreement. After consultation with Clearwater to review the Engineer's report it was decided that the District's system could not accommodate the requested increase from East Alabama and that the flow rate and water volume available for purchase would need to remain the same as under the previous agreement.

After discussion Mr. Bryan motioned to approve a new Water Supply Agreement with East Alabama. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and unanimously approved with Ms. Holt abstaining.

- E. Director Fees Request – Lee County Commissioners
Chairman Sims announced that Mr. Majors had gone before the County Commission to request the increase in the Director Fee that the Board had previously approved last month. Chairman Sims said that the County Commission unanimously approved increasing the Director's Fee for the Chairman to \$600.00 per meeting and for the Board Members to \$400 per meeting.

- F. Sanders Easement Agreement Review.
The Board’s attorney, Stephen Clay, was recognized and he reviewed the terms of the Easement Agreement for the Board.
- G. Alabama Rural Water Review.
Chairman Sims announced that the Alabama Rural Water Association’s review team will begin its review of the District on Monday of next week.
- H. District Sign.
Chairman Sims stated that the Fire Department had cleaned the sign and that it was looking much better. He thanked the Fire Department for their work cleaning the sign.
- I. Water and Fire Rate Review.
Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized to provide the Board an update on the rate study. He stated that the work on the rate study was still underway and that he hoped to have recommendations for the Board next month.
- J. Budget.
Chairman Sims announced that proposed budgets had been sent out from both Departments to the Board and he requested that they review and ask any questions they had in time for the next month's meeting.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Clearwater Solutions Report.
Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized and briefed the Board on Clearwater’s activities over the past month.

He then gave the Board an update on the on their efforts to study and identify the District’s water loss.

Mr. Aston informed the Board that he had spoken to the County Engineer regarding the issue of the garbage service trucks hitting and breaking water meter boxes. He was informed that the garbage company would be told of the issue.

Mr. Ashton stated that there was one adjustment for the month:

Scott McWhorter	\$172.00
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Ms. Holt motioned to approve the adjustment and the motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and the adjustment was unanimously approved.

Mr. Aston then announced the incentive program winner for the month.

B. Beulah Fire & Rescue Report.

Chief Blake Simpkins was recognized, and he briefed the Board on the monthly call report. He stated the department had run a total of 84 calls, 5 of which were fire calls. He stated there had been no notable calls.

He announced to the Board that there had been 118 hours of overtime paid out the prior month. He stated this was due to a Captain being out as well as firefighters having to cover for other firefighters who were having to work mandatory overtime in other fire departments.

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

He announced there had been one random drug test the previous month.

C. Hydrant Expense Classification.

Chief Simpkins was recognized, and he informed the Board that the Department had contracted with Southeastern Management, a third party inspection firm, to inspect, service and test all the District's fire hydrants. Chief Simpkins said the test data would be provided to the District which would help with the District's ISO rating. Chairman Sims stated that the cost for this service would be expensed to the Water Department since that was the Department that owned the infrastructure.

D. Budgets for 2023-2024.

Chairman Sims again reminded everyone that the budgets are due next month.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized, and he updated the Board on the staffing of the District.

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

Mr. Shane Fraley of 4292 West Point Road, LaGrange, Georgia was recognized and spoke to the Board of an issue he was having with his water bill at his lake house. Mr. Fraley and the Board discussed his water use issues and the possible cause of the excessive water use.

12. **NEXT MEETING**

Chairman Sims stated that next regular meeting would be at 6:00 PM CST on September 19, 2023.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Ms. Holt motioned to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and unanimously approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM CST.

Signed _____

