

BEULAH UTILITIES DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
September 19, 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 September 19, 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, Lamar Sims, David Jackson, James Majors, Andrew Bryan.

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 August 15, 2023. Mr. Bryan motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

7. **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized, and he reviewed financial statements for the Water Department for August.

Chief Blake Simpkins was recognized and reviewed the financial statements for the Fire Department for August.

After review, Mr. Jackson motioned to approve the August financial statements. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan, and the financial statements for August were unanimously approved.

8. **OLD BUSINESS**

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

Mr. Jackson was recognized, and he informed the Board that the inside of the building was completed except for a few plumbing items. He stated that work was progressing on the remaining outdoor issues as well. He said they were working on correcting a drainage issue on the property.

B. ARPA Funds

No Update.

C. DWSRF Funds

No Update.

D. East Alabama Agreement

Chairman Sims announced that East Alabama had approved the Contract and that a signed copy had been delivered to the District.

E. Director Fees Request – Lee County Commissioners

Chairman Sims announced that the Lee County Commission had voted to authorize the Board to raise the Director's fees as they had requested. After discussion, David Jackson motioned to leave the Director Fees as they currently are until January 1st. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan, and unanimously approved.

F. Alabama Rural Water Review.

No Update.

G. Water and Fire Rate Review.

Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized, and he updated the Board on the Water Rate Study. He stated that before he could come to the Board with a recommendation, he needed to get with the Engineer to identify the future capital projects that the District would need to undertake in the coming years. He stated that once he had spoken to the Engineer and had gotten an idea of the future projects he could come to the Board with a recommendation.

Chief Blake Simpkins was recognized, and he updated the Board on his Fire Fee Study. The Board discussed with Chief Simpkins raising the Fire Fee. After discussion, Mr. Bryan motioned to increase the Fire Fee to \$20 per month. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and the motion to increase the fees was unanimously approved. The Board announced that the fee increase would be effective October 1st.

H. Budget.

Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized, and he reviewed the proposed Water Budget for the Board. After discussion Mr. Majors motioned to approve the Water Department Budget. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and the Water Department Budget was unanimously approved.

Chief Blake Simpkins was recognized, and he reviewed the proposed Fire Department Budgets for the Board. After discussion, Ms. Holt motioned to approve the Fire Department Budget. The motion was seconded Mr. Bryan, and the Fire Department Budget was unanimously approved.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Renewal of Mr. Major's Term on the Board.

Chairman Sims announced that Mr. Major 's term on the Board was expiring at the end of the year. Chairman Sims reminded Mr. Majors of the deadline to complete the form to have his name considered for reappointment.

B. Altheria House Construction Project – 6” and 2-1/2” taps

Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized that he briefed the Board on a large structure that was being built and the unique needs it had for water infrastructure. Mr. Aston stated that the Engineer was reviewing the project and any effect it might have on the District's water system. Then Chairman Sims reminded everyone that the Developer of this project would be responsible for the costs of any new water infrastructure needed.

C. Clearwater Solutions Report.

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

Mr. Aston updated the Board on the water loss situation and the ongoing efforts to find and fix leaks in the system.

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

He then announced that there were four adjustments for the month:

Delmeiko Gilbert	\$1,527.16
Dorothy Hudmon	\$ 626.36
Felicia Thrift	\$ 356.90
Doris Leamer	\$ 159.10

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

The following individuals were recognized to discuss with the Board complaints about water pressure at their homes:

Virginia Turner
David Mann
Perry Kraft

167 Lee Road 353
8044 Lee Road 158
8567 Lee Road 158

D. Beulah Fire & Rescue Report.

Chief Blake Simpkins was recognized, and he briefed the Board on the monthly call report. He said there had been a total of 96 calls the prior month, 5 of which were fire calls. He then briefed the Board on some of the notable calls.

He announced to the Board there had been 38 hours of overtime worked the past month and that this was due to the Department's call volume.

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

He announced there had been one random drug screen.

Chief Simpkins announced that he was studying how to implement a Fire Fee for RV parks.

E. Election of Officers.

Chairman Sims announced that it was time to elect officers for the coming year. Ms. Holt motioned to appoint a slate of officers as follows:

Chairman	Lamar Sims
Vice Chairman	David Jackson
Secretary/Treasurer	James Majors
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer	Linda Holt

Mr. Bryan seconded in electing that slate of officers and the officer slate was unanimously approved.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

NONE.

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

NONE.

12. **NEXT MEETING**

Chairman Sims stated that the next regular meeting would be at 6:00 PM CST on October 17, 2023, at 6:00 PM CST.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Ms. Holt motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM CST.

Signed_____

