

Minutes of the West Madison Utility District Meeting
January 10, 2017

BE IT REMEMBERED that the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the West Madison Utility District was duly convened, held and conducted on January 10, 2017 in the Kearney Park Community Center at 443 Livingston Vernon Road, Flora, MS as follows, to wit:

The President of the Board, Louvella Lawson, presided and called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Commissioner Louvella Lawson	Rachel Brown
Commissioner Scott Colson	KT Newman
Commissioner Letitia Reeves	
Commissioner Evelyn Brown	
Commissioner Larry Bennett	

The Board President announced that the members of the Board present constituted a quorum and declared the meeting duly convened. Commissioner Brown opened the meeting with a prayer.

Re: Approval of the January 10, 2017, Agenda:

Commissioner Reeves did offer and Commissioner Colson did second a motion to approve the Agenda for January 10, 2017 meeting of the Board of Commissioner of the West Madison Utility District. The vote on the matter being as follows:

Commissioner Louvella Lawson	Aye
Commissioner Scott Colson	Aye
Commissioner Letitia Reeves	Aye
Commissioner Evelyn Brown	Aye
Commissioner Larry Bennett	Aye

The matter carried unanimously and the agenda for the January 10, 2017 meeting is hereby approved.

In re: Approval of the December 6, 2016 minutes

Commissioner Colson did offer, and Commissioner Reeves did second a motion to approve the Minutes for the December 6, 2016 meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the West Madison Utility District. The vote on the matter being as follows:

Commissioner Louvella Lawson	Aye
Commissioner Scott Colson	Aye
Commissioner Letitia Reeves	Aye
Commissioner Evelyn Brown	Aye
Commissioner Larry Bennett	Aye

The matter carried unanimously and the agenda for the January 10, 2017 meeting is hereby approved.

In re: Nomination and Election of officers

Commissioner Colson offered that Item number 4 on Agenda (Nomination and Election of officers), be tabled for later in the meeting. It was unanimously agreed by all commissioners

In re: Operator's Report

KT Newman was reviewing the operator's report when Commissioner Reeves asked who had made a call to DEQ to go out to customer's property located at 3001 Madison. KT said, he did not know, when he had received word that there was trouble with sewage in the person's yard he went out to investigate. Upon inspecting the property it seemed like someone had been working on the sewer line. KT said, he called Mr. Collier to come out to jett the blocked line. DEQ arrived just about the time the line had been unblocked and was in working order. DEQ was satisfied and agreed that the customer should be billed.

Commissioner Reeves, commented that the CPA asked about the diffuse aerator installment because she did not see where it had been paid. It appears that WMUD had not received the invoice.

Commissioner Bennet wanted to know if the 161 Renfro Dr. issue had been resolved. KT said the water line had been frozen because it was only buried about three inches in the ground, which does not meet standard code. Once the weather warms up the line will be buried at least 18 inches. However, the line is located under the trailer and that is where the break occurred. KT said a solution to fixing the line should not be a problem.

Commissioner Benner inquired about the Water Loss Report. KT said, each month that this report is generated from RVS and it shows the amount of water sold verses the amount used. Due to the large amount of customers attending the meeting, Commissioner Bennet had to stop KT from responding and ask the customers to please stop talking because the Board was having trouble hearing what KT was saying. One customer responded that the talking was being done because they did not if they should be hearing what was being said and did not understand what was going on. Commissioner Bennett explained that KT was giving his report and that the Board was following the approved Agenda. The customer wanted to know if once KT was finished, if a report would be given to the public. Commissioner Bennett said "no report will be given tonight for the public". At this point, KT stopped giving his report because the customers kept interrupting him.

[A total of six customers spoke, however their names were not recorded. Therefore, The customers will be noted as customers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6]

Customer #1: asked if they would be given a chance to express their concerns about the high water bills. Commissioner Bennett said, "no one had requested to speak at the meeting about bill issues".

Customer #2: stated, that since the meeting was not going to be open to the public to speak, she had two questions. Commissioner Bennett said, "if you have questions, you should let the Board know ahead of time so the Board could prepare answers". The customer said that is what she was trying to find out, "how to get on the agenda, and when will the agenda and minutes be available for her or any other customer to read". Commissioner Bennett said, the minutes would be available in the office once they have been approved.

Customer #3: said, "The lady who worked in the office told us (her and her husband) to come to the meeting about our concerns". Customer indicated that she had called three (3) times and every single time she was told to come to the Board meeting. Commissioner Colson said, the employee had told her "wrong" and that she needed to be on the agenda. The husband appeared to be upset and said, "We are being screwed with these high bills and we can't get answers"? Again, Commissioner Colson said, "you have to be on the agenda because with this many people things could get out of control real quick."

Customer #4: stated, she respected following protocol, therefore, what day and time should she call to get on the agenda? Commissioner Reeves, response was, "she could call the office give her name, address and the reason for addressing the board.

Customer #5: said, "The office employee would not take her information and that the employee had hung up on her on Friday and that she was not even rude to her (WMUD employee)". Rachel the office employee said, "oh no, she did not hang up on her". Before things could get really out-of-hand, Commissioner Reeves asked the lady to bring up her bill so it could be reviewed. The customer pointed out the fact that there was no way two people could use 38 thousand gallons of water in one month and WMUD had added a zero to her bill.

Customer #6: came up and said, that she had been calling back and forth with KT about raw sewage sitting in her front yard; and KT was supposed to be repairing the line but he had not been returning her calls, and she could not wait another month to have this issue resolved. KT had told the customer that he would fix her problem. Commissioner Lawson asked the customer what was her address and she said it was 110 Magnolia Street. Again, the office manager had told the customer to come tonight in regards to this issue. At this point, the meeting was out of order and Commissioner Bennett said, since the customers had been told to come to the meeting then we had an obligation to hear their concerns.

The following customers also had issues about high water bills:

- Harry Thomas located at 173 Hidden Lake Road
- Sterling Powell located at 244 Middle Road (bill had tripled)

- Crystal Fuqua located at 3021 Madison Street. Ms. Fuqua had attended the
- December meeting to address how her water bill had more than doubled and is still high.

Commissioner Reeves said a reread would be done on their meters and they would not be charged a late fee. The office would contact them after their meters were checked again.

KT gave a response to the customer located at 110 Magnolia St. In November of 2015, this customer, Mr. and Mrs. Denton shared lines with a neighbor and the lines were split into a "Y" which led down to main sewer. KT told the Dentons the problem was not WMUD related. A tree which was on the property line had spread its roots in to the sewer drain. The Dentons would have to cut down the tree and remove the roots so the pipes could be repaired. The Dentons did cut down the tree but left the roots. KT told the Dentons he would volunteer to repair the line for them once the work had been completed of removing the tree and the roots. KT said he never agreed to remove the roots, only to repair the pipe for them at no charge.

At this point, Commissioner Bennet announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session and they would have to leave but could return once the Executive Session was adjourned. However, before going into the Executive Session KT was asked to complete his up-date regarding water loss. The RVS report showed 6 million gallons had been pumped in December, 2016. However, only 2 million gallons of water had been sold. Somewhere there had to be quite a few leaks. KT said, typically there would only be about a 25% loss of water, which would include the fire hydrants being flushed. KT was driving down Hunt St. when he noticed a fire hydrant stem was broken and water was flowing out of the hydrant. Also there was a second hydrant that had a fire hose connected to it and the hose was leading over to the Product Services building. Product Services was billed on a flat rate, therefore, it could not be determined how much actual water was being used by the company. More than likely this could possibly account for some of the water loss. It was agreed that KT would contact the owner, Patrick Dickson, about the illegal use of water and putting a meter on the fire hydrant that had a hose leading to his building. The fire hydrant with the broken stem would be capped off.

Commissioner Brown said on the corner of St. Charles and Livingston Vernon Rd there was a ditch that always had standing water in it. It is unknown where the water was coming from but this could also be an unaccounted source of water loss. KT said he would have one of the technicians look into this matter.

KT said there were ten (10) more accounts that needed to be updated by adding zero(s) at the end of the reading. The following accounts needed updating:: #'s 20, 60, 126, 153, 165, 167, 189, 770, 885 and 982. Commissioner Reeves would inform the office employee to update these accounts.

Next item on KT's report was a smoke test with Rural Water Assoc scheduled for January 12. KT suggested Jerry Tullos with Engineering Services be in attendance during the smoke test.

KT informed the commissioners that the annual Health Department inspection will be tentatively set for the week of February 6, 2016. Any Commissioner that wanted to attend on a certain date let him know and he would confirm the date later in January.

At the close of KT's report a motion was made by Commissioner Reeves and second by Commissioner Lawson to go into Executive Session to discuss a Personnel issue.

Motion was made by Commissioner Colson and second by Commissioner Bennett to end Executive Session.

Re: Emergency Response Plan approval update

Commissioner Reeves motioned for approval on number 13, items one (1) and two (2), Commissioner Lawson second, the matter carried unanimously by all Board Commissioners that the Emergency Response Plan be approved with the new updates.

NEW BUSINESS

Re: Board Meeting Policy

Commissioner Reeves suggested that the guidelines for the Board Meeting Policy be placed in a conspicuous place in the WMUD office. Commissioner Bennett motion and Commission Brown second that the BMP would be located to a more visible place in the office for customers to see. The matter carried unanimously by all Board Commissioners.

Re: Item 4, Election of New Officers

The nomination of new officers for the fiscal 2017 year are as follow:
Latitia Reeves nominated Scott Colson as Treasurer, Evelyn Brown second, the vote carried unanimously by all Board Commissioners.

Evelyn Brown nominated Larry Bennett as President, Louvella Lawson second, the vote carried unanimously by all Board Commissioners.

Scott Colson nominated Letitia Reeves as Vice President, Larry Bennett second, the vote carried unanimously by all Board Commissioners.

Re: Cleaning of Community Center

Two vendors had submitted bids to clean the community center. Vendor James Grant gave a quote of \$75.00 and Vendor Kenny King gave a quote of \$70.00 to clean the building. Each vendor agreed to the terms of sweeping, mopping the floors which included the bathrooms, wiping the tables stove and refrigerator, picking up all trash inside and outside of building and putting trash in the proper containers outside. Neither vendor gave a quote on stripping, waxing and buffing the floors. Commissioner Brown would check with each vendor for a new quote on stripping, waxing, and buffing the

floors. Commissioner Bennet motioned that for a period of time each vendor be rotated in cleaning the building. Commissioner Brown second, the matter carried unanimously by all Board Commissioners.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Reeves reported that the WMUD office computer has a scanner and it just needed to be hooked up. Commissioner Reeves has volunteered to hook up the scanner when she has available time. Once the scanner is hooked up the fax line can be eliminated from the phone bill.

With no other business to discuss Commissioner Colson motion that the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Lawson second