

WEST MADISON UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
January 9, 2018

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 9, 2018, in the Kearney Park Community Center at 443 Livingston Vernon Road, Flora, MS, as follows to wit:

The President of the Board, Larry Bennett, presided and called the meeting to order.

Present:	Absent:
Commissioner Larry Bennett	Commissioner Evelyn Brown
Commissioner Scott Colson	Commissioner Louvella Lawson
Commissioner Letitia Reeves	

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

IN RE: APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 9, 2018 AGENDA:

Commissioner Reeves noted certain items to be added to the agenda prior to approval. Commissioner Colson motioned and Commissioner Reeves seconded, to approve the Agenda as amended for the January 9, 2018 meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the West Madison Utility District. The vote on the matter being as follows:

Commissioner Scott Colson	Aye
Commissioner Larry Bennett	Aye
Commissioner Letitia Reeves	Aye

The matter carried unanimously and the Agenda as amended for the January 9, 2018 meeting is hereby approved.

IN RE: CONSENT ITEMS

Commissioner Colson motioned and Commissioner Reeves seconded to approve the Consent Items on the January 9, 2018 Agenda as amended as follows:

3. Acknowledgement and Acceptance of EOM RVS Report for December, 2017
4. Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Financial Statement for November 30, 2017
5. Annual Review of Emergency Response Plan for Water Systems
6. Annual Review of Security Vulnerability Self-Assessment Guide for Water Systems
7. Declare three filing cabinets surplus property
8. Declare Samsung Fax/Scanner #CNK2JC9704067AFL:EL1TKBU1100 Surplus and approve purchase of replacement Lexmark MX310dn multifunction laser scanner/fax/printer/copier

The vote on the matter being as follows:

Commissioner Scott Colson	Aye
Commissioner Letitia Reeves	Aye
Commissioner Larry Bennett	Aye

The matter carried unanimously and the Consent Items for the January 9, 2018 are hereby approved.

IN RE: NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2018 YEAR

Commissioner Reeves motioned and Commissioner Colson seconded that all commissioners remain in their respective positions for the 2018 year. The vote on the matter begin as follows:

Commissioner Scott Colson	Aye
Commissioner Larry Bennett	Aye
Commissioner Letitia Reeves	Aye

The matter carried unanimously and the officers for the 2018 year will be as follows: Larry Bennett, President; Letitia Reeves, Vice President; Scott Colson, Treasurer, and Evelyn Brown, Secretary.

IN RE: CUSTOMER ISSUES

(1) Peggy Wilkerson -Ms. Wilkerson stated that she had spoken to K. T. Newman in November about the fact that she had intended to move to Kearney Park Estates and paid the \$150.00 "deposit," but she never moved to the area and had requested a refund of the \$150.00. K.T. had sent an email regarding this matter, but in the meantime, a bill was generated that reflected a charge of \$45.00 for usage of 1,560 gallons of water. Ms. Wilkerson stated that she never moved to this area and never received a key to the trailer. Commissioner Bennett informed Ms. Wilkerson that she is responsible for the bill as it was in her name, and proposed that WMUD deduct the \$45.00 from the \$150.00 and refund her the remaining balance. Ms. Wilkerson stated that she did not agree with this and that she was not going to pay the bill. Commissioner Bennett further explained that the charge of \$45.00 should be between her and Kearney Park Estates, not her and WMUD. Ms. Wilkerson stated that she had spoken to the owner of Kearney Park Estates and they had told her that she should not have to pay this bill. Commissioner Colson informed Ms. Wilkerson that WMUD was trying to help her as we do not normally refund anything as the \$150.00 is not a deposit, but an "up- front non-refundable fee." Commissioner Reeves asked Ms. Wilkerson who she had spoken to at Kearney Park Estates, and Ms. Wilkerson said, "Angela Dorsey." Commissioner Reeves informed Ms. Wilkerson that Ms. Dorsey is the manager, not the owner of Kearney Park Estates and asked if the owner knew about the situation. Ms. Wilkerson stated, "I would think so." Commissioner Reeves stated " it's obvious that someone used water at this location under your name, but due to the fact that the account is in your name it makes you liable for the usage. However, as a favor to you, and due to the fact that we do know the owner of Kearney Park Estates, one of us will contact the owner on your behalf to see if he is willing to help you with the \$45.00 charge. It is not WMUD's fault that someone used water at this location, but the owner does need to be aware of this situation, and it is up to him if he feels that he would pay you back that money." Commissioner Colson asked Ms. Wilkerson if she was okay with that and she said, "yes" and he said that he would leave her a check for the \$105.00 balance in the office after 5 tomorrow so that she would be able to get it Thursday. He will contact Eddie Ziglar, the owner of Kearney Park Farms about the situation.

IN RE: REQUEST FOR MINUTES PROCEDURE

Commissioner Colson motioned and Commissioner Reeves seconded to adopt the Request for Minutes Procedure, as amended, with the as amended with the vote on the matter being as follows:

Commissioner Scott Colson	Aye
Commissioner Larry Bennett	Aye
Commissioner Letitia Reeves	Aye

The matter carried unanimously and the Request for Minutes Procedure as amended is hereby approved.

IN RE: OPERATOR'S REPORT

K. T. Newman gave a brief overview stating that water and wastewater samples were good for December and no violations to report. Wells and lift stations were operating normally and WMUD had no frozen pipes from the low temperatures. However, due to customers running water to keep their pipes from freezing, K.T. stated that we would probably hear from customers about their bills being higher next month. Commissioner Colson asked if the fire department was receiving a bill and K. T. stated that they were not as the Board had never instructed him to send one. A short discussion ensued and Commissioner Reeves stated that if it showed that the Fire Department was only using 1,500-2000 gallons a month, she did not think WMUD should send them a bill, but if something happened where that usage escalated WMUD should revisit this matter. Commissioner Bennett asked K. T. to provide a history of the Fire Department account, and congratulated K. T. for not having any major breaks so that WMUD would have had to shut down providing water to its customers.

In RE: Customer Issues

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis asked for the Board to hear their concerns, and the Board agreed to do so.

(2) Howard and Stephanie Lewis at 3010 Madison addressed the Board about their concerns regarding their water and sewer charges going up and down each month as well as having an issue with the fact that when she paid her last bill and paid it short by \$2.00, she was charged a \$20.00 late fee. Ms. Lewis commented that she felt WMUD was "price gouging." Commissioner Bennett explained that water usage is what makes the water and sewer charges fluctuate and also that WMUD has a policy where if there is any balance owed on an account, a late fee is automatically added after the tenth of the month. Ms. Lewis stated that they had been patient with all the changes made but "you all should have some leeway as well. Why put money into an old system when we need a new system? This is ridiculous charging \$20.00 late fee for \$2.00." Commissioner Bennett explained to Mr. and Ms. Lewis that the Board members in front of them had only been on the Board a little over a year and we have been working hard to get everything in order. Mr. Lewis asked if we knew the history of the area. Commissioner Reeves stated that the commissioners did know the history of the area and informed the Lewis' about many of the changes WMUD had made in the last year and why those changes were made. She also stated that the increase in rates were discussed at length and WMUD knew it had to be done and the issue was whether to do it in increments or all at once. "We voted to do it all at once, and I hope we don't have to do it again for awhile as I know it had quite an impact on all of us." Mr. Lewis asked if WMUD was under the Public Service Commission and Commissioner Reeves told him, "no," and explained how the utility district was formed and how it operated. He asked about how it applied for grants, etc., and Commissioner Reeves explained that to him as well. Mr. Lewis asked if WMUD was under the Public Service Commission and Commissioner Reeves told him, "no," and explained how the utility district was formed and how it operated. He asked about how it applied for grants, etc., and Commissioner Reeves explained that to him as well. Ms. Lewis asked about who would she talk to about a manhole cover being cracked as the one in her yard is cracked and she had been complaining about it for a long time. Commissioner Bennett told her that K.T. was the person to contact. She nodded her head and said "okay." NOTE: K. T. checked on the manhole cover the following day, and informed the Board that he could not see anything wrong with it.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Bennett asked if there was any old business. None was stated.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bennett asked if there was any new business. None was stated.

IN RE: ENTERING INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Larry Bennett stated that the Board would now enter into Executive Session to discuss a matter that may involve potential litigation.

IN RE: EXITING EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Larry Bennett stated that the Board was now out of Executive Session.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Reeves made the motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Colson with all voting "aye." The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:
West Madison Utility District

By: _____
Commissioner Larry Bennett, President

Minutes Prepared By:

Commissioner Letitia Reeves,
Vice President