

Minutes of the West Madison Utility District Meeting
February 14, 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 February 14, 2017 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.

The following members were present:

Commissioner Louvella Lawson KT Newman
Commissioner Scott Colson
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 February 14, 2017, Agenda:

Comm. Colson did offer and Comm. Lawson did second a motion to approve the Agenda for February 14, 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 February 14, 2017 meeting is hereby approved.

In re: Approval of the January 10, 2017 minutes

Comm. Colson did offer, and Comm. Reeves did second a motion to approve the Minutes for the January 10, 2017 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

Re: Annette Morris Account # 135

WMUD customer located at 3039 Varililia Road wanted to know why her water bill had increased for the month of January. Ms. Morris said she had not been at home for the month of January. Due to the death of her mother, Ms. Morris went to stay with her father during this difficult time of bereavement. Comm. Bennett told Ms. Morris that a reread would be done on her meter and WMUD will contact her if there is a discrepancy in the reread. If there is a significant amount of usage from the first read to the second reading, then there could possibly be a leak in her house or on the property. Ms. Morris was agreeable to the reread suggestion and would look forward to hearing from WMUD.

KT Newman made the suggestion that when a customer has made a request to be on the agenda, to have Rachel notify him and he could possibly resolve the issue before having the customer come before the WMUD Board.

Re: Operator Report

KT reported that WMUD received a deficiency from the Dept. of Health due to the repairs needed to be made on the Water Tank. WMUD will be trying to obtain a Grant from CMPD for repairs and to paint the water tank. Amy McCloud will be sending a report to WMUD toward the end of February which will state the inspection findings and grading.

The following accounts still need to have a zero added:

Accounts, 125, 128, 165, 240, 949 and 662

Spencer Scoggins will be contacted regarding the inability to track the runtime hours on the sewer bypass pump.

See attachments for items 5, 6 and 7 on the Operator's Report

The smoke test that was done in January did reveal a section of pipe was needed at the corner of St Charles Ave. and Livingston Vernon Road. Also there was two, 14 inch lines going out to the Lagoon and one of the lines had collapsed which will require about 400 ft. of pipe to repair. The Lift Station is down which will require Engineering Services to come out and give assessment for repair.

There is still a large amount of water loss that cannot be explained and additional help may be needed in finding the possible cause for water loss. The amount of leaks that have been repaired does not equate to the amount of water being used. KT will continue to try and resolve the issue of why such a large amount of water being used versus the amount of being sold.

Re: Consent Items

Motion to accept items 7 thru 15 were made by Comm. Reeves and second by Comm. Scott.

The vote on the matter carried unanimously.

Item 16 on the agenda was discussed by the Board and it was decided that WMUD would withdraw its request to waive the back money owed to Madison County Wastewater Authority but would make arrangements to pay off the 16,992.00 debt. Comm. Colson motion however, Comm. Reeves asked that it not be second but discuss how much can be paid each month toward the back bill. The Board of Commissioners agreed that \$177.00 should be offered as a monthly installment to the Board of Waste Water Management until the debt was paid in full.

Comm. Reeves created form letter procedures for items 17 and 18. Office Manager will follow the new procedure for customers with issues regarding water/sewer bills and sewer blockage. (See Form letters attachment).

Comm. Brown motion and Comm. Lawson second that the following approval be used to resolve Agenda item 19. To resolve the issue with Mary Simmons billing the following actions would occur:

Mary Simmons would have to pay the \$100 dollar meter fee and the \$37.50 current water bill to restore immediate water usage. Starting from June 2016, the office manager will go back over the past monthly meter reads and add the total charges that should have been billed to Ms. Simmons each month. Arrangements can be made to pay the bill on a timely installment plan. The vote on the matter carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Re: Rates

Comm. Reeves gave a history summary for increasing water rates as follows:

Year	Water	Sewer
1998	14.00	11.00
2005	15.00	13.00

2008 – Dept. of Rural Water Assoc. strongly suggested that a rate increase take place however WMUD did not comply.

2009	21.00	13.00
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2015 A rate study was done again with the suggestion that WMUD increase its rates. However, as of to date the water rates are the same as 2009.

2016 Another rate study was done by Rural Water and the following options was suggested.

OPTION	BASE	PER 1,000	AVE BILL	PROJECTED INCOME
#1	\$24.00	\$5.00	\$72.57	\$348,771.00
#2	25.00	4.60	72.60	348,936.00
#3	23.00	5.40	72.54	348,606.00
#4	22.00	5.80	72.50	348,440.00

After much discussion, Comm. Brown and Comm. Lawson stated they would go on record as not being in favor of any of the above options. They felt it was too much of an increase because about 80% of the area that the rates would affect drastically was elderly and low income residents. Comm. Colson made the following suggestion:

Water \$25.00 per 2,000 gallons with \$5.00 increase per 1000 gallons

Sewer \$20.00 per 2,000 gallons with \$5.00 increase per 1000 gallons

The average customer's bill would be \$45.00 per month

Comm. Brown and Comm. Lawson found these terms to be acceptable and Comm. Lawson suggested that it be put to a vote. Comm. Colson motion and Comm. Reeves second that the new rates be instituted May, 2017.

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. Comm. Reeves would draft a letter to notify customers about the rate increase. Letters will be going out by the first week of March, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

Re: USPS

Comm. Reeves spoke with the Flora Postmaster regarding sending the billing statements out to customer at the meter rate of 28.4 cents per card. WMUD has been given approval to use the lower rate because we do have enough customers for that fee to applicable.

Re: Office Supply

The following items were approved for purchase:

Case of Copy Paper, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Hand Soap, Clorox and Pine Soil

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