

Minutes of the West Madison Utility District Meeting
March 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 March 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 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 March 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 Evelyn Brown	Aye
Commissioner Larry Bennett	Aye

The matter carried unanimously and the agenda for the March 14, 2017 meeting is hereby approved.

In re: Approval of the February 14, 2017 minutes

Minutes for the February 14, 2017 meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the West Madison Utility District could not be printed and therefore was not available for approval. Approval of February 14, minutes would be approved and accepted on next scheduled meeting of April 12, 2017.

Re: Customer's Water Increase Issues

1. Michael Jefferson, a representative for Magnolia Heights Baptist Church, came before the Board to discuss the water tap fee. Mr. Jefferson wanted to know why (a) a water tap fee of \$800.00 should be paid to WMUD when the church already had water coming into the building and how was the rates determined? (b) where would the new meter be installed? KT Newman addressed his concerns by stating, new customers that didn't have water service the \$800.00 applied to them but churches and existing customers who had water coming into the building would only be charged \$200.00 for

the installation of a new meter. The church's meter would be installed out front on the left side of the building and it would have a case over it which will cover an existing whole.

2. West Madison Concern Citizens Organization

Representative, Sam Williams was addressing the Board when Scott Colson interrupted him by asking if the Organization was registered. Mr. Williams said, the board had been in existent for four years and had been registered with the Secretary of State. The organization was formed for the purpose of providing support and development for the upkeep of the community. Mr. Williams introduced the following: Carter Brown, intern president, Sam Williams, intern Vice President, and Cora Grayer, Treasurer. Mr. Williams then asked why the water rates were being increased and what is the proposed future development for West Madison Community Water District area?

Board President, Larry Bennett explained that the current board is about a year old and its objective is to provide quality water service for its customers. This area was developed about 70 years ago after the Army Outpost closed. Comm. Bennet gave a brief history about the water pump, the aerator, the eroding of the Lagoon into the Big Black River and replacing of galvanize pipes. In order to repair and replace these items a rate study was performed by MS Rural Water Association. MSRWA gave the suggested amount of rate increase that would be needed to achieve the goals of WMUD.

Several customers that were not with the West Madison Concern Citizens Organization began to speak inappropriately by not being recognized for speaking. Mr. Williams said, those who are not in the organization must not speak out of order but must wait to be recognized for speaking. He went on to say the WMCCO wanted to work with the Board and try to help find resources to assist with getting things fixed. Mr. Williams asked about the notices sent out about grease in the sewer lines and how can WMUD identify who is responsible for the grease in the lines since multiply homes are connected to the main sewer drain. KT said unfortunately, there was no definite way to say who is responsible but is requesting that customers please do not pour grease into their sinks.

3. Kay Retha McField asked why WMUD customers are paying a higher water rate than Bear Creek customers who receive water, sewer and garbage pick-up for their area. The new rates are \$25.00 for the first 2000 gallons of water used and \$5.00 thereafter for each 1,000 gallons used, the sewer rate is 20.00 plus \$5.00 for each gallon used thereafter so how can you separate the sewer water from regular water? The customers are being charged \$5.00 for the same water two times. (No response was giving to this questions).

4. Joyce Taylor asked, how can a meter be read if it is full of water or covered in mud? KT wanted to know if she was questioning if the meter had not been read at all. Ms. Taylor said, she had taken pictures of her meter showing that it was impossible for anyone to have read her meter when it was covered with mud and water. KT said, she

could always request a reread on her meter, however, he had already went out and personally read her meter. Ms. Taylor was upset about the new ruling that customers must fill out a request form to be on the agenda. She went on to say that the Board of Supervisors don't require you to put down on paper what your complaint is and will let you speak even if you did not request to be on the agenda that day.

5. Cora Grayer wanted to know why the sewage was not calculated on a percentage of water usage and will the sewer increase be on the May's billing cycle. Comm. Bennett said that Rural Water Association had set the guidelines however, WMUD had opted for a lower increase than what was suggested by RWA and "yes" the rates would go into effect in May 2017.

6. Stephanie Lewis asked KT if his meter readers had any type of instrument that can be used if water and mud is covering the meter and how can the meter be read? KT response was that the water would be removed manually. Commissioner Brown also said that WMUD does not have the hand held wands that are currently being used by some water companies.

② 7. Sadie Heard was at the February 14 meeting and had questioned about reviewing Board minutes and reviewing financial statements. Ms. Heard said that the public could indeed review the minutes and financial statements and that we (WMUD) had not responded correctly when we said no the financial statements could not be reviewed. Comm. Colson replied to Ms. Heard by stating "this is a water district not a water association where members have a vote or say and we are not obligated to show financials or minutes. It was also explained that the minutes are available in the office and may be reviewed after they have been officially been accepted by the Board members.

8. Ms. Martin stated that she has lived in the Kearny Park area for 50 years and at three different times it has been tempted to locate her water line to put in a meter. When she first moved into the area she paid a water tap fee and a fee to have pipe put into her yard and tap into the sewer line. She said she will not pay again for any water tap fee or for another meter, all this was done fifty years ago and she should not be made to pay again. Comm. Bennett said the Board will discuss her case further and get back with her.

9. Simmons Memorial Church is requesting that their fees be waived because they cannot afford to pay. The church has about 40 members and it is very difficult to pay the \$200.00 dollars that WMUD has requested. The Board discussed possibly setting up an installment pay plan of \$25.00 per month along with their regular water bill payment.

Re: KT Newman's Report

KT gave an update to his submitted report. The Board accepted the report has read.

OLD BUSSINESS

None to discuss

NEW BUSINESS

None to discuss

Commissioner Brown motioned the meeting be adjourn and Commissioner Colson second.