

**WEST MADISON UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING DATED  
MAY 14, 2019**

**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 May 14, 2019, 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 Larry Bennett

Commissioner Valencia Buggs

Commissioner Scott Colson

Commissioner Letitia Reeves                      Absent: Commissioner Evelyn Brown

The Board President announced that the members of the Board present constituted a quorum and declared the meeting duly convened.

Commissioner Bennett opened the meeting with a prayer.

Commissioner Bennett reminded attendees to hold comments until after the meeting and asked for the sign in sheet with any names of persons wishing to address the Board.

**RE: Approval of the May 14, 2019 Agenda:**

Commissioner Colson motioned and Commissioner Reeves seconded to approve the Agenda for 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

Commissioner Valencia Buggs        Aye

The matter carried unanimously and the Agenda for the May 14, 2019, meeting is hereby approved.

**RE: Consent Items:**

Commissioner Reeves motioned to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Colson seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted "Aye" and the consent items listed as follows were approved:

4.      Acknowledgement and Acceptance of EOM RVS Report for April, 2019
5.      Acknowledgement and Acceptance of the March 31, 2019 Financial Report
6.      Acceptance of the April 9, 2019 Minutes

**RE: Engineer's Report**

Morgan Sims with Engineering Service addressed the Board and stated that he received the paperwork back from Department of Health today, and presented the Board with the specs and plans for the tank rehabilitation and the pipeline replacement. Bids will need to run for four weeks in the Madison County Herald and the Madison County Journal and people will have thirty days after the last publication date to submit bids. The bid opening is set for Friday, June 21st, 10:00 a.m. at the Community Center. The Board does not have to attend the bid opening but someone needs to come and open the Community Center for the bid opening. They will be able to award the contract to the lowest bidder(s) and the tabulations should be complete within a couple of days after the bid opening. Commissioner Bennett commented that we seem to be running about three months behind schedule and Mr. Sims stated that it took the Department of Health a longer period of time to review the paperwork than he had thought it would take. The successful bidder will have to go out and inspect the elevated water tank, make recommendations and specify how they will make repairs. K.T. Newman will need to work with Morgan Sims to assist with opening the gate for access.

Morgan Sims stated that he had communicated with DEQ about the situation with WMUD's lagoon and he was informed that it was possible to relocate the lagoon if WMUD keeps the same discharge point. Funding will be difficult as WMUD was at the threshold for the SRF loan for the current projects. Commissioner Bennett stated that WMUD needs for our engineers to begin trying to find federal funds to assist us with this problem and the Board as a whole directed Morgan Sims to begin the process of sending letters to federal agencies, etc., to try to find some type of federal grant/funding. Mr. Sims also mentioned that WMUD may wish to contact Supervisor Bishop about obtaining a CDBG Grant as the County is only awarded one of those per year. He stated that he believed those grants cap at \$450,000 and perhaps they could develop a proposal about putting the high pressure pump in the cistern as discussed previously and moving the lagoon. The most difficult part would be the paperwork involved in closing the existing lagoon. There is also a part about matching funds regarding a CDBG Grant and this was an issue last time WMUD tried to obtain funding.

**RE: Operator's Report:**

K. T. Newman informed the Board that the generator at the well is installed and WMUD needed to pay \$85.00 and request the permit for the gas meter from Madison County. After the permit is issued, Atmos would need to be contacted to set the meter but everything on our end is done.

K.T. mentioned that WMUD was suffering water loss due to lack of communication between the tank and the well which currently works through High Tide and uses Verizon 2g network. Sometimes it has a few hours delay, while at other times it may be a day and this causes the well to keep pumping and overflows

the tank causing a water loss. He spoke with Control Systems, a local vendor in Jackson, and they had talked about replacing the whole system. After speaking with High Tide, they also informed K. T., that Verizon is doing away with the 2g network in December, so we would have to replace the system at that time anyway. The cost of the new system would run about \$7,000 or more.

K.T. stated that the value of the tank at the second well at the end of Lep Childress would probably be \$1,500, just for the metal as it would cost too much to rehabilitate the tank. Commissioner Scott Colson made a motion to declare the tank surplus and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Larry Bennett, with all present voting "aye." Commissioner Reeves agreed to draft the documents to sell the tank with a minimum bid of \$1,500.

K. T. Newman mentioned that someone in the community who wished to remain anonymous donated \$200 to use to pay someone's utility bill that needed assistance. The Board wanted the money to go to someone who was elderly/disabled, but are unable to determine who that may be. It was suggested by Commissioner Reeves that perhaps the local preachers in the community could supply some names. Ms. Willie Ellis was in the audience and was asked if she knew of anyone and she stated that she would check around.

Per the Department of Health review, WMUD must replace the fencing at the well and K.T. stated that the cost would be \$3,500. Commissioner Bennett motioned that this amount be paid and the fencing be completed per Department of Health requirements. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Reeves, with all present voting "aye," except for Commissioner Colson, who abstained from voting.

Other items were covered by K. T. Newman per his list presented to the Board.

## **RE: Customers**

### **RE: High Water Bills**

- a) Account #329; Roosevelt Brown; 118 Compress Street
- b) Account #767; James Lawson; 112 Simpson Drive
- c) Account #821; Joyce Taylor; 802 St. Charles Street
- d) Account #623; Valerie McNair; 105 Woodridge Drive

### **RE: Sewer Problems When It Rains**

- e) Account #451; Roosevelt Jordan; 704 St. Charles Street
- f) Account #323; Edna Johnson; 112 Compress Street
- g) Account #451; Joyce M. Jordan-Gooden; 704 St. Charles; Complaint Letter from Joyce M. Jordan-Gooden dated May 9, 2019 regarding sewer issues when it rains

None of the above customers were present at the meeting. Commissioner Reeves did discuss the letter from Joyce M. Jordan-Gooden and presented the Board with a draft of WMUD's response as well as the engineer's response to be attached to WMUD's letter. The Board was in agreement to send the letters.

Since no other customers were present, Commissioner Bennett asked Willie Ellis in the audience if she wished to address the Board and she asked if someone could re-read her meter. K.T. informed her that he would have her meter re-read.

### **Re: Executive Session**

Commissioner Bennett asked if there were any other comments from the customers, and if not, West Madison Utility District would enter into executive session to discuss litigation update.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

Commissioner Colson mentioned that he had been asked about increasing Willie Rosell's payment for mowing because he was having to mow more grass.

Commissioner Reeves stated that she had told Mr. Rosell to be sure to keep the area mowed that was cleared of debris at the WMUD office so that it would not become a jungle again which added a bit more area for him to mow. However, Commissioner Reeves stated that she had been the one trimming the front bushes and pulling weeds and it would be nice if Mr. Rosell would take care of that as well.

Commissioner Reeves made a motion to increase the fee paid to Willie Rosell for mowing the office, well sites and lagoon from \$225/2 weeks to \$250/2 weeks. The motion was seconded by Valencia Buggs with all present voting "aye."

Commissioner Bennett stated that if there was nothing further to discuss, a motion to adjourn can be made. Commissioner Colson motioned and Commissioner Buggs seconded to adjourn the meeting. All present voted "aye" and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes Taken by

Letitia Reeves, Vice President

Larry Bennett, President