

WEST MADISON UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
June 9, 2020

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 June 9, 2020, 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 Scott Colson

Commissioner Larry Bennett

Commissioner Letitia Reeves

Commissioner Evelyn Brown

Commissioner Valencia Buggs

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

INVOCATION

Commissioner Brown opened the meeting with a prayer.

Commissioner Bennett reminded attendees to hold comments until after the meeting .

RE: Approval of the June 12, 2020 Agenda

Commissioner Colson motioned and Commissioner Reeves second to approve the Agenda for the West Madison Utility District. The vote on the matter being as follows:

Commissioner Larry Bennett Aye

Commissioner Letitia Reeves Aye

Commissioner Evelyn Brown Aye

Commissioner Valencia Buggs Aye

Commissioner Scott Colson Aye

The matter carried unanimously and the Agenda for the June 12, 2020 meeting is hereby approved

RE: CONSENT ITEMS:

Commissioner Bennett read the Consent Agenda Items as follows:

4. Acknowledgement and Acceptance of EOM RVS Report for May,, 2020
5. Acknowledgement and Acceptance of the April 30 2020. Financial Reports
6. Acceptance and Approval of the May 12, 2020 Minutes.
7. Acknowledgment and Ratification of the May 27, 2020, letter sent out from WMUD to the customers regarding the end of the "do not disconnect" mandate and the upcoming water line work to begin June 1st in Magnolia Heights.
8. Acknowledgement of receipt of June 5, 2020 letter from our engineer to the Department of Health regarding completion of work on the elevated water tank and removal of "significant deficiency"
9. Acknowledgement of June 9, 2020, certificate of Completion and letter from Dept of Health removing significant deficiency at elevated storage tank

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Bennett asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Colson motioned and Commissioner Brown second to approve the Agenda. The vote on the matter being as follows:

Commissioner Letitia Reeves Aye

Commissioner Larry Bennett Aye
Commissioner Evelyn Brown Aye
Commissioner Scott Colson Aye
Commissioner Valencia Buggs Aye

RE: Customer's Concerns and Issues

Carolyn Roberts was there to speak about the manhole issue which has been a problem for many years. Ms. Roberts is requesting WMUD repair the manhole which allows sewage to flow into her lake during heavy rains. Ms. Roberts is in the process of having the lake cleaned, dug deeper and refilled. Before she fixes the lake, she is requesting WMUD fix the sewer problem. She would like to reopen the lake but it would be a waste of time and money unless a solution is found to stop sewage flowing into the lake when there is a hard rain.

Commissioner Bennett confirmed that the issue with the lake has been on going for some time. He also stated some changes to the system has been made, however, to what degree it has helped is currently unknown. This is not a simple issue and we don't understand what exactly is causing the back-up although some changes have been in the last couple of years which may have improved the situation. We don't know right now to what degree it has helped to resolve the issue but in order for us to fix it for good and know that it is fixed as KT has told you, we will need our engineer to take a look. The engineer would have perform a smoke test to find out where there are leaks and where water infiltration is coming into the sewer line. Unfortunately, this is a very costly and time consuming process.

Ms. Roberts stated she understood what he was expressing about the cost and timeline for fixing the issue because it will be costly and time consuming for her as well. She went on to say how would the Board members feel if this was their "personal property" and everyone's sewer was coming on your property. Neighbors are calling her to complain about the lake sewer smell. It has started to get hot and when the wind blows you can smell the stench from the sewer that comes up from the manhole. In the past she had taken pictures showing tissue paper and raw sewerage in the lake.

Commissioner Bennett said about six months ago, KT discovered a significant infiltration of storm water run-off going into the system which was causing blockage. KT also found sewer lines that had collapsed but have now been repaired. It is unknown what effect it has had on the problem Ms. Roberts described. Currently there is no documented way of knowing when an overflow will occur. Commissioner Bennett wanted to know if this was an every day occurrence or just when it rains? Ms. Roberts confirmed that the back-up occurs only during a heavy rain storm.

Commissioner Reeves asked KT to share the conversation that he had with DEQ. KT said DEQ told him because this issue is dealing with private property they would not get involved. However, DEQ encouraged communications between the land owner and WMUD take place. Ms. Roberts had also been in contact with DEQ because people in the community had called the Health Dept in regards to the lake stench. DEQ had sent her a letter which closed the lake down and posted "no fishing signs" around the lake, no boats or anyone could go in the lake. Their position says this is not a problem for the state but something between the land owner and WMUD.

Commissioner Reeves mentioned that the last insurance claim stated that under the Tort laws that WMUD is not responsible issues that happen in the event of heavy rainfall. Basically, what is being asked of WMUD is to revamp the entire sewer system which is something WMUD cannot afford to do at this time. Commissioner Reeves also mentioned she had spoken with Supervisor Karl Banks about the many issues of the sewer system. Since there is a lot of rain water going into the sewer system, the Board of Supervisors may end up having to assist with water runoff issues.

Ms. Roberts said she understands about the cost factor that is involved, but she suggested that WMUD build a concrete barrel around the manhole so there would not be any overflow from rain water. Commissioner Bennett said that is an idea to consider but he would like to understand from a systems and engineering stand point what it would really take to resolve the issue. He did not want to make false promises, i.e., "in sixty days" we would have the problem resolve. What he is asking her to allow WMUD to make more of a scientific evaluation study as to what is going on because he did not know. At this point, Ms. Roberts' brother interjected his opinion and asked how over the years WMUD has been saying wait! How long should she wait? Over and over WMUD kept saying they want to see. " See what? How long will it take to see? You want to see: you want to see data, you want to see statics we have been dealing with this issue for years. How long is it going to take to "See"! Please tell me how long"

Commissioner Bennett said not to play down this situation, but there are a number of things this Board has done in the community. Currently WMUD is working on replacing old pipes in the Magnolia Heights area. As of yet, this Board has not taken any concrete action to fix the lake problem because of more urgent and pressing needs of residents having sewer backing up in their homes. Commissioner Reeves explained that it was a totally different Board they had been communicating with and Ms. Roberts can attest to the fact that there was a pressing and urgent sewer problem at her home and this Board has corrected that issue.

Mr. Roberts said over the past 3 to 4 years WMUD wasn't trying to resolve the issue. The issue could be resolved by just raising the manhole higher than the street level.

Commissioner Bennett said the issue would be tabled for now and asked Ms. Roberts to return to the July meeting after the engineer and KT has had time to investigate and could possibly come up with some suggestions for this issue.

RE: Engineers Report

Morgan Sims announced that several weeks ago, KT had capped off a manhole on Livingston Vernon and there has not been any over flow of sewage coming from manhole #33, which is located near Ms. Roberts' home. Commissioner Reeves reminded him that Ms Roberts had just spoke about the sewer overflowing last week when there was heavy rain in the area. Morgan said it was not obvious to tell when a sanitary sewer overflow would happen. Even though, KT had made repairs it could not be determined when rain events occur, it could push enough storm water into the system and cause an overflow at this location. One reason the manhole overflows is because it is shallow, the manhole is only about one and half feet deep. Therefore, it doesn't take much water to cause an overflow in that particular manhole. This past winter there was a lot of heavy rain and Morgan said he had not seen any evidence of sewer overflow. Due to sewer gases there will still be an odor because the lid is vented. There maybe some things we can do about that. The easiest and cheapest option is to do a smoke test study on a sanitary sewer system. The smoke test will show any type of pipe leaks, broken pipe joints, missing sewer clean outs and any inter connection between the storm sewer system.

Commissioner Bennett asked if #33 manhole was built up higher then capped off would that resolve the overflow? Morgan said it could but that would put more pressure on manhole #34. Ms. Roberts had left the meeting but returned to show pictures that she had just taken at the lake. The pictures showed tissue paper and other debris that had come out of the manhole from rain which occurred on Sunday. Morgan asked Ms. Roberts if she would keep a log that showed the date of overflow and if possible, pictures showing the debris. Again Ms. Roberts left the meeting.

Commissioner Reeves asked if capping #33 could cause #34 to overflow into a customer's house. Manhole #33 was shallow and manhole #34 was narrow so sooner or later there would be backup issues. Morgan said yes, and then showed a map outline of the water

system manholes. The map showed a pit which all of the drains flow into before going into the lagoon. The pit was designed to be a reservoir so if the Lagoon could not keep up with the demand then it will go into the pit. Commissioner Reeves asked if the pit had sludge in it. KT said yes. There is a combination of sludge and mud because there is storm water that goes through it. Commissioner Reeves commented that we are having a lot of the same issues as Madison County with rain water, smell and sludge. Madison County Wastewater Authority does have equipment that monitors hydro-sulfide level and they will loan it out to their members. Commissioner Bennett said when Ms. Roberts come to the meeting in July we need to have a plan (not a solution) to present to her.

Morgan Sims said Stephens TPS had completed all work on the elevated water tank and with C-Spire. The only thing that was left was sending in some paper work to their Surety Company and have a release on liens, then Commissioner Colson can get money from the SRF and pay Stephen TPS.

Distribution update: contractors started replacing pipes on June 1st, with a few "minor hiccups" on Lincoln Street where Estes Park is. Estes' Park was not included on the original plat. So there was a question on where the right-of-way is. Madison County sent out their engineers and the matter has been resolved. Commissioner Bennett wanted to know if there were any more issues with accidentally cutting water lines? They hit water lines three separate times. It is difficult to identify where the water lines are in the Magnolia Heights area because there was no tracer lines put on the PVC pipes. Commissioner Reeves wanted to know if there had been any complaints from the Magnolia Heights residents. KT said the only complaints that he received was due to the "brown water" after the water had been turned off.

RE: Operators's Report

1. There are no new compliance issues to report. All water samples submitted in the month of May passed the bacteriological standards as established by the Health Department.
2. The significant deficiency regarding the water tank has been removed by the Health Department.
3. The water line replacement project in the Magnolia Heights Subdivision has started. A portion of Magnolia Heights is under boil water notice due to multiple water lines being broken by the contractor. The boil water only effected the first three streets in the Heights. Instead of taking down the signs and putting them back up, the signs will remain up until the work is complete.
4. The Homeowner's Association for the Hidden Lake Subdivision has requested that we bore the road for the new customer located at 136 Hidden Lake Road. The Homeowner's Association contacted the landowner and informed him of the request and all parties are in agreement.
5. Madison County has agreed to assist WMUD by installing a culvert at the lift station near the Woodlands Subdivision.
6. Discussion regarding amending policy for a water tap. The tap at 136 Hidden Lake and a house located next to WMUD will require a 2 inch meter. We don't have a policy on fees for water taps other than regular residential meters. Currently, there is no fee for installing larger meters. A 2 inch meter costs about \$300.00 whereas a regular meter cost is \$60.00. Since we don't have a definite set amount in the policy, which states the, "fee may be adjusted as needed". KT said he didn't want to charge these customers an extra fee since the policy was not clear. KT suggest, we amend the policy to say any meter larger than a 3/4 inch meter will pay an additional cost. Commissioner Bennett asked for a motion to amend the policy to include additional cost for larger meters.

Commissioner Colson made the motion and Commissioner Reeves second. The vote on the matter being as follows:

Commissioner Larry Bennett	Aye
Commissioner Letitia Reeves	Aye
Commissioner Evelyn Brown	Aye
Commissioner Valencia Buggs	Aye
Commissioner Scott Colson	Aye

7. There are only two customers on a payment plan. Ms. Dukes account #145 and Ms. Brown account #492. Ms. Dukes also executed a new water agreement.
8. Discussion regarding opening the office back up to customers and refunding community center. Not opening the office has not caused any problems with customers. Commissioner Reeves said she has been to the bank and other offices in Madison and still people cannot go into either the offices or some of the banks. The Board decided to let the office be closed because Covid 19 was on the rise in the Flora area. KT wanted to know what should he do about customers who had retained the Community Center but was not able to use it. There are two options, one is returning the money order to customer and the other would be for Commissioner Colson to deposit the money order and send out a check from WMUD to the customer. The treasurer decided to accept the money order K.T. had presented and then write out a check from WMUD to clear up the account.

RE: Executive Session

Nothing to discuss

New Business

Osborne Communication LLC Internet Services is asking to place a satellite on top of the elevated water tank. The company would make a trade off of letting WMUD have free service which maybe a cost savings of \$400.00 per month . Commissioner Colson is in communication with the company but he doesn't know much else about the company. It was suggested that the company come and make a presentation at July's Board meeting. Commissioner Colson will set up the meeting with them.

Old Business

None to discuss

Commissioner Bennett stated if there was no other business then a motion to adjourn should be made. Commissioner Colson motion and Commissioner Buggs second.