

WEST MADISON UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
August 10, 2021

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 August 10, 2021, in the Kearney Park Community Center at 443 Livingston Vernon Road, Flora MS, as follows to wit:

The Commissioner of the Board, Larry Bennett, presided and called the meeting to order at 6:02. The following members were present:

Commissioner Larry Bennett
Commissioner Carolyn Andrews

Commissioner Joyce Monroe
Commissioner Scott Colson

The President announced no agenda was prepared and in the absence of an agenda, we would hear from Residents.

Ms. Daisy LaCour-Greene-resident

Ms. LaCour read her comments from a prepared document (handout) in which each Board member was given a copy. Ms. LaCour referenced a letter on behalf of West Madison Utility District dated July 13, 2021 stating "as of July 13th your account is past due \$16.00. If this balance remain unpaid an additional \$35.00 will be added to your account on the following morning of July 19th." Ms. LaCour stated her issues of concern was her check to pay bill was written for \$44.35, the bill was for \$45.35 which is a difference of \$1.00. The discussion involving her check was long and detailed on her handout. Ms. LaCour requested the board provide (a) written notification on how pass due fee is prorated (b) copy of written notification that was sent on late fee of \$35.00, (c) copy of the West Madison Utility Policy of how many days will be allowed for checks to be sent to the bank for payment, (d) copy of written notices that have been sent in the past three years so she can compare them to her files she keeps for West Madison Utility. Ms. LaCour summarized her complaint by stating it was not a good and best practice for any account firm(WMUD) that waits 17 days to receive money and without written explanation and notification to customers of fees to be charge.

President Bennett response to Ms. LaCour is the documents would be provided since we have a listing of charges, late fees, past due fees. He emphasizes the payment is due on the 10th, there may be some lag time for posting payments. All accounts are credited for payment for the day payments are received. Commissioner Colson deposit checks in the bank.

KT Newman commented that he agrees it should not take long. How to shorten the time would be up for discussion among the board..

President Bennett explained there is no difference between late fees and past due amount.

KT Newman commented everything is listed on WMUD website referencing the policy and procedures. The \$35.00 charge is a delinquent fee for payment after the 15th.

Ms. LaCour requested to know the governing body for WMUD.

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President Bennet commented that WMUD is not govern by the Public Service Commission. Mississippi Rural Water Association is the governing board. At this point, Ms. LaCour requested a copy of WMUD Bylaws. President Bennett commented that we can send you a copy of the bylaws. Further stated, we have an Attorney who name is James Herring. There was a lengthy discussion on governing a private utility.

Mr. Franklin -resident

Mr. Franklin stated he wanted to know the status of his ongoing situation involving the board.

President Bennett commented that the engineer is not present, but we are in the process to get bids or an assessment of the probably cost. President Bennett concluded that we will not know until we get bids, and the attorney is handling the settlement.

Mr. Franklin –resident

Wanted to know about the easement situation.

President Bennett replied the easement is being drawn up.

Resident - no name given

Wanted a copy of last week's minutes.

President Bennett responded that Commissioner Reeves was not here to grant her request.

OPERATOR'S REPORT

K.T. Newman provided handout prior to addressing the board

- There are no compliance issues to report with the water or wastewater system.
- Hickory/Pecan – the sewer bypass around the equalization chamber has been completed.
- The fence around the lift station at the Woodlands has been installed.
- A customer reported via website a sewer issue in the Woodlands to MDEQ. There was adjustment made.
- Waggoner Engineering and Madison County Board of Supervisors is conducting a study of how feasible to utilize America Rescue Plan monies to connect City of Flora and West Madison to Bayliss Bluff. Mr. Newman stated that he gave Waggoner requested information when he was contacted.
 - Commissioner Andrews wanted to know was it a fee?
 - Commissioner Bennett replied Bayliss Bluff would be an answer since our lagoon is eroding.
 - Ms. LaCour wanted to know how would this affect her since she has her sewer plant?
- Grinder Drilling anticipates beginning the work at the new well within the next two weeks.

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- Town of Flora sewer update discussion – Commissioner Colson commented to table this discussion for the executive session.
- Dirksen Shed Factory is a new business recently moved in one of the old factories in the Heights. The company plans to hire from 20 to 25 local people. The building does not have a water meter but several restrooms. When it rains, they are tied to a sewer line that crosses over Carolyn Roberts' lake. Apparently it backs up the sewer. Proposed to install a grinder station. Commissioner Colson asked, what is the cost?
- Office issue involves a power surge which caused the computer to go down. The phone company came out and repaired the phone, but the computer is still down. Commissioner Andrews wanted to know how old the computer is. May need to be replaced with a laptop commented Commissioner Andrews.
- Mr. Newman provided a copy of the purchase order for July as well as a copy of the Letter Usage.

All residents were asked to leave to begin the board's Executive Session. Residents were thanked for their attendance.

Executive Session

Commissioner Bennett moved that the board end the Executive Session. Commissioner Andrews suggested to allow the contractor to reimburse her which would be a prorated amount.

OLD BUSINESS

None noted.

NEW BUSINESS

None noted

Commissioner Colson motion to adjourn meeting. It was motion and properly second to adjourn meeting.

Minutes Prepared by: Commissioner Joyce Monroe in the absence of Commissioner Letitia Reeves.