



**August 7, 2023
Regular Board Meeting**

The Regular Meeting of Madison Utilities convened at the Madison Utilities' Office located at 101 Ray Sanderson Drive with Chairman Terris Tatum presiding. Vice Chairman Kerry Straub, Director Connie Spears, Director Al Sullivan, and Director Larry Miles were in attendance. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer/General Manager Emory DeBord and Recording Clerk Jodie Parker.

Others present were Wastewater Manager Mark Bland, Water Manager Jason Leggett, Finance Manager Gary Sparks, Customer Service Manager Misty Leftwich, New Development Coordinator Reece Lee, Assistant Finance Manager Drew Greene, and Attorney Woody Sanderson.

Chairman Terris Tatum called the Regular Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Registered public in attendance: Mr. Craig Swinney and Mr. Robert Pride from Engineers of the South

Prior to the agenda, Chairman Tatum turned the time to Mr. Swinney for a presentation to answer some of the questions the Board members had from the previous meeting regarding the new raw water main. He specifically focused on the different options for pipe diameter and the corresponding output as well as the associated cost estimates for each. Mr. Swinney continued that he wanted to show the different impacts that each size of pipe would have, and he added that more detailed information would be forthcoming as the preliminary design phase moves forward.

Mr. Swinney and Mr. Pride then gave a presentation on the future expansion options for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and which options could qualify for an increase in the allowable permitted MGD limits for the treatment of waste. Discussion ensued regarding the options, timeline, and cost of each estimated phase of the expansion. The Board thanked Mr. Swinney and Mr. Pride for their time and effort.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

2. CURRENT AGENDA/MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. August 7, 2023 Current Agenda

The agenda for the August 7, 2023, Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the August 7, 2023, Regular Meeting Agenda; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. July 17, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the July 17, 2023, Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the July 17, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. July 26, 2023 Work Session Minutes

The minutes for the July 26, 2023 Work Session were presented to the Board. Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the July 26, 2023 Work Session Minutes; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. PLATS/BONDS

a. Preliminary Project Approval

i. Windermere Phase 3

Director Spears moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Windermere, Phase 3; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ii. Villas at Town Madison Phase 2

Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for the Villas at Town Madison Phase 2; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

iii. Bradford Station Phase 3

Director Miles moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Bradford Station Phase 3; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Dedication and Improvements

i. Barnetts Crossing Phase 1

Director Spears moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for Barnetts Crossing Phase 1; Director Miles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Construction Specifications 3rd Revision

New Development Coordinator Lee stated that the Construction Specifications 3rd Revision was being presented to the Board as a first read only. Director Spears asked if he was happy with the revisions. New Development Coordinator Lee replied that he is. He added that he had input from lots of departments and that many old processes have been updated to current standards; additionally, there would be a few small changes to follow up on before the Board would be presented with the final version for approval. Water Manager Leggett complimented New Development Coordinator Lee for his thoroughness and professionalism as he has worked diligently to ensure that the 3rd Revision is complete, to include updated drawings.

The Board thanked New Development Coordinator Lee for his hard work. No Board action was taken.

b. Change Order for the Quarry Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project

Water Manager Leggett explained that there were some small changes listed due to various circumstances with the biggest item being the contract time extension due to the 12-month delay on the switchgear electrical component. He added that this will update the project completion date to June 11, 2024.

Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the Change Order for the Quarry Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Itron Fixed Network Equipment and Services Bid Award and Resolution No. WWB-112-2023

Wastewater Manager Bland stated this is the next step in the AMR/AMI program. He added that the estimate is likely high and hopefully it will be reduced after the results of the propagation study are reviewed.

Director Miles moved to approve the Itron Fixed Network Equipment and Services Bid Award and Resolution No. WWB-112-2023; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. Proposed Pay Plan dated 08-02-2023

Finance Manager Sparks informed the Board that the recommended changes were primarily to adjust a few positions to include adding an additional employee for Customer Service since their staffing hasn't increase in 20 years while the number of customers has increased in proportion to the growth of the City of Madison. Another proposed change would be to add a Facilities Maintenance Worker to help with the increased workload in the warehouse. Since adding the Facilities Crew Leader position, he has been able to do a great deal of the repair work that has been outsourced in the past and save MU a considerable amount of money.

Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the Proposed Pay Plan dated 08-02-2023; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

e. FY2023 Budget – 3rd Quarter FYTD Review

Finance Manager Sparks noted that Director Miles had requested more frequent budget updates throughout the year. He continued that quarterly updates will now be brought to the Board. A brief discussion ensued about the 3rd Quarter FYTD.

Director Miles moved to approve the FY2023 Budget – 3rd Quarter FYTD Review; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. LEGAL

Attorney Sanderson briefly updated the Board on a few pending legal matters including the status of a recent small claims court case and an agreement with the City of Madison for streetlight use that he is coordinating with Wastewater Manager Bland.

Attorney Sanderson requested the Board authorize the General Manager to have signatory authorization on a Permissive Use Agreement with a homeowner.

Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve giving General Manager Bland authorization to sign a Permissive Use Agreement on behalf of the Board; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. WATER REPORT

Water Manager Leggett informed the Board that the vaults for the new interconnection with Huntsville Utilities had been installed and are connected on the MU side. He also stated that the Cedar Acres Tank reconditioning project is halfway complete, and the sandblasting portion is finished. He added that there were some homeowners in the area who were having some issues with dust from the project. New Development Coordinator Lee said that he had been in communication with the customers and that it was not due to neglect on the contractor's part, but rather due to the recent high winds in the area. He assured the Board that all clean up work would be completed and any of the homeowner's issues resolved.

8. WASTEWATER REPORT

Wastewater Manager Bland shared with the Board some alternatives to resolve issues with employee recruitment and retention. These alternatives included such things as Pay plan adjustments, medical insurance options, Uniform allowances, On-call compensation and reorganizations.

Much discussion ensued and the Board provided direction to Staff to move forward with and incorporate into the upcoming FY2024 Revenue and Expense Budget.

Director Straub moved to approve the general plan direction for employee recruitment/retention; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. FINANCE REPORT

None

10. CUSTOMER SERVICE

None

11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

None

12. VICE CHAIRMAN STRAUB

None

13. DIRECTOR SULLIVAN

None

14. DIRECTOR MILES

None

15. DIRECTOR SPEARS

None

16. CHAIRMAN TATUM

None

17. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

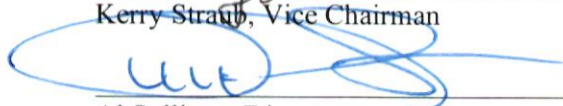
Approved,



Terris Tatum, Chairman



Kerry Straub, Vice Chairman



Al Sullivan, Director



Larry Miles, Director



Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:



Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer