



**January 2, 2024  
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, and Director Al Sullivan were in attendance. Also, present were Secretary/Treasurer/General Manager Emory DeBord and Recording Clerk Jodie Parker. Director Larry Miles was absent.

Others present were Wastewater Manager Mark Bland, 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 5:00 p.m.

Registered public in attendance: Tom Dyer with Dyer and Smith, LLC

**1. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**2. CURRENT AGENDA/MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

a. January 2, 2024 Current Agenda

The agenda for the January 2, 2024, Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the January 2, 2024, Regular Meeting Agenda; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. December 18, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the December 18, 2023, Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the December 18, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. PLATS/BONDS**

a. Preliminary Project Approval  
None

b. Dedication and Improvements  
None

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

a. FY2023 Annual Audit

Finance Manager Sparks presented the Board with the finalized draft of the FY2023 Annual Audit pending Board approval. Tom Dyer, with Dyer & Smith LLC, commented that for being such a short timeline, the audit had gone very smoothly. He also informed the Board how audits were going for other utilities and the impact they were experiencing due to higher interest rates. Mr. Dyer continued that he was also seeing increased difficulties for other utilities because of supply chain issues and increased inventory costs. Mr. Dyer presented a ratio analysis which outlined a comparison between Madison Utilities and 15 other similar utilities nationwide; he commented that by comparison, MU's position is outstanding and that the results were consistent with previous years. Lastly Mr. Dyer stated that the audit is ready for Board final review and approval and that the filing deadline is January 31, 2024.

Director Sullivan moved to approve the FY2023 Annual Audit as presented; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Workers Compensation Renewal

Finance Manager Sparks explained that MU's experience rating went up again this year. Due primarily as a result of two incidents at the Water and Wastewater plants the previous year. He added that the

additional premiums were planned for during FY2024 budget preparations. Director Spears asked if the problems or hazards were resolved.

Finance Manager Sparks stated that employees have been counselled but that the plants are still under construction. Even though some issues have been mitigated, there are still construction hazards to contend with. Vice Chairman Straub recommended conducting training for construction site awareness training. Finance Manager Sparks indicated he would look into that, while adding that it was the severity of the cases, rather than the volume, which was responsible for the increase.

Director Spears moved to approve the Workers Compensation Renewal; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**6. LEGAL**

Attorney Sanderson briefly updated the Board about a Permissive Use Agreement that was entered into in 2017 with the VFW to store a Conex container on MU property. He then presented a letter addressed to the VFW revoking the PUA within thirty days and requested Board approval. A brief discussion ensued.

Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the letter revoking the Permissive Use Agreement with the VFW; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**7. WATER REPORT**

None

**8. WASTEWATER REPORT**

Wastewater Manager Bland stated that 20,000 radios have been installed which equates to over 70% of the system. He also briefly discussed the large concrete pour for the footer of the new filter building at the Quarry Water Treatment Plant and the site for the new tank.

**9. FINANCE REPORT**

None

**10. CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Customer Service Manager Leftwich discussed a customer's concern with one of the MU policies and the customer's request to have policies posted on the website. After a discussion, the Board determined that as policies are reviewed or updated, they should be brought to the Board for approval and at that time, it will be determined which pertain to the public and should therefore be available on the website.

**11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

General Manager DeBord informed the Board that Krebs Engineering had donated, on behalf of the Board, to a charitable organization. He also stated that he would be setting up a meeting to discuss access from County Line Road to a potential property site. Additionally, there was a discussion about grinder pumps on Slaughter Road and the difficulties presented when trying to maintain them. Attorney Sanderson stated he would look into it and bring some options for review to the next meeting.

**12. VICE CHAIRMAN STRAUB**

None

**13. DIRECTOR SULLIVAN**

None

**14. DIRECTOR MILES**

None

**15. DIRECTOR SPEARS**

None


**16. CHAIRMAN TATUM**

None

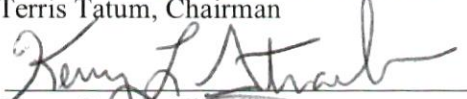
**17. ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:36 p.m., Chairman Tatum thanked Finance Manager Sparks and Assistant Finance Manager Greene for all of their hard work on the audit and then the Board agreed to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.

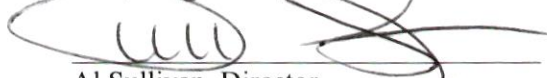
Approved,



Terris Tatum, Chairman



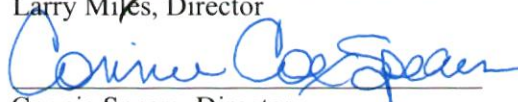
Kerry Straub, Vice Chairman



Al Sullivan, Director



Larry Miles, Director



Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:



Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer