



**January 4, 2021  
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. Director Rob Szmyd, Director A. Keith Cook, and Director Connie Spears were in attendance. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer/General Manager Emory DeBord and Recording Clerk Jodie Parker. Vice Chairman Steve Haraway was absent.

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

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

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

**1. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

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

a. January 4, 2022 Current Agenda

The agenda for the January 4, 2022 Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the January 4, 2022 Regular Meeting Agenda as submitted; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. December 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the December 20, 2021 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the December 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented; Director Cook seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Before moving to the remaining agenda items, Chairman Tatum asked Mr. Dyer to address the Board to present the draft of the 2021 Annual Audit. Mr. Dyer began by saying that this year's audit was categorically the same as what has been presented to the Board in previous years. He also stated that there was a lot of information included and gave a brief overview of some of the highlights. Mr. Dyer shared comparative operating ratios with other similar size utilities and noted that Madison Utilities' financial performance outperformed those other utilities in all six categories presented. Mr. Dyer remarked that there were no negatives to report, there were no disagreements with management, and that the Board had the option to ratify and accept the audit if they chose since he did not anticipate any changes before the final version. Chairman Tatum thanked Mr. Dyer for his in-depth analysis.

Director Cook moved to accept the 2021 Annual Audit as presented; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. PLATS/BONDS**

a. Preliminary Project Approval

i. Barnett's Crossing, Phase 2

Director Spears moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Barnett's Crossing Phase 2; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ii. Roberts Apartments at Town Madison

Director Szmyd moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Roberts Apartments at Town Madison; Director Cook seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

iii. Bellawoods, Phase 2

Director Spears moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Bellawoods Phase 2; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

iv. Bellawoods Phase 2N

Director Cook moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Bellawoods, Phase 2N; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Dedication and Improvements

None

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

None

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Worker's Compensation Insurance Policy, Effective February 1, 2022 and Resolution No. WWB-101-2022

Finance Manager Sparks explained that this is the annual renewal for worker's compensation coverage. He added that our experience rating of 0.76 was unchanged, but the cost did increase primarily due to an increase in payroll costs of 13%. Finance Manager Sparks concluded that it is relatively inexpensive coverage and that he recommended the Board approve. Director Szmyd moved to approve the Worker's Compensation Insurance Policy and Resolution No. WWB-101-2022; Director Cook seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Proposed Pay Plan dated 12-30-2021 effective 01-05-2022

Finance Manager Sparks explained that an employee, who is retiring, would like to continue to work part-time for Madison Utilities to help the Customer Service department with meter reading and that the pay plan needed to be adjusted to include that position. Customer Service Manager Leftwich added that the employee is experienced and dependable and has been a tremendous help in the past couple of months. Director Spears moved to approve the Proposed Pay Plan effective 01-05-2022; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Rejection of all Bids 505-2021

Wastewater Manager Bland briefly described the bid specifications and explained that none of the four bidders could completely meet those specifications outlined in the bid. He added that, after a discussion with legal, it was recommended that all bids would be rejected so that MU could then negotiate with one or more of the bidders. Director Cook commented that if the bids are rejected, how can it be negotiated rather than rebid. Wastewater Manager Bland requested that the rejection of all bids be tabled until Attorney Sanderson could review the details of the Alabama Bid Law to confirm. Director Spears moved to table the Rejection of all Bids for 505-2021 until legal could review; Director Cook seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. **LEGAL**

None

7. **WATER REPORT**

Water Manager Leggett informed the Board that there had not been any progress on the Highland Drive project due to the holiday and inclement weather, but that the inspector and Engineers of the South would be following up with the contractor about the remaining items that need to be completed. He also added that the Western Transmission Phase 2 was nearly complete as well.

**8. WASTEWATER REPORT**

Wastewater Manager Bland presented the results of a vulnerability study which was recently completed to assess the technical security of Madison Utilities. He explained that it was performed to determine if MU is susceptible to hacking or other technological vulnerabilities. The results of the study indicated that there were a few minor concerns, but that overall, it was a positive outcome, and a meeting would be scheduled with MU's technology group to resolve those issues. Wastewater Manager Bland also informed the Board that no progress had been made with the wastewater treatment plant project and that the main force main extension project is out for bid.

**9. FINANCE REPORT**

None

**10. CUSTOMER SERVICE**

None

**11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

General Manager DeBord stated that there may be a need for a called meeting to address the meter bid. Attorney Sanderson replied that, after reviewing the Alabama Bid Law, it appeared that the bid could only be rejected if there is only one bidder to participate. Wastewater Manager Bland suggested that the Board could proceed with awarding the bid to United, who was the lowest bidder, with the stipulation that a changed order be executed to increase the number of meters ordered.

Director Spears moved to award bid 505-2021 to United and authorize MU staff to execute a change order to purchase 9,000 meters, instead of 7,000 meters, in order to reduce the cost per meter even further; Director Cook seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**12. VICE CHAIRMAN HARAWAY**

None

**13. DIRECTOR COOK**

None.

**14. DIRECTOR SPEARS**

None

**15. DIRECTOR SZMYD**

Director Szmyd mentioned that with the recent turmoil caused by the power outage, it might be a good idea to have a prepared response in the event someone from a local media outlet wanted to know what MU's plan for emergency responding included.

**16. CHAIRMAN TATUM**

None

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:35 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

Approved,

  
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Terris Tatum, Chairman

  
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Steve Haraway, Vice Chairman

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A. Keith Cook, Director

  
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Rob Szmyd, Director

  
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Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:

  
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Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer