



**March 4, 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, Director Larry Miles, and Director Al Sullivan were in attendance. Also, present were Secretary/Treasurer/General Manager Emory DeBord and Recording Clerk Jodie Parker.

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 5:30 p.m.

Registered public in attendance: Larry Vannoy and Jean Downs from the American Legion

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Larry Vannoy presented a list of the activities which are supported by the local American Legion as well as a list of the contents in the storage container currently being stored on MU property. He added that he is aggressively seeking a new location, and while he initially couldn't find anything suitable, the one that he did find was all the way across town and so he wanted to ask the Board for more time while he continues to pursue different avenues. Chairman Tatum asked how long Mr. Vannoy thought it would take to relocate the container and he replied that he anticipated a couple of months.

Vice Chairman Straub motioned to extend the current agreement for one more month with a deadline of having the container moved before April 3rd with no additional extensions; Director Miles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. CURRENT AGENDA/MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. March 4, 2024 Current Agenda

The agenda for the March 4, 2024, Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the March 4, 2024, Regular Meeting Agenda; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. February 5, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the February 5, 2024, Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Sullivan moved to approve the February 5, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. PLATS/BONDS

a. Preliminary Project Approval

i. Big Box at Clift Farm

Director Spears moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for Big Box at Clift Farm; Director Miles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Dedication and Improvements

None

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. General Manager Succession Plan

General Manager DeBord presented the General Manager Succession Plan. Director Miles suggested that lines 7, 8 and 9, needed some clarification of who would perform those actions. He also suggested that the Board appoint a Public Relations Officer (PRO) to be updated on an as needed basis. General Manager DeBord stated those changes would be made and no approval was needed at this time.

b. Stoneway Trail and Shelton Road Booster Project

New Development Coordinator Lee stated that since the two booster stations are small, it was better to combine them into one project. He added that the cost listed was for Engineers of the South to design, as well as their cost estimate projection.

Director Sullivan moved to approve the Stoneway Trail and Shelton Road Booster Project and to give General Manager DeBord authorization to sign the contract that Attorney Sanderson would be providing; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Quarry Water Treatment Plant Change Order 3

Wastewater Manager Bland explained that no vote would be necessary as this was just a memo to inform the Board of a couple of change orders that were needed to the Quarry Water Treatment Plant project which is underway. He briefly discussed the changes and why they were not initially included in the plans.

d. Education Loan Agreement

New Development Coordinator Lee explained that MU sometimes pays for certain exam fees or certifications for employees and that this request is for an employee who wants to pursue their PE. Vice Chairman Straub asked what would happen if he didn't pass the final test. New Development Coordinator Lee replied that the degree is not required for the position he is in. Attorney Sanderson added that it would be to enhance the employee's skill set and that the employee would be required to pay for additional test attempts.

Director Spears moved to approve the Education Loan Agreement for Brian Burton; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

e. Keene Booster Station Phase II – Award of Bid and Resolution No. WWB-103-2024

Wastewater Manager Bland explained that CDG had readvertised the bid and that he was comfortable with the bids that were received. He added that the City of Madison would be paying for a portion of the storm drain included in this project. A brief discussion ensued to address a Board member's concern about the proposed bid award.

Director Miles moved to approve the Keene Booster Station Phase II Award of Bid and Resolution No. WWB-103-2024; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. LEGAL

Attorney Sanderson briefly stated that he was working on a few items, but they were awaiting an appraisal or a closing date.

7. WATER REPORT

Wastewater Manager Bland said he hoped to have an Engineers of the South proposal for the next Board meeting to rehabilitate the Keene Plant. He also stated that the AMI project is very close to being complete and able to read all meters from the main office and that 90% of the system has been converted to drive-by meters.

8. WASTEWATER REPORT

Wastewater Manager Bland said that the Wastewater Treatment Plant is 45% into the upgrade design and that they are waiting on flows to be low enough to change out the clarifier. He also updated the Board on the screen which the manufacturer is going to attempt to fix one more time in March, but if that doesn't work, they will remove the screen and refund MU the cost. Wastewater Manager Bland stated that the downside is the 26 weeks or longer wait that will take to get a new one.

Wastewater Manager Bland additionally gave an update on purchasing property for a future tank site and discussed some of the options and potential opportunities.

9. FINANCE REPORT

None

10. CUSTOMER SERVICE

None

11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

General Manager DeBord informed the Board that a Board e-mail address has been established and a link is available on the MU website for customers who wish to contact the Board.

General Manager DeBord stated that there have been several new applicants for the water manager position, but many lack the level of experience that MU needs.

12. VICE CHAIRMAN STRAUB

None

13. DIRECTOR SULLIVAN

None

14. DIRECTOR MILES

None

15. DIRECTOR SPEARS

Director Spears informed the Board that she would be out of town for the May 6th meeting.

16. CHAIRMAN TATUM

None

17. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:30 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

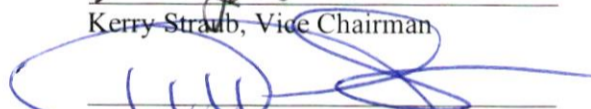
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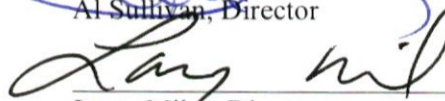
Terris Tatum, Chairman



Kerry Straub, Vice Chairman



Al Sullivan, Director



Larry Miles, Director



Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:



Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer