



**March 18, 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: Mr. Robert Pride and Mr. Craig Swinney with Engineers of the South

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wastewater Manager Bland requested to have Mr. Pride and Mr. Swinney from Engineers of the South address the Board. Mr. Swinney began his presentation by briefly discussing the water system infrastructure as it currently is, including pressure zones, tanks, wells, and boost stations. Mr. Pride and Mr. Swinney discussed proposed changes and upgrades to the Keene Water Treatment Plant and the benefit it would be to the current system.

2. CURRENT AGENDA/MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. March 18, 2024 Current Agenda

The agenda for the March 18, 2024, Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Director Miles moved to approve the March 18, 2024, Regular Meeting Agenda; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the March 4, 2024, Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the March 4, 2024, 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

i. Clift Farm Phase 9

Director Sullivan moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for Clift Farm Phase 9; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ii. Town Madison Phases 4 and 5

New Development Coordinator Lee explained that these dedications had previously been approved by the Board but due to some issues with the City of Madison, the developer is asking to have the paperwork resigned so that it can be dedicated to the City.

Director Sullivan moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements for Town Madison Phases 4 and 5; Director Miles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. General Manager Succession Plan

General Manager DeBord informed the Board that the changes suggested at the previous meeting had been incorporated to the General Manager Succession Plan.

Director Miles moved to approve the General Manager Succession Plan; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Sanders Brothers Property

New Development Coordinator Lee gave a brief history of an adjacent property that MU would like to purchase and the disputes between landowners. Director Miles asked if there were any concerns over wetlands and New Development Coordinator Lee said no. Wastewater Manager Bland stated that MU would have to own the property before an environmental study could be performed but he added that the majority of the eight acres should be usable.

Director Spears moved to approve making an offer up to \$291,000 for the property and if that fails, to pursue condemnation; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Dewinter Drive Tank Site

New Development Coordinator Lee gave a brief overview of the discussions which had taken place regarding the Dewinter Drive Tank Site in the last several months. A brief discussion ensued.

Director Spears moved to counter the original offer with \$700,000, not to exceed \$725,000, with the concession that the new tank will be named the Griffin Tank; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. Keene Upgrade Booster Station Engineering Memo

Wastewater Manager Bland reminded the Board that this is for approval for the design of the Keene Water Plant which was outlined by Engineers of the South at the beginning of the meeting. He added that the remainder of the project with CDG would be canceled and would be picked up by Engineers of the South (he added that it is not uncommon to proceed with a difference engineering firm, especially since Engineers of the South are more familiar with the type of work being performed).

Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the Keene Upgrade Booster Station Engineering Memo; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. LEGAL

Attorney Sanderson presented a letter he drafted to Mr. Larry Vannoy regarding the moving of the American Legion Conex no later than April 3rd.

Director Sullivan moved to approve the letter to be sent certified with return receipt, and also emailed to ensure receipt of letter; Director Miles seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. General Manager DeBord added that he would also call to notify Mr. Vannoy of the letter.

7. WATER REPORT

Wastewater Manager Bland said the Wall Triana Transmission Main project would be finishing soon and once the final connections are made, they would start the pressure testing. He also stated that at the progress meeting for the Quarry Water Treatment Plant project, the final details for finishing touches were discussed.

8. WASTEWATER REPORT

Wastewater Manager Bland said the AMR/AMI project is close to being complete with a tentative activation within the next two weeks. He also added that Andritz would be trying to resolve the issue at the Wastewater Plant and if it does not work, he will be coming back to the Board with the next steps to be taken.

9. FINANCE REPORT

Finance Manager Sparks presented the recent inflation index for informational purposes.

10. CUSTOMER SERVICE

None

11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

General Manager DeBord informed the Board he met with Simple Helix which he said appeared to offer alternative services from what we currently have for IT and security. Wastewater Manager Bland and Finance Manager Sparks will be taking a tour of their services.

General Manager DeBord also stated that he and Chairman Tatum would be scheduling a meeting with Michelle Epling from the Madison Chamber of Commerce. General Manager DeBord requested the Board authorize using Carter and Sloope Engineering out of Georgia to conduct a water audit. Attorney Sanderson stated he could draft an agreement if the Board wanted to authorize the General Manager to execute.

Director Sullivan moved to authorize the General Manager to authorize and execute an agreement with Carter and Sloope for a water audit; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

12. VICE CHAIRMAN STRAUB

None

13. DIRECTOR SULLIVAN

None

14. DIRECTOR MILES

None

15. DIRECTOR SPEARS

None

16. CHAIRMAN TATUM

None

17. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:46 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

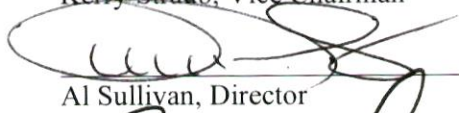
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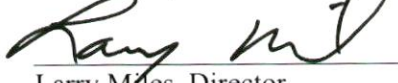
Terris Tatum, Chairman



Kerry Straub, Vice Chairman



Al Sullivan, Director



Larry Miles, Director



Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:



Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer