



**December 4, 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, 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: None

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

2. CURRENT AGENDA/MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. December 4, 2023 Current Agenda

The agenda for the December 4, 2023, Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the December 4, 2023, Regular Meeting Agenda; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. November 20, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the November 20, 2023, Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve the November 20, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes; Vice Chairman Straub 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

* Moody's and S&P Rating Reports

Finance Manager Sparks had presented the preliminary findings from the Moody's and S&P rating agencies to the Board at the previous meeting. He affirmed that the Aa2 rating from Moody's was confirmed, as well as the AA+ Plus rating from S&P and added that this would help MU obtain lower interest rates in the bond market. Finance Manager Sparks informed the Board that the market indexes and indicators seem favorable now. He added that the following day the decision would be made whether to go to the market or wait. Director Spears asked him to update the Board to let them know. Finance Manager Sparks confirmed he would and added that if it happens, Stifel and Bond Attorney representatives would be coming to the December 18th Board meeting for signatures on final documents.

* Legal Representation Declaration

Attorney Sanderson explained that after being with Lanier Ford for 43 years, some changes were being made and he will now be working with the Bishop Colvin law firm. He further explained that the Board would need to determine if they wanted to continue to have him represent them or if they wanted to stay with Lanier Ford or even select a different law firm. The Board members asked several questions about litigation capabilities and real estate and other specialty areas. Attorney Sanderson affirmed that there were lawyers at the new firm who could handle those requests, but should they need to, they would recommend outside sources to ensure that MU had good representation.

Wastewater Manager Bland suggested that a second lawyer be identified as a backup to Attorney Sanderson should he not be available. Attorney Sanderson stated that could be done but that it may be task specific. Vice Chairman Straub asked if the rate would change, and Attorney Sanderson replied that it would stay the same for now but would likely be evaluated later in 2024 but that their rates would remain competitive.

Chairman Tatum stated that his recommendation would be to retain Attorney Sanderson with the new law firm of Bishop Colvin. Director Sullivan moved to approve retaining the services of Attorney Sanderson and the law firm of Bishop Colvin, along with the files of Madison Utilities; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

* Brownsferry Property Update

New Development Coordinator Lee informed the Board he had a long discussion with the owner of the property and that an agreement had been reached but then the owner needed to switch to a new lender causing a delay. He added that he would hopefully have an update later in the week.

6. **LEGAL**

None

7. **WATER REPORT**

Wastewater Manager Bland informed the Board that Krebs is working on a change order for the QWTP Project and that he will try to bring the change order to the next Board meeting. He added that he met with CDG to discuss the Keene Booster project, but further discussions are needed before moving forward. Wastewater Manager Bland also stated that on future projects instead of solely relying on locates more details will be required from other utilities with infrastructure in the area. He noted that the engineering fees may go up, but other costs would be mitigated.

8. **WASTEWATER REPORT**

Wastewater Manager Bland informed the Board that the screen is back in place at the Wastewater Treatment Plant but hasn't been signed off on yet. He added that the clarifier is still making the same noise, but he is working with the contractor and the manufacturer to reach a resolution and that this manufacturer would not be used in the future. Wastewater Manager Bland also noted that over 6,000 ERTs had been received and that MU personnel were installing between 220-240 per day.

9. **FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Manager Sparks mentioned that Tom Dyer had arrived to begin the annual audit and expected he would be at Madison Utilities for approximately three weeks.

10. **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

None

11. **GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

General Manager DeBord stated Wastewater Manager Bland would be helping with the water projects while staff is working to fill the position.

12. **VICE CHAIRMAN STRAUB**

Vice Chairman Straub asked about an update on the potential property purchase near the southside of the airport. New Development Coordinator Lee explained that there are several landowners involved and it has proved difficult getting them all together, but he is working on it.

13. **DIRECTOR SULLIVAN**

Director Sullivan stated he had been reading through the reports from the rating agencies, and he was impressed by all of the work that has been done to obtain and maintain those ratings. He commended the MU staff for a job well done.

14. **DIRECTOR MILES**

None

15. **DIRECTOR SPEARS**

None

16. **CHAIRMAN TATUM**

None

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:11 p.m., the Board agreed to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously.

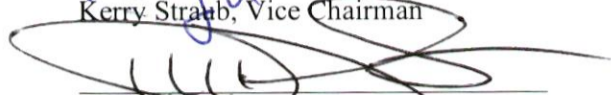
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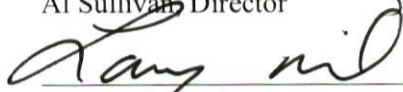
Terris Tatum, Chairman



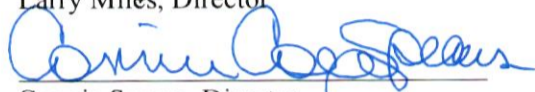
Kerry Straub, Vice Chairman



Al Sullivan, Director



Larry Miles, Director



Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:



Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer