



**March 2, 2020  
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 Steve Haraway, Director Gerald Clark, Director A. Keith Cook and Director Rob Szmyd were present. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer/General Manager Emory DeBord and Recording Clerk Jodie Parker.

Others present were Wastewater Manager Mark Bland, Water Manager Jason Leggett, Finance Manager Gary Sparks, Customer Service Manager Misty Leftwich and Attorney Woody Sanderson.

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

Registered Public in attendance: Mr. Tian Wu, Ph.D

**1. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

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

a. March 2, 2020 Current Agenda

The agenda for the March 2, 2020 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Clark moved to approve the March 2, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda as submitted; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. February 17, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the February 17, 2020 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Clark moved to approve the minutes for the February 17, 2020 Regular Meeting; Director Cook seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Haraway abstained. The motion was approved.

**3. PLATS/BONDS**

a. Preliminary Project Approval

None

b. Dedication and Improvements

None

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Assignment of Bid MU-505-2019 from Fortiline Waterworks to ZennerUSA and Resolution No. WWB-108-2020

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Assignment of Bid MU-505-2019 from Fortiline Waterworks to ZennerUSA and Resolution No. WWB-108-2020; Director Clark seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Award of Bid MU #501-2020 Fleet Vehicles and Resolution No. WWB-109-2020

Wastewater Manager Bland commented that even though there was only one bid received, he felt confident it was a good quote since he had checked with Ford and for the same specifications, the cost would have been \$500 higher than the bid from Landers McClarty Dodge. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Award of Bid MU #501-2020 for Fleet Vehicles and Resolution No. WWB-109-2020; Director Clark seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Krebs Engineering, Inc – Quarry WTP Design Proposal

Water Manager Leggett stated that since he had been approved to start capital improvement projects, he wanted to start on the upgrade of the Quarry Water Treatment Plant since it would take the longest (about 3 years). He commented that at 30% design there would be a meeting to keep adjacent residents informed of progress. Director Szmyd moved to approve the Krebs Engineering, Inc. Quarry WTP Design Proposal; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. Engineers of the South – Highland Drive Water Main Replacement Design Proposal

Director Clark asked how long the construction would take. Water Manager Leggett replied that the design work is scheduled to be completed by October 31, 2020 with the construction being complete in summer of 2021. General Manager DeBord noted that this project was being moved up at the request of the City Engineering Department to coincide with their paving schedule which is in place. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Engineers of the South – Highland Drive Water Main Replacement Design Proposal; Director Clark seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

e. Board Discussion of Revised Construction Specifications

At the last Board meeting, the Board members received a copy of the Revised Construction Specifications for Madison Utilities for a first reading prior to being distributed to area developers and engineers for comments. A brief discussion ensued and Director Clark had a couple of questions; he also recommended that Staff take a closer look at each instance where the Specifications referred to an “MU Representative” to make sure that it didn’t need to be more specific in siting an “MU Engineer” or “MU Inspector” for example. Staff members will follow up on Board suggestions; no further action was taken.

6. **LEGAL**

Attorney Sanderson briefly discussed the status of a few well contracts which should be re-evaluated.

7. **WATER REPORT**

Water Manager Leggett stated that current priority for the Operations department is to catch up on the yardwork needing to be done as weather permits. He also mentioned that he is conducting interviews and trying to fill two Utility Worker II positions.

8. **WASTEWATER REPORT**

Wastewater Manager Bland gave a brief update on the Martin Road Lift Station indicating there had been a few issues to resolve, and some ancillary things to finish such as landscaping, but that it was progressing. He also mentioned that the rain had prevented the concrete from being poured at the fueling station but the surveillance cameras were up and running.

Wastewater Manager Bland informed the Board that he had received a lot of feedback and comments from customers regarding the change to flat rate billing for Limestone County sewer-only customers. Wastewater Manager Bland then expressed some of their concerns as well as his

response. One customer had requested that the website should allow access to previous Board minutes (as opposed to just the most current meeting which is all that is posted now). Customer Service Manager Leftwich added that she is currently checking on available space to determine how many documents the website could support. Director Clark suggested trying to keep at least a year of minutes available on the website if possible.

Vice Chairman Haraway mentioned that he had also heard some comments from customers who had purchased a separate irrigation meter; Wastewater Manager Bland replied that the water and all meters are controlled entirely by the Limestone County Water and Sewer Authority. General Manager DeBord mentioned that he would be meeting with LCWSA management soon and would discuss with them. Wastewater Manager Bland added that there had also been some concern from customers that MU was misusing tax money and increasing their rate to fund the baseball stadium. Wastewater Manager Bland explained that MU receives no tax money and are not part of the City of Madison and therefore have no connection with the ball park. Chairman Tatum stated that any time rates are adjusted it is never done flippantly and without regard for the customers of Madison Utilities. He continued that a lot of time and energy goes into making those decisions to minimize the impact on customers, but it costs money to maintain infrastructure and meet the demands of a growing City when we are funded purely off rates.

**9. FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Manager Sparks informed the Board that they had met with Stifel, Moody's and Standard and Poor's regarding ratings for the upcoming Series 2020 bonds. The meetings went very well with a rating determination expected as early as Thursday. Finance Manager Sparks presented the Board with Resolution No. WWB-110-2020, which solidifies the Board's intent to refinance the Series 2013 and issue the Series 2020 bonds and to authorize the General Manager to execute such actions. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve Resolution No. WWB-110-2020; Director Clark seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**10. CUSTOMER SERVICE**

None

**11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

None

**12. VICE CHAIRMAN HARAWAY**

None

**13. DIRECTOR COOK**

None.

**14. DIRECTOR CLARK**

None

**15. DIRECTOR SZMYD**

None

**16. CHAIRMAN TATUM**

Chairman Tatum commented that it was time for the annual appraisal for the General Manager and asked the other Board members to prepare their comments and recommendations to hopefully be accomplished by the next meeting.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:32 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

Approved,



Terris Tatum, Chairman



Steve Haraway, Vice Chairman



Gerald Clark, Director

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A. Keith Cook, Director

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Rob Szmyd, Director

ATTEST:



Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer