



**October 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. Vice Chairman Steve Haraway, Director Rob Szmyd, Director Connie Spears, and Director A. Keith Cook were also in attendance. 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, New Development Coordinator Reece Lee, and Attorney Karen Lynn. Attorney Woody Sanderson was absent.

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

**1. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Joey Ceci addressed the Board regarding a leak on an irrigation line at the entrance to Town Madison near Zierdt Road. He asked the Board to consider a reduction in the exorbitant bill since the cause of the leak was unknown with many contractors and workers in the area. He concluded by saying the Cooperative doesn't want the bill forgiven but would like the Board to consider working out an arrangement. After a brief discussion, Mr. Ceci offered to pay \$5,000 toward the balance while the Board was deliberating. Director Spears moved to accept the partial payment while the Board deliberates with the stipulation that it would not waive any rights to collect further payments in the future if the Board should decide; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

a. October 4, 2021 Current Agenda

The agenda for the October 4, 2021 Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the October 4, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda as submitted; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. September 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the September 20, 2021 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the September 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes; Director Szmyd 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**

a. Thompson Cat Dozer and Resolution No. WWB-119-2021

Director Cook asked if there was any trade-in value on the current dozer. Wastewater Manager Bland replied that in this case, it will be listed on Gov.deals because sometimes a piece of equipment will sell for more on Gov.deals than it would receive for trade-in value. Director

Spears moved to approve the purchase of the Thompson Cat Dozer and Resolution No. WWB-119-2021; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Genie 60' Articulated Manlift and Resolution No. WWB-120-2021

Wastewater Manager Bland explained that normally jobs that required a manlift would need to be postponed until there was enough of a need to justify the rental/delivery costs. He added that there are many needs that owning an articulated manlift can fill and that it would be quite a benefit in the long run. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the purchase of a Genie 60' Articulated Manlift and Resolution No. WWB-120-2021; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. RapidView/IBAK Truck & Equipment and Resolution No. WWB-121-2021

Wastewater Manager Bland explained that this is an expensive piece of equipment and currently the lead time is 7-12 months. He added that this truck has newer technology and will be beneficial in continuing to TVI the wastewater system. Wastewater Manager Bland mentioned that the only thing that might change is the trade-in value of the current TVI Truck depending on its condition 7-12 months from now. Director Spears moved to approve the purchase of the RapidView/IBAK Truck & Equipment and Resolution No. WWB-121-2021; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. Change Order Western Water Transmission Main Phase 2

Water Manager Leggett explained that this is a small change order where a bore needed to be extended and a customer wanted to keep some trees. Vice Chairman Haraway asked if this would be that last change order. Water Manager Leggett replied that he couldn't guarantee that, but he didn't anticipate any further changes. Water Manager Leggett also stated that the Sanders family had signed the needed easement paperwork and that it would eliminate the condemnation pursuit as well as avoid demobilizing for the contractor. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Change Order for the Western Water Transmission Main Phase 2; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

e. Fleet Vehicle Replacements and Resolution No. WWB-122-2021

Water Manager Leggett expressed that the three trucks are in the budget, and he wanted to request Board approval early since there is an 18-week lead time. There was a brief discussion about the cost to upgrade two of the trucks versus the gas mileage and other benefits. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Fleet Vehicle Replacements and Resolution No. WWB-122-2021; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. **LEGAL**

Attorney Lynn presented the FY2022 Legal Services Contract Renewal to the Board. Chairman Tatum noted that the cost for legal services had not changed. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the renewal of the Legal Services Contract for FY2022; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. **WATER REPORT**

Water Manager Leggett reported the Quarry Water Treatment Plant expansion had the second and final concrete pour of the clear well completed. He added that future concrete pours would not need to be completed as early in the day with the temperatures dropping. Water Manager Leggett also stated that the Highland Drive project infrastructure will be complete with one more tie-in at Madison Pike and then the remaining cleanup; he added that a couple more weeks should be enough time for completion. Chairman Tatum commented that he and General Manager DeBord had spent some time evaluating the area and noted that some areas still needed work but also that some areas looked really good. He complemented Water Manager Leggett on his execution of punch list items and making good faith efforts to take care of the customers in that area.

**8. WASTEWATER REPORT**

Wastewater Manager Bland stated the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion is moving along though the contractor is struggling to have enough workers. He added that they are not yet far enough along to entertain a progress meeting. Wastewater Manager Bland also briefly discussed ADEM measures regulating sanitary sewer overflows.

**9. FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Manager Sparks commented that the mold remediation in the building is complete. He also mentioned that he had been contacted about restructuring/refinancing the Series 2017 and Series 2015 bonds and that it is worth looking into for the savings, but he needs more time to evaluate the options.

**10. CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Customer Service Manager Leftwich stated she sent an email to the Pinnacle billing service expressing her concerns and disappointment that their delays were putting a burden on Madison Utilities and our customers; she received no response. She added that she sent another request for them to send letters to Madison Utilities' customers denoting their responsibility for the delay. Further, a bid for Bill Printing/Delivery Services is being prepared that should go out in early October.

**11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

General Manager DeBord presented a request for a will-serve letter for a Limestone County Residential Subdivision for the Board to be aware of. There was some confusion since it was presented as a "will-serve approval" when it was intended to be informational only. Director Spears expressed disappointment that it was being brought to the Board before being presented to the City. Wastewater Manager Bland responded that it is not a problem sharing with the City, but the request was just received and there hasn't been an opportunity to present in the monthly Mayor's meeting. General Manager DeBord confirmed that this was not a request for approval but merely a discussion to make the Board aware prior to discussing with the City.

Director Spears suggested adding a line to show the date a will-serve letter was discussed with the City; she continued that it is a courtesy to keep the City in the loop, not to give permission. Wastewater Manager Bland asked if the Board wanted to be made aware of will-serve requests prior to discussing with the City and Director Spears replied that it made sense to do it in that order. Wastewater Manager Bland added that the wording should be corrected to informative rather than approval. Chairman Tatum asked what the best way to facilitate would be. Wastewater Manager Bland commented that he works for the Board, and after letting the Board know, then the New Development Coordinator, Reece Lee, can send the information to the City before bringing it back to the Board for approval at the next meeting. Director Spears suggested that an email may be a better solution than waiting for a meeting. Wastewater Manager Bland replied that after discussing with the Board, the memo can be scanned to the City the next day and we can ask if there are any concerns on the City's part.

General Manager DeBord mentioned that the October 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting conflicted with a conference that he, Wastewater Manager Bland and Water Manager Leggett would be attending. Chairman Tatum suggested that since there doesn't appear to be anything pressing that the meeting could be cancelled; the Board members concurred.

**12. VICE CHAIRMAN HARAWAY**

None.

**13. DIRECTOR COOK**

None.

**14. DIRECTOR SPEARS**

None

**15. DIRECTOR SZMYD**

None.

16. CHAIRMAN TATUM

None

17. ADJOURNMENT

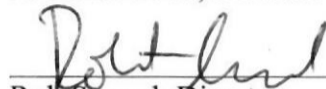
At 6:50 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

Approved,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terris Tatum, Chairman

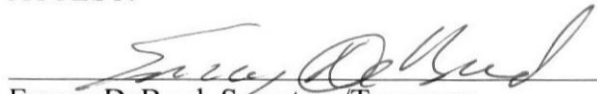
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steve Haraway, Vice Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
A. Keith Cook, Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rob Szmyd, Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer