



**September 15, 2025  
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 Water Manager David Moore, 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. September 15, 2025 Current Agenda

The agenda for the September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Finance Manager Sparks requested to add the Preliminary FY26 budget to the agenda under new business. Director Miles moved to approve the September 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda as amended; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. August 4, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the August 4, 2025 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Director Spears moved to approve August 4, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. PLATS/BONDS**

a. Preliminary Project Approval

i. Gillespie LDS

Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for the Gillespie LDS building; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ii. Madison Dance Collective

New Development Coordinator Lee commented that since there is no sewer along Chestnut, the developer will be installing a small force main. Director Sullivan moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for the Madison Dance Collective; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

iii. McCully Manor

Director Sullivan moved to approve the Preliminary Project Approval for McCully Manor; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Dedication and Improvements

None

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Professional Audit Services FY2025 and Resolution No. WWB-123-2025

Finance Manager Sparks explained that MU has an engagement letter from Tom Dyer to perform the annual audit for Fiscal Year 2025 with Board approval. Director Spears moved to approve the Professional Audit Services for FY2025 and Resolution No. WWB-123-2025; Vice Chairman Straub seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Employee Benefits – Principal Insurance Renewals FY2026

Finance Manager Sparks explained that there were no increase in cost or decreases in coverage. Director Spears moved to approve the Employee Benefits Renewals with Principal Insurance for FY2026; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

c. Notification of Will Serve Request – The Oaks

New Development Coordinator Lee stated that since the last discussion, MU has been able to develop a plan to gravity serve sewer to the property. Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the Will Serve Request for The Oaks; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. Burgreen/Huntsville Brownsferry Easements

New Development Coordinator Lee explained that the roundabout caused some utilities to need to be relocated and the easement will allow for them to relocate to MU property. Director Miles moved to approve the Burgree/Huntsville Brownsferry Easements; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

e. Clift’s Cove Booster Pump Station Skid award of bid and Resolution No. WWB-124-2025

Water Manager Moore stated that the lead time for this project is over 20 weeks, and we needed to get these part ordered. Director Spears moved to approve the award of bid for the Clift’s Cove Booster Pump Station Skid and Resolution No. WWB-124-2025; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

f. Award of Bid MU 2501 General Sanitary Sewer Projects and Resolution No. WWB-125-2025

Director Sullivan moved to approve the Award of Bid for General Sanitary Sewer Projects and Resolution No. WWB-125-2025; Director Spears seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

g. Employee Group Medical Insurance Renewal FY2026

Finance Manager Sparks indicated that the cost for medical coverages (Blue Cross/Blue Shield and MedPlus) was going up approximately 17% based on usage and other factors. However, he suggested maintaining the current cost sharing for employees as a means of retention and recruitment. Director Spears asked if participating in the City of Madison’s medical coverage program was an option and Finance Manager Sparks indicated it is probably not since we don’t have full municipal status.

Vice Chairman Straub moved to approve the Employee Group Medical Insurance Renewal for FY2026; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

h. Property/Casualty Insurance Package for FY2026

Finance Manager Sparks stated that there would be an overall decrease in the package plan due to several factors including removal of some surplus vehicles and equipment. Director Spears moved to approve the Property/Casualty Insurance Package for FY2026; Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

i. Preliminary FY26 Budget

Finance Manager Sparks presented the FY2026 Preliminary Budget and recommended a 3% COLA for eligible employees based on the current Consume Price Index-U. He addressed all questions about the proposed budget for FY2026. As this was a preliminary reading, no motion was made.

**6. LEGAL**

Attorney Sanderson stated that there were no updates at this time.

**7. WATER REPORT**

Water Manager Moore stated he is still waiting on the results of the high rate filter study.

**8. WASTEWATER REPORT**

Wastewater Manager Bland the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion is going well. He added that the meter change out is moving steadily along. Wastewater Manager Bland added that he is in the middle of renewing the permit for the WWTP and Limestone County sewer only developments are going to need to be restricted on the number of lots they can put in since the current trunk line was not designed to accommodate those levels of flow.

**9. FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Manager Sparks provided a recap of recent auctions and stated that MU had received about a 40% return on items sold on GovDeals. He additionally informed the Board that the workers' compensation experience modifier factor is higher than ever and that he has budgeted for the expected increased premium.

**10. CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Customer Service Manager Leftwich stated that Zenner meters are not reporting correctly but we are doing the best we can to resolve as quickly as possible.

**11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT**

General Manager DeBord mentioned a meeting he and Vice Chairman Straub had with the Airport Authority on a possible land procurement. He also asked the Board about approved liberal leave for employees for December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Director Miles moved to approve offering liberal leave for employees on December 26<sup>th</sup>, Director Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

General Manager DeBord explained that a called meeting to approve the FY2026 Budget would be needed prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> when the new fiscal year begins. The Board elected to schedule a called meeting on September 24, 2025 at 11:30am.

**12. VICE CHAIRMAN STRAUB**

Vice Chairman Straub asked about the status of the newsletter and mentioned that the website current happenings needed to be updated. Finance Manager Sparks indicated that a company has been engaged to do a rewrite for the current MU webpage.

Vice Chairman Straub also requested an IT comparison and Finance Manager Sparks indicated he would provide that.

**13. DIRECTOR SULLIVAN**

None

**14. DIRECTOR MILES**

None

**15. DIRECTOR SPEARS**

Director Spears followed up on a complaint that she had forwarded to MU staff, and a brief discussion ensued.

**16. CHAIRMAN TATUM**

None

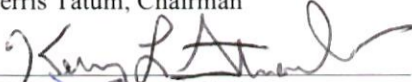
**17. ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:42 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

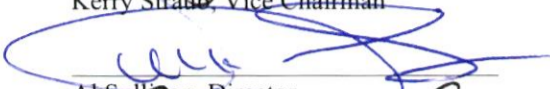
Approved,



Terris Tatum, Chairman



Kerry Straub, Vice Chairman



Al Sullivan, Director



Larry Miles, Director

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Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:



Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer