



**September 7, 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, and Director A. Keith Cook were also in attendance. Also present were Secretary/Treasurer/General Manager Emory DeBord and Recording Clerk Jodie Parker. Director Connie Spears was absent.

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

Mr. Craig Swinney from Engineers of the South was also present.

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Narcissus Fletcher was scheduled to address the Board, however, she did not attend.

2. CURRENT AGENDA/MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

a. September 7, 2021 Current Agenda

The agenda for the September 7, 2021 Regular Meeting was presented to the Board. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the September 7, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda as submitted; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. August 16, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes for the August 16, 2021 Regular Meeting were presented to the Board. Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the August 16, 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

i. Anderson Place

Director Szmyd moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements of Anderson Place; Vice Chairman Haraway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ii. Wann, Phase 2

Director Szmyd moved to approve the Dedication and Improvements of Wann, Phase 2, Director Cook seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Haraway abstained. The motion was approved.

4. OLD BUSINESS

None.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Keene Booster Station Design Proposal

Water Manager Leggett informed the Board that the proposal was for a new booster station which had been discussed for some time. He added that a few changes were made after some collaboration with the City of Madison and that this was the final design proposal. Finance Manager Sparks advised that the original proposal was for final design, bidding and construction & administration services, but was scaled back to final design. This was due to several 2020 Bond projects running over and we could have to decide project priorities as we see exactly where we stand regarding 2020 Bond funds availability.

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Keene Booster Station Design Proposal; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Change Order – Western Water Transmission Main, Phase 2

Water Manager Leggett asked Craig Swinney to explain the need for the Change Order. Mr. Swinney apologized for previously sending a change order that wasn't signed by the developer. He added that there was some confusion with the developer and information was exchanged back and forth. Mr. Swinney showed some diagrams to the Board in an effort to explain some of the history of the project and how it got to the current state.

Director Szmyd asked if this was the project where AT&T were late to mark services and Mr. Swinney confirmed it was. Wastewater Manager Bland added that Mr. Swinney would compose a timeline with details of the project and that a letter would be sent detailing the subsequent cost which was incurred because of AT&T's failure to denote their existing service lines in a timely manner.

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Change Order for the Western Water Transmission Main, Phase 2; Director Cook seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Swinney left the meeting.

c. Employee Group Medical Insurance Renewal FY2022

Finance Manager Sparks briefly explained that the Blue Cross/Blue Shield renewal increased by 3% which is a nominal increase, while the Gulf Guaranty GAP insurance remained stable.

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Employee Group Medical Insurance Renewal FY2022; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

d. GIS Consulting Agreement and Resolution No. WWB-114-2021

Water Manager Leggett explained that due to some extenuating circumstances, when the GIS position was filled, there was no overlap between the outgoing employee and the incoming employee as intended. He added that the new GIS Coordinator is very qualified and doing very well but some additional training could be helpful, and this is a small agreement to compensate Alex Lopez-Rogina for her time.

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the GIS Consulting Agreement and Resolution No. WWB-114-2021; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

e. Employee Benefits (Dental, Group Life, Vision) Renewals FY2022

Finance Manager Sparks indicated that there were some fairly large increases in supplemental benefit services this year. He added that, after receiving a myriad of data from proposed alternatives, every offer received was better than the renewal quote from MetLife which MU currently uses. Finance Manager Sparks stated that he hesitated to change since it could mean employees have dentists or optometrists which are not in-network, however, he believes the cost savings will be worth it. He also informed the Board that MU has used, and been happy with, Principal in the past and so he is willing to enlist them again for the savings.

Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve the Employee Benefits (Dental, Group Life, Vision) with Principal Insurance for FY2022; Director Szmyd seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. LEGAL

Attorney Sanderson mentioned that there are a few legal items in progress including a condemnation that is underway and a draft easement from the City of Madison he was reviewing.

7. WATER REPORT

Water Manager Leggett reported that the Quarry Water Treatment Plant construction is still underway with the concrete floor slab poured for the wet well; he added that the pouring of structures will continue through the end of March.

8. WASTEWATER REPORT

Wastewater Manager Bland stated the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion is moving along. He did inform the Board that some products are becoming difficult to obtain and he wanted the Board to be aware that supply issues could have a future impact. Wastewater Manager Bland also mentioned that he would be providing more of an update on the meter reading pilot at the Board work session. Some discussion ensued about the different types of meter reading drive-by systems and the benefits of each option.

9. FINANCE REPORT

Finance Manager Sparks reminded the Board that the Work Session would be held the following day at 12:30pm.

10. CUSTOMER SERVICE

Customer Service Manager Leftwich stated that the Pinnacle billing service was still behind but that they had closed the gap somewhat and are now only about 5 days behind.

11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

General Manager DeBord discussed with the Board the Limestone County Engagement Letter and after some discussion, Vice Chairman Haraway moved to approve to have the valuation of territory completed for a sum of no greater than \$35,000; Director Cook seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

12. VICE CHAIRMAN HARAWAY

None.

13. DIRECTOR COOK

None.

14. DIRECTOR SPEARS

None

15. DIRECTOR SZMYD

None.

16. CHAIRMAN TATUM

None

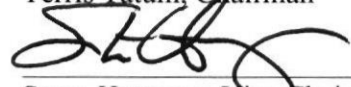
17. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:17 p.m. the Board agreed to adjourn.

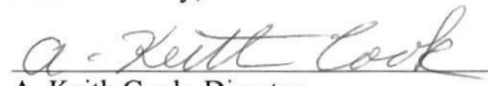
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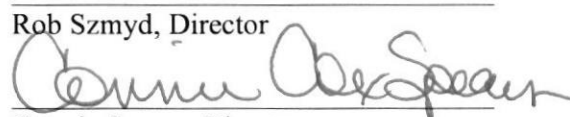
Terris Tatum, Chairman



Steve Haraway, Vice Chairman



A. Keith Cook, Director

Rob Szmyd, Director


Connie Spears, Director

ATTEST:



Emory DeBord, Secretary/Treasurer