

BEULAH UTILITIES DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
August 20, 2024
5320 Lee Road 270, Valley, Alabama 36854
6:00 PM CST

The Board of Directors of Beulah Utilities District met in a Regular Meeting at 6:00 pm on August 20, 2024, at the Beulah Water Department.

1. **WELCOME**

Chairman Sims welcomed those in attendance.

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Sims called the meeting to order.

3. **ROLL CALL**

The following Board Members were present: Linda Holt, David Jackson, James Majors, Lamar Sims, and Andrew Bryan.

For visitors in attendance, see attached visitor sign-in sheet.

4. **DECLARE QUORUM**

After the roll was called, Chairman Sims declared that a quorum was present.

5. **ADOPT AGENDA**

Chairman Sims presented the proposed agenda for adoption. Mr. Jackson motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and the agenda was unanimously adopted.

6. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Sims asked for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 18, 2024, the special meeting of July 30, 2024 and the special meeting of August 6, 2024. Mr. Bryan motioned to approve all three sets of minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

7. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A. Approval of July 2024 Financial Statements

Chief Blake Simpkins was recognized, and he reviewed the July financial statements for the Board. Mr. Jackson motioned to approve the July financial statements. Motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and the July financial statements were unanimously approved.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. ARPA Funds.

The Board was provided an update on the status of providing the County with requested documentation.

The Board discussed the service line replacement project.

Ms. Dana Raughton from the Hazen & Sawyer Engineering firm was recognized, and she updated the Board on installing pressure reducing valves on Lee Road 379. She said that her firm was still studying the system to enable them to determine the best location for the new valves.

B. DWSRF Funds.

1. Lake Crossing at Long Bridge

The Board was informed that work on the project was underway.

C. Infrastructure Development Fee

Chairman Sims recognized Ms. Dana Raughton from the Hazen & Sawyer Engineering firm. Ms. Raughton updated the Board on the scope of work in the Rate Study Proposal provided by her firm.

After discussion, Mr. Jackson motioned to engage Hazen & Sawyer firm to perform the rate study pursuant to the terms of their proposal for \$30,000. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and unanimously approved.

D. Water Loss.

Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized, and he updated the Board on the water loss report. He stated that there were 14 current leaks identified and 11 taps to be done.

E. Fire Hydrant Repair Schedule.

No update.

F. Lead and Copper Study Updates.

Ms. Dana Raughton was recognized, and she updated the Board on the status of the Lead and Copper Study. She stated that they were updating the system map and they expected to submit the report by mid-September.

G. Crown Castle Tank Status

Mr. Aston informed the Board that they were testing DBP levels and that no issues were detected.

H. Transitional Item Checklist

The Board reviewed the status of the various items on the checklist.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Renewal of David Jackson Board Appointment.

Chairman Sims stated that the District was informed that David Jackson's term as Board member was expiring. The Board authorized sending a letter to the Lee County Commission requesting the reappointment of Mr. Jackson as a Board member. Mr. Jackson abstained.

B. Assistant Fire Chief Approval.

Chief Blake Simpkins stated that several Fire Department staff had been interviewed for the Assistant Chief Position. Chief Simpkins stated that he recommended that Captain Shawn Aldridge be hired for the Assistant Chief Position with a salary of \$65,000 per year.

Mr. Jackson motioned to hire Shawn Aldridge for the Assistant Chief Position with a salary of \$65,000 per year. Motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and unanimously approved.

C. Budget review for 2024 thru 2025.

The Board reviewed the proposed annual budgets for the Water and Fire Departments. After review, Mr. Majors motioned to approve the Water and Fire Department Budgets. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and the budgets were unanimously approved.

D. Proposal to Purchase of Bore Machine.

Chief Simpkins was recognized, and he updated the Board on his study of bore machine prices. He stated that Mr. Jackson had gotten quotes of around \$250,000 for a machine of the size needed by the District.

The Board discussed the cost of a bore machine and of the District's need for one. The consensus on the Board was to hold off purchasing a bore machine at this time.

E. Proposal to Purchase Ground Penetrating Radar Machine.

Chief Simpkins was recognized, and he presented the Board with a quote to purchase a ground penetrating radar machine from US Radar for \$29,085.00. After discussion, Mr. Bryan motioned to approve purchase at the quoted price. Motion was seconded by Mr. Majors and unanimously approved.

F. Clearwater Solutions Report.

Mr. Jeff Aston was recognized, and he briefed the Board on Clearwater's activities over the past month.

Mr. Aston stated that he would transfer the District's 811 contact information so that it is in the name of Jeff Williams.

Mr. Aston stated that there was one adjustment for the month:

William Stevens	\$405.23
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Ms. Holt motioned to approve the adjustment. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and the adjustment was unanimously approved.

Mr. Ashton then announced Leak Incentive Program winner for the month.

C. Beulah Fire and Rescue Report.

Chief Blake Simpkins was recognized to give the Fire and Rescue report for the month. He stated that there were a total of 85 calls, 2 of which were fire calls. He said that there were no notable calls.

Chief Simpkins stated that there had no excess overtime worked during the month.

Chief Simpkins then briefed the Board on the training activities conducted by the department during the past month.

He informed the Board that there had been one random drug test.

Chief Simpkins updated the Board on community engagement performed by the Department.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

11. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS.**

None.

12. **NEXT MEETING**

Chairman Sims stated that the next regular meeting would be at 6:00 PM CST on September 17, 2024.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Ms. Holt motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM CST.

Signed _____