

METROPOLITAN LYNCHBURG MOORE
UTILITY DEPARTMENT
BOARD MEETING
June 14, 2022

The Metro Utility Board meeting scheduled for June 14, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. was called to order by Keith Moses, Chairperson. Member's present: Keith Moses, Jon Robertson, Will Shavers, Shane Taylor, Barry Posluszny, Mayor Bonnie Lewis, Brooke Fanning and Russell Sells.

Motion was made by Shane Taylor and seconded by Will Shavers to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022, meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Visitors: Tabitha Moore, *The Lynchburg Times*, and Travis Wilson of LJA Engineering

2022-2023 Budget Proposal: Brooke Fanning presented the proposed budget for 2022-2023 fiscal year to the board for consideration. After reviewing the budget line-by-line the floor was opened for discussion and questions. The topic of budget cuts was addressed by Shane Taylor and rebutted by General Manager Russell Sells. Jon Robertson, who attends MUD Budget Committee meetings, explained that the budget was as "skinny" on the expense side as it could get. He further stated that a water rate increase was not what anyone wished to see but it was necessary to meet the demands of growth in our county. Barry Posluszny magnified the argument for a moderate rate increase which he claimed should have been instituted last fiscal year to meet rising inflation costs. After a lively debate on the expenses and proposed rate increase a motion was put forward to approve the 2022-2023 Operating Budget by Keith Moses and seconded by Jon Robertson to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried with 4 yes votes and one abstained vote by Shane Taylor.

Rate Increase Proposal: During the Operating Budget proposal for fiscal year 2022-2023 the board reviewed the data provided to institute a 3% water rate increase. A motion was presented by Jon Robertson and seconded by Will Shavers to accept the 3% water rate increase. Motion passed with 4 yes votes and one vote to abstain by Shane Taylor.

Engineers' Reports –

1. Sewer Rehabilitation Project
 - a. The main lines have been completely televised
 - b. The laterals will be completely televised at the end of next week
 - c. The crews have found several issues between the laterals and cleanouts
 - d. The lining company will be in position to begin work the first of August on the main lines
 - e. Pipeworks will begin the dig work needed by all the repair crews in the next few weeks
2. Booster Stations—currently waiting on Attorney John T Bobo's opinion on how to proceed with land acquisition for construction.
3. Meetings with the Tiny Home developer are taking place monthly and seem to be proceeding in a positive manner

TDEC/ARPA Monies: TN Department of Environment and Conservation is spearheading the approval of projects being presented to State Revolving Loan for distribution of American Rescue Plan funds. Russell Sells and Travis Wilson will be meeting with the head of engineering at TDEC to discuss several options they will be formally presenting for consideration. The Metro Utility Department are slated to receive \$2,509,310.69 with a 35% co-funding requirement. Mr. Sells explained that the utility will break the monies allocated down into three areas of interest.

These three sub-projects will address Phase II of the Sewer Rehabilitation project, the Water Distribution mapping along with leak detection, and Asset Management. TDEC has underscored these items as most critical in all counties of TN. The application period has now opened for project submissions and will need the approval of the Metro Council before proceeding. Once the projects have been turned in there is a 30-day review period by TDEC and another 60-day waiting period before monies are awarded. A motion was made by Shane Taylor and seconded by Barry Posluszny to proceed with filling out the ARPA application. Motion passed 5-0.

Managers' Report: Russell Sells explained that the water treatment plant had recently experienced some personnel turn over and he had recently hired one new staff member. He is hopeful that the plant will be fully staffed again by next month. He also informed the board that the maintenance service truck's engine had recently died and was beyond repair. He had the crew deliver the truck along with the old jet truck to Van Massey Auction in Fayetteville for disposal. The funds generated from their sale will turn around and hopefully purchase some type of small SUV for the crew. He also requested he be allowed to purchase a Hydro Excavator to assist with sewer line clean outs and maintenance. The Hydro Excavator will be a trailer mount and should be easy to move into tight places. He justified the purchase by explaining after the sewer rehabilitation is completed it will fall to the maintenance crew to keep the sewer lines as clean as possible to ensure the sewer pipe structure remain intact and allow low amounts of I/I into the system. He also said the purchase would take the form of a capital lease of approximately \$58,000.00 over a 2-year period. A motion was made by Jon Robertson and seconded by Keith Moses to proceed with the purchase after July 1st. Motion carried 5-0.

Write-offs: Brooke Fanning presented the June write-offs to the board for consideration. A total of \$3,693.66 was presented for their consideration. After review of the amounts presented a motion was made by Keith Moses and seconded by Shane Taylor to accept the write-offs and remove the amounts off the accounts receivable. Motion passed 5-0.

Motion was made by Will Shavers, and seconded by Shane Taylor, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM. Motion passed 5-0.

Keith Moses, Chairperson