

METROPOLITAN LYNCHBURG MOORE  
UTILITY DEPARTMENT  
BOARD MEETING  
November 14, 2023

The Metro Utility Board meeting scheduled for November 14, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. was called to order by Shane Taylor, Chairperson. Member's present: Glen Thomas, Boo Johnston, Barry Posluszny, Shane Taylor, Greg Guinn, Ronnie Cunningham, and Brooke Fanning.

Visitors: Mayor Sloan Stewart, Tabitha Moore, *The Lynchburg Times*, and Bryant Griffin, *Hethcoat & Davs Engineering*.

The motion was made by Glen Thomas and seconded by Charles Johnston to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023. Motion carried 4-0 with Mr. Greg Guinn abstaining from the vote because this was his first meeting.

12" Water Transmission Line Update: Ronnie Cunningham updated the board about the project involving the 12" water transmission line upgrade from Dickey Tank to Jack Daniel South Bottling Facility. He said that the contractor, Prince and Sons had not been back to the job site in several weeks. He was hopeful they would get back on the project in early December. He said all they lack is boring under the creek and making the tie ins before sanitation can begin on the line. Glen Thomas asked how the utility planned to pay for the portion of the line that had not been installed by the Tiny Home Development? Ronnie replied that there was no contract in place with the Tiny Home Development and Metro. He further explained that no one had heard from the developer in many months. Shane Taylor interjected that Jack Daniel was supposed to be paying for all of the 12" water transmission line and they would need to pick up any additional costs for this project. Glen Thomas asked to see the meeting minutes from previous meetings to clarify who was picking up the expenses for the portion of the line running through the Tiny Homes Development. Greg Guinn asked if Metro had easements in place for work on the property. Brooke Fanning answered with a, "yes". All easements for work on the property have been obtained and filed. Glen Thomas said he would wait until the Engineer's Report section to discuss anything further on this topic. The meeting proceeded to the next topic.

Cates Booster Station Update: Ronnie Cunningham informed the board that a construction meeting had occurred that morning and the contractor, Richland Industries, says the project is moving on schedule. The delivery time of parts is twenty-five weeks out and the contractor feels like all should still be completed close to the original completion date. The next task will be pouring a foundation and hopefully that will occur in the next couple of weeks.

Engineer's Report: *LJA Engineering, Travis Wilson, sent a memorandum dated November 7, 2023, to the board for their written update on all current projects.*

Whisky Creek Development (Tiny Homes): Glen Thomas asked why a 12" transmission water line was even needed in this development. He shared that a couple of other large

neighborhoods in Moore County do not have a line this large. He expressed concern that ratepayers would be paying for some portion of this development. After a discussion Glen Thomas made a motion that Metro Lynchburg Moore Co Utility does not continue with work at the Tiny Homes Development until the formal contract had been signed and all monies were collected for the project. His motion was seconded by Barry Posluszny. Motion carried 5-0.

#### Manager's Report:

1. Ronnie Cunningham explained that the media for the Water Treatments Plant filter bed rehab project finally arrived, and the work had commenced on Monday, November 13, 2023. He said they were hoping to complete this by next week.
2. PFAs Litigation – class action lawsuit: The board discussed several points about the lawsuits with 3M and Dupont as described by attorney Ben Gastel's summary. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Glen Thomas and seconded by Barry Posluszny to stay in the litigation suit. Motion passed 5-0.
3. Ronnie Cunningham presented a General Service Agreement between Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood Engineering and Metro for basic engineering work. Ronnie has been working with Logan Hickerson (GMC) on the Coyhill Pumping Station and a Check Valve Vault in the County Line Area. This contract is needed for GMC to proceed with a proposal for work costs on each of these issues. Barry Posluszny made a motion to accept this agreement. Charles Johnston seconded. Motion carried 4-1.
4. Ronnie Cunningham introduced Bryant Griffin (Hethcoat & Davis Engineering) to the board members. Mr. Griffin was Metro's engineer for twenty-two years and is seeking to reestablish himself in the county. Glen Thomas spoke of Mr. Griffin's experience and workmanship with high praise. After a discussion Glen Thomas made a motion to hire Bryant Griffin and his firm Hethcoat & Davis for engineering services. Shane Taylor asked if a General Service Agreement was needed. Mr. Griffin assured him it was not necessary. Greg Guinn asked why wouldn't Metro and Hethcoat & Davis not want to have a written agreement? Glen Thomas spoke up and said if Metro wanted to fire Hethcoat & Davis they could at any time without a contract. Barry Posluszny seconded the motions. Motion passed 5-0.

Shane Taylor asked if any other items needed to be discussed. Glen Thomas spoke up saying he had other items to discuss. Shane Taylor opened the floor. Glen Thomas said he would like to state that on all documents that the water department uses the name of the utility should read Metropolitan Lynchburg Moore County Utility Department. He wants this corrected on meeting agendas, letterheads, etc. He said the citizens of Moore County voted for this to be the name in 1987 and no other version should be used. Shane Taylor

said that other county departments were working to address this issue and the water department would need to work on this too.

Glen Thomas asked the board members to schedule a work session for budget review in December. He wants to go over expenses and upcoming expenses to finish out the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. He would also like to ask questions about where the expenses have occurred and why. The board discussed and decided to have a work session on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 5PM prior to the regular meeting.

Charles Johnston asked about the Prater Hill (Anderson Road) water line extension saying the residents are still asking him when they will get access to county water. Ronnie Cunningham said this is the first project he will have Mr. Bryant Griffin work on for Metro. Ronnie feels like the project will be too cost prohibitive for the county to pay for at this time. There are only three homes in this area and the cost of a booster station is around \$750,000.00. He further explained he was willing to explore this extension but only at a certain expense for the ratepayers.

A motion was made by Barry Posluszny, and seconded by Shane Taylo, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM. Motion passed 5-0.

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Shane Taylor, Chairperson