

METROPOLITAN LYNCHBURG MOORE COUNTY
UTILITY DEPARTMENT
BOARD MEETING
February 9, 2021

The Metro Utility Board meeting scheduled for February 9, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. was called to order by Keith Moses, Chairperson. Members present were: Will Shavers, Mayor Bonnie Lewis, Shane Taylor, Keith Moses, Gerald Burnett, Brooke Fanning and Russell Sells.

Motion was made by Shane Taylor and seconded by Will Shavers to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Visitors: Travis Wilson, S&ME, Inc., Mike Mitchell, MUD – (In person attendees); Abdon Posada, Dan DeVane, Dennis Tucker – Zenner USA, Jim Mitchell and Tabb Stringer – PubliQ Software --(via Go To Meeting); Mary Warner Beard, CPA

Software and hardware issues: Mayor Lewis requested the software provider (PubliQ) and the digital meter company (Zenner USA) attend this meeting to discuss the issues that MUD has been facing since June 2020. After a lengthy discussion about how the issues occurred, Keith Moses asked both companies to present solutions to the issues. He stated that the utility board simply wanted to ensure that the MUD employees could process their workload in a timely manner. Gerald Burnett requested that both companies come to the MUD offices and stay for as long as the employees needed to train on system operations. Shane Taylor agreed that there seemed to be a lack of training. In closing, Mayor Lewis summarized the board's requests to both companies stating that MUD needed in person training after both companies clean up all the software errors. She reiterated that it does no good to begin training until everything is set up and running correctly. When the Go To meeting portion was completed, she addressed the board and stated that she felt that the software company had only a small window of opportunity to set things right and if they did not, the board would fire them and seek a new system.

Engineers' Reports – Travis Wilson announced that he had terminated his employment with S&ME, Inc. He and a handful of other engineers from that firm had taken employment with and a new engineering firm, LJA Engineering, based in Texas. He explained that all the projects he had been working on at S&ME were in transition or in the planning stages. When pressed about any contracts that MUD had entered with S&ME, Inc. he stated that all contractual items had been met by the utility. Russell Sell recommended that the board end its contract with S&ME, Inc and enter a contract with LJA Engineering. A motion was made to accept this recommendation by Shane Taylor and seconded by Gerald Burnett.

CDBG Funding: Mr. Travis Wilson updated the board on the progress with the funding exploration with Community Development Block Grant.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Sells distributed a MTAS document that outlines utility board requirements and duties.

He informed the board that the water treatment plant PLC panel that runs the SCADA and all other electronic device at the water treatment plant has malfunctioned and is now inoperable. He said it will be an emergency purchase in the amount of \$25,000 to replace this item.

He also stated that the raw water plant is now operating with two pumps.

Mr. Sells said that the water loss report should begin to look better in the coming months because a couple of extremely large leaks had been repaired this past month. He spoke of the maintenance crew working diligently to locate and repair leaks as fast as they could.

He verbalized that a flow meter will be reinstalled at Jack Daniel North to monitor the i/I again. He is hoping to verify that all the repairs needed were successfully completed by the distillery maintenance team.

Motion was made by Gerald Burnett, and seconded by Shane Taylor, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM. Motion passed 5-0.

Keith Moses, Chairperson