

METROPOLITAN LYNCHBURG MOORE
UTILITY DEPARTMENT
BOARD MEETING
January 9, 2024

The Metro Utility Board meeting scheduled for January 9, 2024, 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 Anna Coburn, *The Moore County News* Bryant Griffin, *Heathcoat & Davis*, and Jason Foster

The motion was made by Barry Posluszny and seconded by Greg Guinn to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023. Motion carried 5-0.

Jason Foster – Water Line Extension: Mr. Foster explained to the board that he had purchased a piece of property at 214 Finney Road, Lynchburg. He said currently there is no access to county water at his address. He asked the board to consider running a water line to his property. Mr. Glen Thomas explained to Mr. Foster that he would be responsible for purchasing the materials for installing any line extensions to the property. Mr. Thomas said that the utility department employees could install the materials up to his property line and then he would be responsible for running a service line to his house. Mr. Foster seemed amendable to that agreement. Ronnie Cunningham will roll the footage and get a quote for a 4" water line from the current blow off on Finney Road closest to Mr. Foster's residence. Shane Taylor told Mr. Foster the quote will be presented at the next utility meeting in February.

E-Source- Water Loss Consulting Services: Brooke Fanning presented a second proposal for \$115,470.00 from E-source outlining the cost for a leak survey and leak detection field work. After a brief discussion the board decided not to pursue outside help from E-source and created their own plan to tackle the water loss problem. Engineer Bryant Griffin took the floor and briefly outlined some in-house steps the utility could take to determine if the water meters are functioning properly. He made a couple of recommendations, and the board asked him several questions. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made to form a "Plan of Action" into two phases by Greg Guinn and seconded by Barry Posluszny, motion carried unanimously. Phase I: utility staff will analyze/compare the water usage on existing zone meters to residential water meters usage. Phase II: utility staff will replace 25-30 existing multi-jet water meters with ultrasonic water meters in locations where the Zenner meters are malfunctioning. Shane Taylor asked Ronnie Cunningham to issue an update on their "Plan of Action" at the February meeting. Shane Taylor asked for proof in video form to illustrate that the old multi-jet meters are not registering low flow, and the new ultrasonic meters register low flow of homeowner property leaks in real time. He further explained that the board couldn't take any formal action until evidence supporting the meters malfunctioning was evident on a large scale. After the results are presented at the February meeting the board will discuss the next steps to address this issue.

Engineer's Report: Ronnie Cunningham shared an email he received from Matt Williamson of LJA Engineering updating the board on the Cates Booster Station project and the 12" water main project.

1. 12-inch Waterline: The bore contractor has the original problem fixed but it appears that the old pump has contaminated the hydraulic lines with metal. They are pulling everything out and taking it to the shop for repairs and will let us know when they have it fixed. They won't be able to work until that is done.
2. Cate Booster Station: Southeastern Tank was onsite to pour the foundation for the building on Thursday. The geotechnical engineer for SE Tank said that the base was not prepped sufficiently to set the pad and advised that additional work be done prior to pouring the pad. Richland is working on getting a solution that is agreeable to SE Tank and will proceed, weather permitting, to getting it rescheduled.

Manager's Report:

1. Ronnie Cunningham informed the board that all of his report had been discussed during the water loss portion of the meeting.

Glen Thomas spoke up and said he had the office staff run him a report detailing all the commercial accounts and he found 3 customers in Chapman Acres who were hooked on to the sewer and had never been charged. He also stated that 52 businesses in Lynchburg were only being charged at a residential rate. He said this needed to be corrected. If a business is commercial property, they should be charged commercial water and sewer rates. Brooke Fanning spoke up and said that when the commercial rates were introduced to the board, and they voted to create a commercial rate they decided any business with a back flow device, or a grease trap be the only businesses who were charged commercial rates. Barry Posluszny and Shane Taylor both said they remembered being presented criteria for determining which businesses were charged a commercial rate. Brooke Fanning said she would look through the policy to see if it had been voted on in a past meeting. She will present at the February meeting for discussion.

A motion was made by Barry Posluszny, and seconded by Charles Johnston, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM. Motion passed 5-0.

Shane Taylor, Chairperson