

METROPOLITAN LYNCHBURG MOORE  
UTILITY DEPARTMENT  
BOARD MEETING  
March 14, 2023

The Metro Utility Board meeting scheduled for March 14, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. was called to order by Shane Taylor, Chairperson. Member's present: Charles "Boo" Johnston, Jon Robertson, Will Shavers, Shane Taylor, Barry Posluszny, Russell Sells and Brooke Fanning.

Motion was made by Will Shavers and seconded by Charles Johnston to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023, meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Visitors: Travis Wilson, *LJA Engineering*, Tabitha Moore, *The Lynchburg Times*, Bradley Pittman, *Hawkins and Price Contractors*

Policy Review/Revisions:

- Policy B – *Billing and Payment*
- Policy M – *Subdivisions and Developers*
- Exhibit M-1 – *Subdivision/Developer Contract*
- Policy N – *Eminent Domain*

The policy review was discussed at length. The board asked questions regarding the revisions and a motion was made to accept the policy revisions as proposed by legal council by Barry Poluszny and seconded by Jon Robertson. Motion carried to adopt the policies with the new revisions 5-0.

Policy G – *Multiple Connections to One Meter*: This policy discussions illuminated some questions regarding mother-in-law suites, guest houses, and pool houses. It was decided that this policy review would be tabled until the April board meeting. Legal council will be contacted prior to the April board meeting to ask for clarification in these types of structures on a property.

Internal Control Manual: The board reviewed the policy and a motion was made by Barry Posluszny and seconded by Shane Taylor to accept the existing policy. The motion carried 5-0.

Moving Funds to Local Government Investment Pool: Brooke Fanning presented the board with current bank balances and asked permission to withdraw \$100,000 from Moore County Bank checking account ending in #8088 and an additional \$600,000 from Moore County Bank savings account ending in #0122 to be deposited into the State of TN Local Government Investment Pool. A motion was made by Jon Robertson and seconded by Will Shavers to move the funds as requested. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

Insurance Cost Increase for Medical Insurance: Brooke Fanning presented the board members with a spreadsheet detailing employee's costs for health insurance. For budgeting purposes, she explained that employees costs had risen significantly in December 2022 and were expected to increase an additional 12% during the upcoming budget. These drastic cost increases and the low hourly pay are causing employees to receive less money in their paychecks. She insisted that employees be compensated for the insurance cost increases at the very least in the upcoming budget. Barry Posluszny spoke up and said that this issue had been brought up in the December meeting and he felt like it had been handled and put to rest. Mrs. Fanning reiterated that insurance costs had risen and employees pay did not keep up the pace. This was detrimental to employee morale and ultimately could cause employees to seek employment elsewhere. Mr. Posluszny said the wage increases would ultimately have to stop at some point and employees would simply have to accept that they had to bear the costs of the insurance. He went on to say he knows many working people who paid for their insurance costs. He did not wish to discuss this issue any further. Mrs. Fanning explained that insurance costs and pay increases will always be an issue during budget season and should be discussed a couple of times each year. She also mentioned paying 100% of the employee's insurance costs as an option. Coupling the 100% insurance benefit along with a 5% wage increase would bring the employees pay back to an industry standard of pay. Mrs. Fanning said this item would be an item of discussion at the April meeting with a formal presentation of the budget for the board to consider.

Manager/Engineer's Report: Travis Wilson and Russell Sells updated the board on several ongoing projects:

1. Sewer Rehab Project flow monitoring update. Travis Wilson presented data to the board showing the differences in the 2020 sewer flow monitoring and the 2023 study. The rehab project Phase I is nearing completion.
2. Diffusers at the Wastewater Plant are causing issues with aeration in the SBR tanks. Mr. Sells said approximately \$40,000 was needed to repair the diffusers. Mr. Sells said he would like to use monies from the "restricted for asset maintenance funds for this repair.  
No vote was taken to proceed with approval of this repair.
3. TDOT Road Widening has begun and moving along as scheduled.
4. 12" Water Main project has begun at the new baseball park. 36,000 feet have currently been installed. The construction has been halted because John T. Bobo has not fully reviewed the contract and Mayor Stewart has not signed the contract for the county. As soon as a legal opinion can be issued, and Mayor Stewart can sign the contract construction will continue.

Harry Hill and Cates Booster Stations: At the March meeting the board was presented with the bid tabulations for this project. After a lengthy presentation of options for construction and discussion by the board members, a motion was made by Barry Posluszny to seek turn key construction CMAR for the Cates Booster Station, only. Motion passed 5-0. The board asked Travis Wilson to present pricing options for them to consider at the April meeting for the Harry Hill Booster Station. They felt like they may have time to save money to pay for this project with cash rather than seeking a loan/bond.

A motion was made by Barry Posluszny, and seconded by Shane Taylor, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM. Motion passed 5-0.

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Shane Taylor, Chairperson

