

METROPOLITAN LYNCHBURG MOORE  
UTILITY DEPARTMENT  
BOARD MEETING  
December 12, 2023

The Metro Utility Board meeting scheduled for December 12, 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 Anna Coburn, *The Moore County News*.

The motion was made by Greg Guinn and seconded by Barry Posluszny to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2023. Motion carried 5-0.

Lead Service Line Inventory (SWIG): Ronnie Cunningham described to the board various steps the EPA is requiring utilities take and report back to the EPA by October 2024 regarding Lead Service Lines in the ground. He explained that there is a grant opportunity for up to \$250,000 to assist with funding portions of the Lead Service Line Inventory project. After a discussion a motion was made by Barry Posluszny to seek grant funding for this project through SWIG. The motion was seconded by Shane Taylor. Motion carried unanimously. Ronnie Cunningham and Brooke Fanning will sit through a webinar on December 14<sup>th</sup> to learn more about this grant funding.

Glen Thomas General Manager Vehicle: Mr. Glen Thomas asked the board to consider allowing the General Manager to drive a company vehicle home nightly. He said that Ronnie Cunningham lives only 2 miles away from the nearest Metro Lynchburg Moore County water line and should be allowed to drive a company vehicle home for the convenience of responding to calls during off shifts. He further explained that the board should consider drafting a new policy allowing the General Manger to carry home a company vehicle if the manager resides within five miles of a Metro Lynchburg Moore County Water Line. Mr. Barry Posluszny spoke up saying he was in favor of this policy change but worried that either Metro Utility or Ronnie Cunningham would be responsible for reporting mileage as a fringe benefit for tax purposes. Mr. Glen Thomas said other departments such as the highway department and Sherrif's department had done this for years. Shane Taylor chimed in and said that police vehicles are treated completely differently than utility vehicles. Mr. Glen Thomas said that Ronnie Cunningham was always on call and responded every time there was a leak in the system. Barry Posluszny said he wanted to seek legal advice before a formal policy was drafted and presented to the board for consideration. Mr. Posluszny further explained he didn't want the General Manager or the utility to get saddled with paying a fine for neglecting to do their due diligence in the matter. Mr. Glen Thomas made a motion to allow the General Manager to carry home a company vehicle as long as the employee lived within five miles of the county's water lines. The motion was seconded by Greg Guinn. Motion carried 5-0. A formal policy will be presented to the board for adoption at the January 2024 meeting.

E-Source- Water Loss Consulting Services: Brooke Fanning reviewed a proposal distributed by E-Source for Water Loss Control Assistance. The proposal detailed a twelve-month project for investigation of water audit data, water audit compilation support, review of current practices, compilation of recommendations for improvement, and investigation of billing software and data accuracy for \$60,200. After a discussion of the services, the board agreed assistance is needed for water loss technical assistance, but they asked to see pricing for production meter testing and leak detection survey work. The board feels like the billing and metering data are good but has concerns with production metering data. The board is also interested in a field leak detection survey. They asked Brooke Fanning to see if E-Source is willing to offer more fieldwork rather than data review at this time. They also asked to see two other quotes from similar companies who offer this type of service for comparison at the January meeting.

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. For the 12-inch watermain, the bore contractor had an issue with their bore machine last Thursday and had to pull off to wait for parts to arrive. It is our understanding that the parts came in on Friday and were installed on Saturday. They did not come to the site today because the repairs that they did Saturday did not fix the problem so they are working on trying to get a resolution today. We are not sure when they will have the machine up and running at this point.
2. For the Cates Booster Station project, Richland is working with their fencing contractor today on installing the posts for the fencing. This should be finished today and the subcontractor will return on Thursday to install the chain-link. Richland is also waiting on SE Tank to come in and install the foundation for the pump building. The plan is to have that completed before the break for the Christmas/New Years holidays. We should find out more details about that in our meeting tomorrow.

Write-Offs: Brooke Fanning shared the December write-offs list to the board for consideration. A motion was made by Barry Posluszny and seconded by Glen Thomas to write off \$1,786,60 of bad debt. The board agreed unanimously to allow the write-offs.

Manager's Report:

1. Ronnie Cunningham informed the board that the Coy hill Pump Station motor had been installed and the pump repaired with the pump station now functioning correctly.
2. He further explained that the filter bed rehab at the water treatment plant was completed and working well.
3. He also explained that the Sewer Plant is functioning good.

4. Ronnie also asked the board to consider giving the utility employees a Christmas Bonus for all their hard work. A motion was made by Greg Guinn and seconded by Barry Posluszny to allow each employee a \$100 Christmas Bonus. Motion passed with all members voting yes.

A motion was made by Barry Posluszny, and seconded by Shane Taylor, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM. Motion passed 5-0.

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Shane Taylor, Chairperson