METROPOLITAN LYNCHBURG MOORE COUNTY

UTILITY DEPARTMENT

BOARD MEETING

June 8, 2021

The Metro Utility Board meeting scheduled for June 8, 2021 at 6:10 P.M. was called to order by Keith Moses, Chairperson. Members present were: Shane Taylor, Keith Moses, Barry Posluszny, Gerald Burnett, Mayor Bonnie Lewis, Brooke Fanning and Russell Sells.

Motion was made by Barry Posluszny and seconded by Shane Taylor to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

Visitors: Travis Wilson, LJA Engineering and Tabitha Moore, *The Lynchburg Times*

Engineers’ Reports – Travis Wilson updated the board on the progress of the TDOT highway 55 relocation project. He informed them that the “B” date is August 4th for final design submissions. Hitting the deadlines for submission on this project ensures that Metro Utility will be reimbursed 100 % of the costs associated with the project.

Mr. Wilson also issued an update for the $2.1 million dollars SRF (State Revolving Loan Fund) submittal. This project is to correct the i/I weaknesses in the sewer system. TDEC has all the documents and will be reviewing them for the next 30 days. After TDEC has reviewed and submitted their corrections the documents will then be sent to SRF for a 60-day review. After these reviews the documents will then be recommended to the TLDA board for loan consideration. Once the loan has been approved the Metro Utility will enter a contract for the loan with SRF.

Mr. Wilson also highlighted the possible CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) monies available to the utility. MUD is still eligible for $50,000 in grant monies to be used for the Water Model Study. He said that the monies that have been spent to date on this project are not recoverable. Mayor Lewis asked that a statement be included in the minutes that Moore County missed out on the big CDBG monies due to a Metro Council member encouraging people to not complete the required income surveys provided by South Central Human Resources. Mayor Lewis felt strongly that this should be noted because it was harmful to the county’s finances.

Write-Offs: Brooke Fanning presented the board with a total of $4,612.59 in accounts receivable to be moved into bad debt as an account write-off. A motion was made by Gerald Burnett to accept the write-offs as presented. Shane Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Rate Increase Notification: Brooke Fanning reminded the board that their third and final rate increase will take effect July 1, 2021. The residential sewer rate will increase to $22.89 per 1000 gallons and the commercial sewer rate will increase to $28.18 per 1000 gallons.

Budget Amendments: Brooke Fanning informed the board that due to grant monies not being awarded by SRF for the SSES (Sewer System Evaluation Study) project. Since the monies already spent on this project were solely funded by cash provided by the rate payers Mrs. Fanning was required to move these monies to expenses rather than the Construction Work in Progress. The distribution will be as follows: GL 53370-310 ($23,972.50) GL 53370-200 ($113, 007.40) GL 53640-210 ($34,384.03) GL 53640-200 $6,433.75 and GL 12100-100 ($11,102.62) for a total of $188,900.30 in reclassification of expenses. A motion was made by Barry Posluszny and seconded by Shane Taylor to accept the requested amended items and present to the Metro Council Budget committee for consideration. Motion carried 4-0.

Manager’s Report: Mr. Russell Sells updated progress on several projects with the board. He distributed a couple of handouts detailing Water System Improvements and Generators for the board to review.

Mr. Sells reported that Dudney Fox, Fox PE, is working with the utility to craft a viable capital improvement plan for the water treatment plant. The most important item on the list are the filter beds and generators. Brooke Fanning discussed different interest rates and costs of issuance of debt with the board for these proposed projects.

American Rescue Plan: Mayor Bonnie Lewis updated the board on the American Rescue Plan Act. She says she has been in meetings about the distribution of these funds at the state and local levels. She is waiting to receive more concrete information about this funding and how Moore County can divvy these up to meet deficiencies in the county’s infrastructure. She says that the State Comptroller’s office will be spearheading the distribution of funds so that they will be used according to the Act’s provisions. She will have more information to share after July 1st.

Motion was made by Shane Taylor, and seconded by Barry Posluszny, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM. Motion passed 4-0.

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 Keith Moses, Chairperson