

**MEANSVILLE RILEY ROAD WATER COMPANY, INC.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2024
HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM AT MRWC 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT	TELECONFERENCE	ABSENT	ALSO PRESENT
Paula Brewster	John Burnett	Cindy Burnett	Paula Wright
Robynne Burress			
Mark Carroll			
Angie Hauser			
Otis Hembree			
Hermine Keith			
Don Tucker			

Meeting Called to Order: Otis called the meeting to order.

Invocation: Don gave the invocation.

Approve Minutes: Robynne made a motion to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Don, and all approved.

Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session at 7:07 and came out at 7:34. No immediate action was required.

Financial Statement: Paula Brewster made a motion to accept the financial statement, Mark seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Correspondence: The South Carolina Drought Committee met November 6th and declared all forty-six counties are incipient. Paula Wright thanked the Board on behalf of the employees for the \$25.00 Thanksgiving gift cards. WBCU Radio asked MRWC to participate in the Christmas Salutes in December. The company will receive thirty on air Christmas salutes. Wells Fargo has two CDs for \$250,000.00 that will mature in January, one in February, one in March, and one in April. There is \$103,517.00 in the money market account and it could be available in two business days if needed. MRWC received a check from Luckstone in the amount of \$13,366.60, and the company received a check from the State of South Carolina Office of the State Treasurer in the amount of \$250,000.00 for (SC RIA) SC Rural Infrastructure Authority for a small line extension on O'Shields Road.

WBCU Radio: Robynne made a motion to donate \$199.00 to participate in the Christmas Salutes, Angie seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Sanitary Survey: Matt Ewing was here November 13th to complete the survey, and we received the report yesterday.

Lead and Copper: Letters were mailed to the unknowns on Thursday, November 17th. When customers call the office, the staff asks what kind of pipes are installed from the meter to their home and what kind of pipes are inside the home.

SCIIP Grant: Otis reported that Rich drew out a fire hydrant every 2,500 feet and the first hydrant was put in a ten-foot hole. The hydrants have now been identified as where to place them and where a fire truck can get to them.

State Revolving Fund: Otis reported that once the Highway 49 Project is further along, Rich with Summit Engineering will resubmit the Meadow Woods Project and tie it back into Highway 49.

OHBA RIA Grant: Otis reported the Old Hills Bridge Road will be resubmitted in January 2025, the deadline for submittal is March 17, 2025, and Rich is working on the drawings.

Highway 92 Bridge Pipe Hanger: Otis spoke with Matt with SM Grading and Excavating and he is concentrating on installing the new water line on Highway 49.

Highway 49 Leak: MRWC is still waiting for the plate to be replaced with asphalt where the leak was repaired on Highway 49.

Luckstone: The company Luckstone is operational.

Arrowood Acres Subdivision: Otis reported that the fire hydrants are down and MRWC has ownership of the Arrowood Acres water lines.

Disposal of 2012 Ford Pickup: The truck sold for \$4,500.00 and the money was deposited in the Arthur State Saving account by GovDeals on November 22nd.

General Manager Search: Mark reported so far, the committee has not successfully found an applicant. The committee did expand the posting on three other sites. However, they received an application today that seems like a good candidate, and they will be pursuing conversation with and hopefully interview the candidate.

Rates: Don made a motion to increase the water rates by the size of the meter and increase the gallon usage by 500 gallons. The motion was seconded by Angie and approved unanimously. The rate increases show below:

¾"	\$25.00
1"	\$40.41
1½"	\$51.00
2"	\$81.50
3"	\$134.49
4"	\$210.03
6"	\$397.19

The increase will start in January and be due on February 10th bill. Laurin will continue to work on the rate study.

2025 Budget: Paula Brewster will have the budget finalized in January for the Board to vote on and will need to be approved at the Annual Meeting held February 11th.

Attendance Policy: The committee will meet on Monday, December 2nd at 5:00 p.m.

SCRWA Report: Otis, Lee Shropshire, and Paula Wright attended the South Carolina Rural Water Association Annual Conference. Paula attended the planning for resiliency with USDA

class where they spoke about planning for resiliency with USDA. They provide loans with long-term and low interest loans to finance water projects. They give extensions to rural areas that do not currently have water services, replacement of aging infrastructure that is no longer reliable or efficient and for construction. Ensuring systems can withstand disruptions. Develop plans risk and climate change. Work with local governments and engage the community to educate them.

Asset management and life cycle incorporating technology with GIS mapping. Invest in smart technology. Recommend reading the book "The Big Thirst" by Charles Fishman.

The (COG) Council of Governments is an invaluable resource. They can be a resource for job training, aging resources, help with obtaining state and federal grants.

Cybersecurity in the water sector is critical due to increasing threats targeting water systems. It was recommended to have an outside assessment, conduct inventory of assets, have instant response plan, have cyber security insurance, and a recovery plan (print copy and save copy), backup CT/IT system (have off site, cloud, and physical) in case of storm or fire. Do not do in-house mail exchange, keep software up to date, always patch, and have strong encryption. Keep server locked with camera and do not share closet. Anyone coming into the office show their ID and make a sheet of who comes in. Conduct regular cybersecurity awareness training. Use AWWA cybers security resources website and AWWA.org. Purchase a cross shredder and take staples out. Manage the changing workforce by planning and be prepared for retirement. Crosstrain employees, give feedback, and create a plan to promote. Paula Wright thanked the Board for allowing her to attend.

Meter Forfeit: The Board voted some time ago to leave the meters in. Otis discussed the problem with not removing meters. Paula Wright will check with Southern Software about reading meter forfeits.

Stagecoach Road and Hugh Lane: Arnold Ramsey has fifty acres on Hugh Lane toward Glenn Springs and is looking to develop fifty units and would like to know when MRWC is going to run water there. He has a construction company and could complete some of the work, but it would have to be done to MRWC regulations, engineering, and standards. Otis will ask Arnold to attend the January meeting. Christy Mills called about water on Stagecoach Road and was told that it is on the project list.

Gift Cards: Mark made a motion to give all school age children eighteen and under a \$20.00 gift card at the Annual Christmas Party. Robynne seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

License: Mark made a motion to update the policy to include at the end of the current policy that Meansville Riley Road Water Company will pay for the first attempt at each license class and will reimburse the employee for any successful attempt thereafter. Angie seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Closing Prayer: Mark closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 9:51


Paula C. Wright, Board Secretary

