

**MEANSVILLE RILEY ROAD WATER COMPANY, INC.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM AT MRWC 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Paula Brewster
Cindy Burnett
John Burnett
Robynne Burress
Mark Carroll
Angie Hauser
Otis Hembree
Hermine Keith
Don Tucker

ALSO PRESENT

John Kingsmore
Paula Wright

Meeting Called to Order: Otis called the meeting of the water company to order.

Invocation: John Kingsmore had the opening prayer.

Approve Minutes: Don made a motion to approve the minutes, Angie seconded the motion, and all approved.

Company Trucks: Don made a motion that as long as an employee is on call, they may drive a company truck home to include James Stroupe but not to carry passengers in the company vehicle. Robynne seconded the motion, and the motion passed six voting yes with Angie and John Burnett opposing. John Kingsmore will address all maintenance workers that they are not to have passengers in company vehicles unless they are employees or Board Directors of MRWC.

Audit: Marcy Loucks with McKinley Cooper and Company stated in an email dated today that she will have an audit draft for us as soon as possible per Paula Wright.

Correspondence: The Board received a letter from Mrs. Alma O'Shields complementing the excellent employees of MRWC. The company received a letter from USC Upstate Foundation for the memorial contribution of \$50 to the USC Upstate Excellence Fund in memory of Larry E. Flynn, Jr.

Water Line Install: John Kingsmore reported that Rich with Summit Engineering has applied for permits on the Meadow Woods/Sugar Creek Road Project. The project will be done in-house, and they hope to start November 1st of this year. John Kingsmore thinks the cost will be no more than \$150,000.00.

CPA/Accounting Help: Two accounting firms that came for a meeting here at the company did not wish to quote on the job. MRWC did receive a bid from Roberts Accounting and Love Bailey & Associates. Mark made a motion that as long as Roberts Accounting is providing the scope of work that is needed for this company and she is doing it for the quoted price of \$700.00 per month that we hire her and is a CPA preferred by the people working with her, Hermine seconded the motion and the motion carried with Angie abstaining. Paula Wright will ask Roberts Accounting

if they are a Certified Public Accountant and if they plan on charging more to go back to October 2022 but no further than January 1, 2022, for the same amount of quote. Should Roberts answer be that more money is needed the Board will meet again.

Service Line Cost Analysis: John Kingsmore stated that local utilities have increased base rates and tap fees. The cost from one of our suppliers gave us the cost for a one-inch tap cost for materials only is \$1,292.00 and at the end of the third quarter of 2022 the cost was \$1,238.00. The ¾ and one-inch taps have increased around \$50.00. Angie Barber will gather costs from other utilities and John Kingsmore will give the report at the next meeting. The Board increased the rates July 1, 2022.

Grant Application-RIA-OHBA: John Kingsmore and Rich Anderson with Summitt Engineering delivered the paperwork to Columbia on September 15th. The grant for 1.3 million must go through Spartanburg County Council and is to run water to Gwinn Mill Road, Pettie Circle, Old Hills Bridge Road, back to Riddle Road and pick up on the blow off at Riddle Road. There are ninety-one residences that the company is trying to supply water to. John is hoping that next year the company may receive another grant to get water to Harrellson and Marshall Turker Road. It will be next year before MRWC knows if we have received the grant.

SCHIP: Robynne made a motion to transfer \$250,000.00 dollars from Arthur State Money Market to Wells Fargo to put in CD's. Also, John Kingsmore will move \$250,000.00 dollars from Arthur State Money Market to the SCHIP checking account at Arthur State Bank. Cindy seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Budget Committee: Paula Brewster, Angie, Robynne, John Kingsmore, and Paula Wright will serve on the Budget Committee.

SCRWA Pro Office: Paula Wright thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the South Carolina Rural Water Association Pro Office in Columbia held on September 7th and 8th.

Blue Granite: The Blue Granite Sewer Company for the Fairwood Subdivision would like MRWC to give the address and the water consumption of those customers so they can bill upon the consumption. Blue Granite is now charging a flat fee to their sewer customers. We will check with the company attorney, Lawrence Flynn, as to whether MRWC is going to be in violation and to give us a quote for him to draw up a contract to pass on to Blue Granite.

Arrowwood Acres: Rich has been working on the design for the contractors for Arrowwood Acres off Rocky Ridge Road and Liberty Ridge Road. Cole Kearse is planning to build 135 homes.

Customer Compliant: Otis received a call from Bonnie Gibbs about a bill for \$36.92, a non-payment charge of \$75.00 fee and has never used any water and has not received a bill. She did state that she only installed a mailbox two weeks ago. One bill was returned due to no delivery because of no mail receptacle. She wanted the non-payment to be waived. Angie made a motion to not waive the \$75.00 fee, John Burnett seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Building Grounds Upkeep: John Kingsmore is trying to get bids for painting the outside of the office building and pump houses and has only received one bid and will try to receive other bids.

Bridge Hanger: John Kingsmore and Rich are trying to receive bids on Highway 92 since Ted Harrison and Tim Lowery are both too busy to do the repairs. AAA Utility and Construction has sent in a bid from Columbia, and they would replace two hangers and one lane closure. One contractor stated he did not want liability. It was suggested to ask Tri County Construction and Tom Brigman in Newberry. Don made a motion to approve \$27,370.00 dollars and call the contractors that was suggested. Robynne seconded the motion, the motion passed with John Burnett opposing.

Tree Removal: John Kingsmore stated that the trees will be cut down at the pump house either Friday or Saturday of this week.

MRWC Sign: John Burnett stated that the sign was placed on the road four or five years ago and that it needs to be painted but does not need replacing and bushes needed to be cut down. The shrubs on the end will get twenty-five feet tall and twenty-five feet wide. The shrubs underneath will probably get six or eight feet high, and it is a maintenance to keep cutting it back to keep it under the sign.

SCRWA Office Pro: Paula Wright thanked the Board for allowing her to attend the Office Pro that was held in Columbia on September 7th and 8th.

SCRWA Annual Meeting: Hermine Keith and Paula Brewster will attend the SCRWA Annual Meeting to be held in Myrtle Beach November 13th through the 15th.

Christmas Party: The annual Christmas Party will be held at Midway BBQ on December 12 at 6:00 p.m.

Prayer: Otis gave the closing prayer.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.



Paula C. Wright

