

**MEANSVILLE RILEY ROAD WATER COMPANY, INC.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 28, 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 to order and gave the invocation.

Approve Minutes: Paula Brewster made a motion to approve the minutes, Hermine seconded the motion, and all approved.

Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session at 7:22 and came out at 7:52 p.m. No action was taken in the Executive Session.

Financial Statement: Angie made a motion to table the financials until they are resolved by Love Bailey, the CPA Company retained by MRWC, and the motion carried. John Kingsmore recommends closing the Arthur State CD of \$51,104.24 after it matures December 19th this year to the Arthur State Checking account because the interest is only paying .1% interest, then Brent Babb can invest it in a six-month CD. Mark made a motion per John Kingsmore's recommendation to close the Arthur State CD and move the \$51,104.24 to the checking account and invest \$250,000.00 in a CD. Don seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: WBCU asked if the company would like to participate in the Union County Sounds of Christmas Program. Angie made a motion, seconded by Robynne, to give \$210.00 to participate once again and the motion carried.

The Junior Charity League will be holding the 5th Annual Oyster Roast on January 20, 2024, at Rogers Farm Properties in Union County and \$150.00 donation will include admission for two people. Angie made a motion to give \$150.00 to the JCL and have a drawing of two employees that would like to attend the event, Robynne seconded the motion, and the motion was approved. A thank you was received for the peace lily that the Board and employees sent to the Yvonne Childers Family during their time of sorrow.

The South Carolina Rural Water Association (SCRWA) sent an email to notify us that the Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa in western Pennsylvania was attacked by an Iranian-backed cyber group known as CyberAv3ngers. The actors were able to gain control of a remote booster station serving two townships but stressed there is no known risk to the drinking water or water supply. This group claims to be an active group focused on targeting Israeli water and energy sites including ten water treatment stations in Israel as October 30, 2023, according to their X page.

Last week Chesterfield Rural Water in South Carolina experienced a similar attack by the same malicious actors. Kevin Youngblood, the company's IT person was notified, and he installed a new security fire wall today, however he only manages the remote stations. Office personnel did sign up for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security (CISA) free Cyber Vulnerability Scanning service which is an operational component of the Department of Homeland Security. John Kingsmore stated that our pump stations are controlled by Mission Communications.

ATTORNEY: Lawrence stated Board Members can call in for a meeting but are not allowed to vote. He will be present at the Annual Meeting. Paula Wright will speak with Lawrence to see if the bylaws need to be updated.

SCHIP Grant: John Kingsmore stated that Rich sent paperwork for the Highway 49 Project to Katherine Farrand at the COG for review the day before Thanksgiving. Rich hopes to receive approval by the end of November and we can advertise on South Carolina Business Opportunities (SCBO) for thirty days and accept bids the first or middle of January.

Love Bailey: CPA, Paul Klein has had trouble navigating the utility billing system and will start working on the reconciliations at the end of this week or the first of next week.

Auditors: The office staff have tried to communicate with company auditors, McKinley Cooper, and they are not returning telephone calls and emails. Marcy did send in the 990 forms but stated that it would be amended. She was asked in an email to attend the meeting tonight and the Annual Meeting in February, but we have not heard if she will attend. It was decided to draft a letter to Marcy and Toni and copy our attorney onto it.

Hully Bridge Road: John Kingsmore received a permit from Kathy with SCDOT and he received a permit from DEHC this morning and will start work soon.

New Truck: Matt Forte stated in an email to John Kingsmore that the truck was roughly three weeks out before delivery of the new truck. The truck bed that was quoted was a standard utility, but we are receiving a bed with flip top lid for a cost of \$954.00 increase over what was quoted.

Highway 92 Bridge: Tim Lowrey is getting the hangers made and John Kingsmore hopes to have the work completed on the bridge in the next couple of weeks. The Board approved 27,000.00 to repair the bridge. The cost will be 22,000.00 for one day but should it take two days the cost will be \$28,000.00. Angie made a motion to approve another \$6,000.00, seconded by Don, and the motion passed.

Painting Project: Benjamin Salas finished painting the office building and the pump stations. John Kingsmore will paint the letters on the MRRWC sign.

Trees Removed: John Kingsmore stated trees have been removed from the Highway 215 pump house.

Blue Granite: Blue Granite is the sewer provider for our Fairwood customers, and they want us to furnish them address and consumption to bill their customers instead of charging a flat fee. The company attorney will draw up a contract and confidentiality agreement for us. Mark made a motion that the Board work with Blue Granite and charge them a setup fee of attorney fees plus

\$1,500.00 and charge them on a per tap basics at \$10 each monthly rate. Cindy seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Class Action Lawsuit: John Kingsmore talked with Lawrence about the lawsuit from Dupont and he advised MRWC to stay in the class even though we may not see any recovery but that it is better than attempting to go the suit alone.

Project List: John Kingsmore read from a priority list that was made in the year 2021 that included Browning Road water line, Police Club Road, Kayla Court, Georgia Road, Pettit Circle, Hard Ranch Road, Shaw Ridge Drive, Jeter Drive, Rocky Drive, Justic Road, and Jones Ford Road. Meadow Woods, Sugar Creek. Mt. Lebanon Road water line replacement and Riley Road Water line replacement, Gist Bridge and Meansville Road, and Sugar Creek Road water line

Capital Credits: Lawrence Fynn, the attorney, said we need to prioritize the project list for capital credits.

Christmas Party Gifts: Cindy made a motion to give the employees and children eighteen years old and under that attend the party a \$20.00 gift card, Angie seconded the motion and all approved.

SCRWA Conference: Paula Brewster represented MRWC as our alternate delegate at the South Carolina Rural Water Association and stated Infrastructure was talked about, but her main goal was to attend RIA update grants. The deadline for Capital Improvements Grant is June 1, 2026. ARI Grant is due March 1, 2024. John Kingsmore stated he will reapply for the grant for Gwinn Mill Road, Old Hills Bridge Road, and Pettit Circle Road. Hermine represented MRWC at the South Carolina Rural Water Association as the voting delegate and attended the Board Meeting. She stated the main topic was a county that was experiencing people stealing water from a water company in a district in the lower part of the state.

Upcoming Events: The Christmas Party will be held at Midway BBQ on December 12 at 6:00 p.m.
Next Board Meeting will be January 23rd at 7:00 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Robynne closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Paula C. Wright
Board Secretary