

**MEANSVILLE RILEY ROAD WATER COMPANY, INC.
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR AUGUST 27, 2024
HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM AT MRWC 7:00 P.M.**

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

Meeting Called to Order: Otis called the meeting to order and gave the invocation.

Approve Minutes: Cindy made a motion to approve the minutes, Paula Brewster seconded, and the motion passed. John Burnett abstained.

Financial Statement: Robynne made a motion to approve the financials, with Paula Wright to answer the cost of salaries at the next meeting. Mark seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Angie Hauser and John Burnett opposed.

Correspondence: The SCDNR reported that the drought for Union and Spartanburg Counties have been upgraded to normal status.

SCIIP & State Revolving Fund (SRF) Update: Otis reported that the two contractors, SM Grading & Excavating LLC and Pain, & Cummins, Inc., will start work on the Highway 49 project mid-September of this year. The finish date is August 30, 2025.

Water Rate Study & Capacity Fee Study: Eric Bennett and Chad Byars with the SCRWA did a water rate study based on 2022 and 2023 budgets. The recommendations they made were to increase taps for residential and commercial by 3% every year due to inflation and maintenance fees. Increase five dollars on the minimum fees of both residential and commercial rates. Incorporate an impact fee to help ease the cost of future line upgrades by one to two dollars to both residential and commercial bills each month. Add maintenance fees to assist with the cost of parts and labor of the day-to-day workings of one to two dollars to each account per month. They recommend adding different late fees, reconnection fees, and after-hour fees. Chad stated the average residential minimum across the State is \$22.00 per month. Angie made a motion to form a committee to do an in-house rate study, Mark seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Robynne, Angie, and John Burnett will serve on the committee.

Capital Credits: Paula Wright does not agree with the capital credits that McKinley Cooper has given MRWC. Toni with McKinley Cooper has stated they have spent a considerable amount of time working on the spreadsheet for capital credits and this is work outside the scope of the audit work. When Marcy said that they would prepare the capital credit calculation, she did not

understand that it would involve detailed bookkeeping and software changes. She contemplated a minimal amount of accounting work. Toni stated they have prepared the spreadsheet, but any further cleanup work due to the software changes should be done by MRWC internal staff. The McKinley Cooper contract will be emailed to Robynne.

Vehicle Use Policy: The committee of vehicle use, and merit salary increase policies consisted of Paula Brewster, Angie, Robynne, Cindy, and Mark and they recommend the policies they produce pass for approval. The policies passed with opposition from John Burnett. The policies will be sent to the company attorney, Lawrence Flynn, and then published in the employee handbook.

Bridge Hangers: John Kingsmore reported that he could not contact Ted Lowery, he contacted someone in Summerville who could not do the job. He then contacted SM Grading & Excavating LLC who stated they will do the bridge hanger repair on Highway 92, order hangers, and get traffic control. Mark made a motion to get them to do the repair if the cost is what the Board has already approved in the past. John Kingsmore stated he has contacted six contractors about repairing the hangers. The motion was seconded by Angie and passed except for John Burnett who abstained.

Lead & Copper: John Kingsmore stated that October 16th is the deadline for submitting the initial LCRR service line inventory to SCDES and 40% have been identified as not having lead or copper and only 15% was required. Sixty percent of the work has not been identified. All customers whose service line is determined to be lead or is currently unknown must be individually notified by letter form by November 15 at MRWC's cost. TruePani, the SCDHEC sponsored engineering firm, finished our inventory for most of our water lines.

Luckstone: John Kingsmore has been working with Laura Nugent from Luckstone in Enoree and they have a contractor to install the box and main line. Laura wants us to bid out the boring part, tap, and get the permits. John Kingsmore has ordered a six-inch meter from Core and Main which will ship and bill Luckstone. MRWC will get price for bore, contractor, and decide on price per month for a six-inch meter.

Arrowood Acres Subdivision: John Kingsmore emailed Ben Saragusa today and has not heard back from him when they are going to pay the \$750,000.00 so Ted Harrison can start installing the water line.

Blue Granite: John Kingsmore stated that someone emailed him wanting to know if the agreement was still valid and he sent that on to attorney Lawrence Flynn to check on. Blue Granite has changed their name again and is now Nexus.

Insurance: Lois Vickery with Carolina Agency Partners has not given John Kingsmore a quote for insurance.

Bank Accounts: John Kingsmore moved \$149,283.59 from Arthur State Checking to the SCIP Account and opened a savings account with Arthur State for GovDeals.

OHBA RIA Grant: The reapplication for Gwinn Mill Road, Old Hills Bridge, Pettit Circle, and Riddle Road must be in by October 23 or 24. Rich Anderson and Kevin Stiens, Assistant County

Administrator with Spartanburg County is working on this. If we are awarded the 1.3 million Spartanburg County will be the recipient and hold MRWC match of \$400,000.00.

HVAC: John Kingsmore has only received one bid for a new heating and cooling system from Humphries Heating & Air.

Budget Committee: Paula Brewster, Angie, Robynne, and Otis will serve on the committee and present to the Board at the November Board Meeting.

Resignation Letter: Otis read John Kingsmore's resignation letter and told the Board he would work two weeks' notice.

New General Manager Committee: Mark, Don, Cindy, and Angie will serve on the search committee for a new general manager.

Prayer: Mark had the closing prayer.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Paula C. Wright
Board Secretary