

BEULAH UTILITIES DISTRICT
Minutes of Regular Board of Directors Meeting
September 16, 2025
5320 Lee Road 270, Valley, Alabama 36854
6:00 PM CST

The Board of Directors of Beulah Utilities District met in a Regular Meeting at 6:00 pm on September 16, 2025, at the Beulah Water Department.

1. **WELCOME**

Chairman Majors welcomed those in attendance.

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Majors called the meeting to order.

3. **ROLL CALL**

The following Board Members were present: Linda Holt, David Jackson, James Majors, Lamar Sims, and Andrew Bryan.

For visitors in attendance, see attached visitor sign-in sheet.

4. **DECLARE QUORUM**

After the roll was called, Chairman Majors declared that a quorum was present.

5. **ADOPT AGENDA**

Chairman Majors presented the proposed agenda for adoption. Mr. Bryan motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and the agenda was unanimously adopted.

6. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Majors asked for approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of August 19, 2025. Mr. Sims motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and the Minutes were unanimously approved.

7. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A. Approval of August 2025 Financial Statements

Mr. Blake Simpkins was recognized, and he reviewed the August financial statements for the Board. Mr. Simpkins also updated the Board on the study of the District's fixed assets.

Ms. Holt motioned to approve the August financials statements. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson, and the August financial statements were unanimously approved.

Mr. Simpkins then presented the Board with an engagement letter from Jackson Thornton to perform the District's audit. Mr. Sims motioned to engage Jackson Thornton to perform the District's audit. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jackson and unanimously approved.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. ARPA Funds.

Mr. Simpkins and Tim Mitchell from Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood updated the Board on the status of the ARPA funds projects. Mr. Mitchell stated that the bid opening was held earlier in the day and that two bids were received. He stated that GMC was reviewing the bids received and would make a recommendation in a few days.

Mr. Simpkins presented the Board with an invoice from Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood for work on the ARPA projects in the amount of \$10,000. Ms. Holt motioned to approve payment of the invoice. Motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and the motion was unanimously approved.

B. DWSRF Funds.

No update.

C. Fire Hydrant Repair Schedule.

No update.

D. Approval of Sale of District Own Land Parcel on Hwy 29 N.

Board Attorney Stephen Clay was recognized, and he provided an update on the status of the sale.

E. DSE (Distribution System Evaluation) Report.

Mr. Simpkins informed the Board that District staff was still working with the engineer to confirm the location of certain infrastructure.

F. Proposed District Managers' Job Description.

No update.

G. Update from S&P Bond Rating Review

Mr. Simpkins informed the Board that S&P had asked the District to provide additional information.

H. Update from Invoice Sent for Water Main Damage Reimbursement

No update.

I. Proposal from ASTERRA for Satellite Leak Detection Service

The Board was presented with a new proposal from ASTERRA for a one-time scan and one week of onsite assistance for \$36,500. The Board discussed this proposal as well as contacting East Alabama about the possibility of jointly contracting for this service.

J. Alternatives to District Provided Supplemental Insurance

No update.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Lake Crossings

The Board discussed lake crossings and various projects that would eliminate as many of those as possible.

B. Employee Pay Raises

The Board discussed pay raises for those employees who obtained their Water Operator Certifications.

After discussion, Mr. Jackson motioned to approve a \$1 per hour raise effective immediately for every employee who obtained their Water Operator Certification. Motion was seconded by Mr. Sims and the motion was unanimously approved.

10. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

A. Administrative Report.

Blake Simpkins was recognized, and he presented the Administrative Report to the Board.

B. Water Department Report.

Blake Simpkins was recognized, and he provided the Board with the monthly operations report.

Mr. Simpkins then presented the Board with the Adjustments for the month. He said there were 3 total adjustments totaling \$631.77. Ms. Jackson motioned to approve the adjustments. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bryan and the adjustments were unanimously approved.

The Leak Incentive Program winner for the month was announced.

C. Beulah Fire and Rescue Report.

Chief Blake Simpkins was recognized to give the Fire and Rescue report for the month. He stated that there were a total of 110 calls, 7 of which were fire calls. He briefed the Board on a structure fire call on Lee Road 279.

He stated that there had been 4 hours of excess overtime worked during the month. He said that this was due to the Department's response to the Lee Road 279 structure fire.

Chief Simpkins then briefed the Board on the training activities conducted by the department during the past month.

He informed the Board that there had been one random drug test during the month.

He informed the Board that the Department had been approved for a Mid-South RC&D grant of \$13,000 for the Department to purchase rescue struts.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Jackson brought up the issue of raising water rates and the need for the Board to look at doing this in light of the District's current financial situation. The Board briefly discussed the issue and wanted to further study the question.

12. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS.**

None

13. **NEXT MEETING**

Chairman Majors stated that the next regular meeting would be at 6:00 PM CST on September 21, 2025.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Mr. Jackson motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Holt and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM CST.

Signed _____

September 16, 2025