

Friendsville Utility Board
Regular Meeting
March 6, 2025
Friendsville Community Center
Minutes

Present:

Mayor Steven Cardwell	City Administrator Kim Rogers
Vice Mayor Sandra Bell	Building Official Barry Ottinger
Commissioner Margaret Maze	City Attorney Rob Goddard
Commissioner Jonathan Newberry	Janet Walton
Commissioner Shane Rogers	Dale Wilkins
City Recorder Janet Ledbetter	Tom Stinnett

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m.
2. Motion to approve minutes from the previous meeting by Commissioner Newberry, second by Commissioner Maze. Motion passed.
3. Non-agenda items from the public: none
4. Other business not on the agenda: none
5. Discussion: N/A
6. Staff Reports:
 - Grants Update: Kim Rogers said she was still waiting on the HUD sewer contract. ARPA: Kathy Darnell from Blount County told Kim that TDEC said they were waiting on a couple of things and should release it on Monday, which was March 3. Kim said she still hadn't heard anything yet.
 - Upcoming projects: There was a leak on S. Union Grove in front of the piano shop. Employees had been testing repeatedly for chlorine in that area and it finally showed up in the water. They had previously tried to find the leak and dug for it but couldn't find it. They ended up having the spot repaved because the county had just paved that road. Kim said that they wanted to rehab the pipe

in that area because it is asbestos, so she wanted to wait to repair it until they had the materials to replace it. The board agreed. There were 6 leaks in the past few weeks. Water loss was 28%. Commissioner Newberry mentioned that employees did a good job cleaning up after the leak on S. Farnum.

- Kim also mentioned that one of the sewer pumps at Dunlap Hollow was leaking. Wilson Plumbing gave an estimate to repair the pump for \$19,800. It needed repairs on the 6" discharge valves and flange gaskets, and replacement of nuts and bolts that were worn out. Chris Brouwer had found out that they had to be maintained once a year by pressure washing and changing out bolts. He said that city employees could try to do it but were not certified. Wascon, a company from Livingston, who services both South Blount and TASS, offered to come out and check the pumps for \$2214.50. That wouldn't include repairs. The pumps were from Zoeller, but the original project specs were for E1 pumps. Mayor Cardwell said he would like to find out what the cost would be for new E1 pumps. Whatever the cost, it would have to come out of the sewer budget so there would probably have to be a budget amendment to pay for repairs. Kim suggested getting Wascon to check the issue out and then decide what to do. Motion to contact Wascon and let them look at the sewer pump to determine what repairs are necessary by Commissioner Newberry, second by Vice Mayor Bell. Mayor Cardwell said he wanted two quotes: One to fix the existing setup, and one to put in the pump that was on the original specs. He asked Janet Ledbetter to find out how loaning between funds would work since they might need to borrow from the General Fund. They discussed having city employees certified to do the maintenance on the pumps. There was also discussion about the grinder pumps that were supposed to be paid for by the ARPA grant. That part of the grant was removed, so Blount County was supposed to notify all the customers who signed up for the grinder pumps that they wouldn't be receiving them. So far, they haven't done so.
- Financial Report: The board looked over the financial report.

7. Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Newberry, second by Vice Mayor Bell.
Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.



Mayor Steven Cardwell



City Recorder Janet Ledbetter