

Oktoc Water Association Minutes
Annual Membership Meeting
October 1, 2018
6:30 pm
Location: Oktoc Water Association Well House

President, Herman Bush called meeting to order.

President asked the Board if a membership was represented; Vice-President Robert Oakley informed the group that membership was represented and a quorum of the Board was present. Approximately 50 members were in attendance.

David McGee gave invocation.

President Herman Bush informed those in attendance that the meeting was to inform membership of the activities of Oktoc Water Association over the course of the past year.

President Bush introduced Oktoc Water Board members, staff members and others:

President Bush asked for adoption of minutes from 2017 Annual Membership meeting. Robert Oakley motioned for minutes to be approved as presented, Carlton Polk seconded, minutes approved as presented.

President Bush called upon Kelly Cutshall, CPA to review budget and financial statements. Kelly Cutshall, CPA reviewed budget and financial reports President Bush called for a motion from the membership to accept the budget for the current fiscal year and the projected budget for the current fiscal year, Carlton Polk motioned, Robert Oakley seconded, with a show of hands of “Yea” or Nay” the budget and financials were approved. Cutshall informed group that copies of financial statements are available upon request. With the report from The CPA complete, President Bush thanked her for the time at the meeting.

Well Operator, Jeff Foster reported that all operations are running as should for Oktoc Water Association. Foster further discussed the following:

1. Elevated tanks have been inspected according to the Mississippi Department of Health guidelines and requirements. There are no inspections currently due.
2. Valve work being done on South Montgomery.
3. Oktoc Water is currently pursuing grant funds and part of those funds if received will be utilized to work on creek crossing on Mt. Olive.
4. Quite but productive year for Oktoc Water.

Jack Rhoades, Manager discussed status of Oktoc Water Association. Discussion included all of the following:

- System continues to grow.

- Possibility of two new subdivisions going in over the course of the next year
- Working with Cook-Coggins engineers trying to get grant funds from EPA for system upgrades. Possibility of getting 45% of grant funds. Will know more later in the year if successful. Looking at requesting approximately \$500,000.
- Oktoc Water has a new website. The website address is oktocwater.myruralwater.com.
- Board meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2112 Poorhouse Road East at 6:30 and is open to the public. Any changes in meeting dates will be published on the website

Mr. Harris, member from the floor made a comment that he is thankful that we currently have a website and that he works with electronic billing and if we needed his help on anything to keep him in mind. President Bush informed Mr. Harris that he could attend one of the future Board meetings if he liked and discuss options further.

A question from the floor asking what is the current status of the agreement between the City of Starkville and Oktoc Water for the area known as Acadiana on South Montgomery was brought forward. Rhoades referred the question to Board Attorney David Hunt. Attorney David Hunt explained the generalities of the agreement and that the Board was seeing to the best long term interest for Oktoc Water Association and its members. An agreement between Oktoc Water and the City of Starkville was made that the referenced area be decertified to the city, therefore releasing Oktoc Water Association for any long term agreement with the City. The original agreement signed in May of 2017 held no compensation or benefit for Oktoc Water Association and its members as originally written. In attendance was Molly Jackson that commented on the original agreement between the City Of Starkville and Oktoc Water. David Hunt explained that at this point the Board has moved forward and that there is only one meter currently being served in the area and that is Faith Baptist Church. David Hunt explained that the Public Service Commission had to agree to the terms of the decertification. Mr. Hunt explained that an agreement could be worked out in advance of any future issues, concerns that may arise between Oktoc and the City of Starkville, but the current agreement has no arguing point and has been agreed upon.

President Herman Bush asked Ms. Jackson to attend one of the future Board meetings for further discussion on the subject if she would like to.

President Bush discussed some general information with membership:

- December 1967 Oktoc Water Association was formed
- 955 accounts currently
- Yearly Inspection- 4.7 out of 5

- Customer design capacity is at 46.9%
- Working with Cook-Coggins and USDA on a \$500,000 grant proposal – trying to get 45% covered by grant
- Almost \$500,000 in cash reserve. Financially sound
- Asked members to subscribe to the new website and that we have

President Bush asked if other Board members would like to say something.

Kevin Cain expressed appreciation for his position with Oktoc Water and that he likes being able to serve his community.

Robert Oakley thanked the group for the time he has been able to serve on the Board. Reminded the group that they have a voice and if they have the right to ask questions and make comments. Robert thanked the group for being able to be a part of something that his family started and that regardless of if he is reelected to the Board or not that there would be no hard feeling and he would make himself available to help in any way he could. Robert discussed that the annexation of the City into our community is a concern to him and the effects he could potentially have on Oktoc Water in the future.

David McGee introduced himself and expressed appreciation for his position with Oktoc Water and that he has learned a great deal and is still learning. David informed the group if they have any questions to please ask.

Carlton Polk, Treasurer asked the group if anyone had questions to please ask. Mr. Polk informed the group that Oktoc Water, financially, is strong and continues to grow stronger. Carlton discussed the grant process with Cook-Coggins in general.

President, Herman Bush, opened the floor for public comments.

Members William White and Joe Stewart, Jr. discussed the by-laws and the need for the By-Laws to be updated. Attorney, David Hunt discussed that the by-laws can only be changed through a special called meeting of the membership to modify the by-laws. William White motioned that at some point a meeting be called to update-modify the by-laws, Helen Thornton seconded. Future meeting for discussion of by-laws and modification to by-laws will be scheduled within the next year. In addition, to the special called meeting for the by-laws, member William white asked if the by-laws could be uploaded to the website for review. Pam Rhoades, office staff will upload by laws for membership to review.

President, Herman Bush, discussed the nomination process and the need to set a nominating committee. The 2018 nominating committee for board elections is member Larry Box. The nominating committee's job is to bring names to the board for the nomination of board members to fill expired terms.

President, Herman Bush called for nominations from the floor. Member Margaret Ann Chandler nominated Joes Stewart, Jr. Member, Joe Stewart, Jr. nominated Helen Thornton.

Joes Stewart, Jr. asked why we were only electing one Board member at this time. It was discussed that at this time that each area is fully represented and that there is not a need currently to fill another Board position.

The nominating committee brought forth the following nominees for election and or re-election to Board of Directors:

Robert Oakley
Joe Stewart, Jr.
Helen Thornton

Kevin Cane, motioned for slate of nominees brought forward by the nominations committee to be approved, Carlton Polk seconded. Slate of nominees approved.

Pam Rhoades, Office staff gave a brief explanation of the election process and review the rules according to the by-laws of the water association, only one vote per membership regardless of number of meters. All Board members will hold a 3 year term. Before a ballot was distributed Pam Rhoades, office staff and Board member and Election Chairman Kevin Cane, checked printed membership lists and the computer database (RVS Billing software) to verify that the person receiving the ballot has authority to vote. Each member had to sign the membership list prior to receiving a ballot.

Larry Box, Florence Box, Pam Rhoades and Kevin Cane-Election chairman received the ballots from the members. After all ballots were received they were returned to Larry Box for counting. After review the final counts were as followed:

Joe Stewart, Jr.: 24
Robert Oakley: 22
Helen Thornton: 1

After votes were tallied, nominating committee verified accuracy of votes. The new incoming Board member will be Joe Stewart, Jr. The new Board member will begin the term immediately. Board of Directors congratulated Joe Stewart, Jr. and thanked Robert Oakley for his service.

With no other business, Vice-President Robert Oakley motioned for the 2018 annual membership meeting to be adjourned. David McGee seconded, all approved.

2018 annual membership meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Board President

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee