

## **SUMMARY OF A COMMITTEE MEETING**

HELD Thursday, November 12, 2020  
at 11:30 a.m. – (via electronic/telephone)  
[THESE ARE NOT THE OFFICIAL MINUTES]

The Governor’s Open Meeting Act (“OMA”) Proclamation allows members of governmental bodies to hold said meeting electronically (via telephone etc.) for purposes of establishing a quorum, deliberating and taking action; and via electronic equipment allows members of the public to listen to the meeting.

An Executive Committee meeting of the directors of The Water Works Board of the City of Birmingham was held on Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

The following Committee members were present via a roll call: Committee Chairman Ronald A. Mims, Tommy J. Alexander, Brenda J. Dickerson, Deborah Clark, William “Butch” Burbage, Jr., Lucien Blankenship, William Muhammad, and George Munchus. Director Brett King was not present.

Others present were: Michael Johnson, General Manager; Derrick Murphy, Iris Fisher and Jeff Thompson, Assistant General Managers; Cynthia Williams, Board Administrator, Anitra Hendrix, Executive Assistant to the General Manager; Colandus Mason, Rick Jackson, Terrell Jones and Lawanda Bonner, Board Employees; K. Mark Parnell, Parnell Thompson Law, LLC; Emory Anthony, Esq.; Julie Novak, Darin Thomas, and Andrea Lewis, The Novak Group; Daymeon Fishback, David Searcy, and Greg Burchell, Morgan Stanley; Rob Burton, Sweet Alabama; Connie Harris and Karen Wadlington, Help 2 Others Foundation (H2O).

Chairman Mims declared a quorum in attendance.

Chairman Mims called the meeting to order at 11:37 a.m. and the General Manager opened with prayer.

Following, Chairman Mims asked the Board to approve the agenda. Director Dickerson requested a speaker be added to the agenda. Director Blankenship requested Item 3 be considered after Director Dickerson’s request. Director Dickerson then made a motion to approve the agenda by adding a speaker to the agenda followed by Item 3 and Director Blankenship seconded the motion. On a motion duly made and seconded, the agenda was approved by unanimous vote.

Following, Chairman Mims recognized Rob Burton, Sweet Alabama, to make a presentation to the Committee. Mr. Burton provided the Committee with an update from a letter that was presented by a previous speaker at a Regular Board of Directors’ Meeting held in October 2020. He stated his organization has sent a letter to the Governor of Alabama requesting monies be sent to help customers cover debt relief. He indicated his organization has contacted the Jefferson County Commission regarding providing assistance and is requesting the BWWB consider allowing customers to have a 12-month payment plan option. He indicated his organization would like for the Committee to take a vote regarding their requests. Chairman Mims stated the Board would consider Sweet Alabama’s requests; however, the Committee would not vote on those items at this time.

Following, the Committee moved to the third item on the agenda, Request Committee to discuss the decision to discontinue using Blount County Sheriffs to provide security at Inland Lake, effective November 22, 2020 at 12:00 a.m.; necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the governmental body. A director requested that the Board considers this item again in another 60 days. The director stated the Board needs to consider that the Blount County Sheriffs have arresting power whereas a private security company does not. Chairman Mims stated items 3 and 4, Request Committee to approve an amendment to the agreement with Security Engineers, Inc. to provide security at Inland Lake, effective November 22, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.; and to authorize the General Manager and/or the Assistant General Manager to execute the amendment upon approval of the Board's attorney; necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the governmental body, should be considered in 60 days because they are related. A director stated they were in favor of considering these items in 60 days; however, they were concerned there would be no action taken by Blount County regarding discrimination. A discussion then ensued. A director requested an update of accomplishments by the Blount County Sheriffs be presented at the next Regular Board of Directors' Meeting. Director Blankenship then left the meeting.

Following, the Committee moved to the first item on the agenda, Request Committee to hear a presentation from Morgan Stanley regarding investment performance of the Pension Plan and OPEB plan; necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the governmental body. A representative from Morgan Stanley stated the Pension plan had increased from \$140 million to \$165 million. He gave an overview of the market outlook and recommended the plan continue to be overweight to equity and credit and underweight in interest rate risk. A director questioned why Morgan Stanley thought there would be an upcoming stimulus package. A Morgan Stanley representative responded they believe a stimulus package is possible due to the completion of the presidential election and the desire in Washington, D.C. to provide one. He indicated there could be a stimulus package by the end of the year or early next year. A representative stated the OPEB plan had a return of 5.78 percent for the quarter. The General Manager stated they are pleased with the performance of both plans. He indicated a letter would be sent to employees and retirees informing them of the performance.

Following, the Committee moved to the fifth and sixth items on the agenda, Request Committee to hear an update from The Novak Group, a Division of Raftelis, regarding the BWB's Strategic Plan; necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the governmental body; and Request Committee to hear an update from The Novak Group, a Division of Raftelis, regarding the BWB's Effective Utility Management (EUM) Assessment; necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the governmental body. A representative from The Novak Group gave an overview of the strategic plan objectives and activities. The representative indicated 170 employees have responded to the strategic plan survey. They stated a Board retreat is scheduled for February 2021. Subsequently, a representative from The Novak Group gave an overview of the Effective Utility Management (EUM) and indicated it is used to help the organization to determine how it is performing as it relates to customer satisfaction, employees, etc. The representative indicated the EUM helps to determine areas where the organization needs improvement. The representative then gave an overview of the next steps and indicated that findings would be presented at the Board retreat in February 2021.

Following, the Committee moved to the second item on the agenda, Request Committee to hear a presentation from the H2O Foundation regarding amendments to its current eligibility requirements and a new program to aid those impacted by COVID – 19; necessary to perform essential minimum functions of the governmental body. A representative from the H2O

Foundation stated the foundation began in 2003 to provide assistance to elderly and low income BWWB customers. The representative stated the foundation has lowered its age requirement from 55 to 50 years old and has implemented a program to assist customers affected by COVID-19. The representative indicated this assistance would be provided as early as December 1, 2020. A discussion then ensued regarding available assistance from other organizations. Director Dickerson left the meeting at 1:18 p.m. A discussion then ensued regarding BWWB referrals for assistance. Director Dickerson returned to the meeting at 1:22 p.m.

Following, the Committee moved to the seventh item on the agenda, New Business. The General Manager stated there has been an increase in COVID-19 cases among BWWB employees. He stated customers have not been impacted; however, some supervisors are not at work. He indicated the Call Center has received an increase in incoming calls due partly to customers seeking payment arrangements. He indicated that in some instances employees may have to work from home to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Next, Director Alexander then made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Director Dickerson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote and the meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.