

**SALINE REGIONAL PUBLIC WATER AUTHORITY  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 26, 2025**

The Saline Regional Public Water Authority met June 26, 2025 at 5:00 pm at the City of Bryant Court Room located at 210 S.W. 3rd Street in Bryant. The meeting was called to order by Dickie Kentner. A roll call was made with the following board representatives present:

City of Bryant – Moriah Winkel  
Southwest Water – Wendall Robideaux  
City of Benton – Todd Pedersen  
Salem Water – Dickie Kentner  
City of Shannon Hills – Mike Kemp  
East End Water – Kim Cupples  
Saline Co. W & W PFB – Jamie Reagan  
City of Haskell – Bobby Westbrook

A quorum was declared with eight board representatives present and zero absent.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2025 MEETING**

A motion was made by Mike Kemp to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2025 meeting as presented. Second by Moriah Winkel. Motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM #3: FINCIANIAL REPORT**

Checking Accounts:

Checking Account #1 – Farmers Bank and Trust

With a beginning balance from May 1, 2025 of \$120,470.08, deposits in the amount of \$8,738.25 and no other activity leaves an ending balance as of May 31, 2025 of \$120,208.33.

Checking Account #2 – First Security Main Operating Account

With a beginning balance on May 1, 2025 of \$43,276.40, deposits in the amount of \$238,720.63, disbursements in the amount of \$231,762.62 leaves an ending balance as of May 31, 2025 of \$50,234.41.

Checking Account #3 – Easement Acquisition Account (First Security)

With a beginning balance on May 1, 2025 of \$118,131.72, interest in the amount of \$11.97, disbursement in the amount of \$32,096.40 leaves an ending balance as of May 31, 2025 of \$86,047.29.

Savings Account: Farmers Bank and Trust

With a beginning balance of May 1, 2025 of 6,711.50 and no other activity leaves an ending balance of \$6,711.50.

Gateway C.D.

With a beginning balance on May 1, 2025 of \$46,382.98 and interest earned in the amount of \$918.91 leaves an ending balance of \$47,301.89.

A motion was made by Mike Kemp to approve the financial report as presented. Second by Kim Cupples. Motion carried.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #4: OLD BUSINESS**

1. Easement Committee Report

Moriah Winkel stated that the property owners in Hot Springs County along the raw water line route are signing the easements. A few are under negotiations but the committee is making progress. She presented three letters to the board that are for notification of upcoming surveying to be sent out to landowners. A motion was made by Mike Kemp to authorize the Easement Committee to send out the three letters presented to the board. Second by Jamie Reagan. Motion carried.

The easement committee has received two submittals for RFQ on easement acquisition. The committee chose Volkert and negotiated a price for the work which they felt was too expensive. A motion was made by Mike Kemp to accept the Easement Committee recommendation to negotiate with Volkert for up to \$250,000.00 for acquiring easements for the project. Second by Jamie Reagan. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Moriah Winkel to move Agenda Item #4 to #2. Second by Todd Pedersen. Motion carried.

2. Discuss RFQ for Legal Services and Approve hiring an Attorney

The board had two RFQ for legal services. They are: Perry Young of Jensen Young & Butler and Friday Eldredge & Clark. After discussion, a motion was made by Mike Kemp to hire Perry Young of Jensen Young and Butler for all legal services. Second by Todd Pedersen. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Moriah to move Agenda Item #5 to #3. Second by Kim Cupples. Motion carried.

3. Update on Financing

Leigh Ann Biernat of Stephens Inc. updated the board on where she is at in discussions about financing of the project. She stated that she has had several meetings with ANRC and the Federal Bond Program. She is continuing to research these opportunities and has found that we may be possibly eligible for project grants.

4. Discuss and Approve Water Line Corridor and Routing

Matt Dunn stated that he and Todd Pedersen met with the Arkansas Department of Transportation about possibly using their right of way along HWY 70. Matt stated that this would not be a possibility but we can obtain easements adjacent to their ROW and use it during construction. Mike Kemp ask for a call for question. Moriah Winkel second the call. Motion carried. Moriah Winkel made a motion to adopt Corridor C and begin surveying for a route after letters notifying the property owners of the surveying has been sent out. Second by Mike Kemp. Motion carried.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #5: NEW BUSINESS**

No new business

## **AGENDA ITEM #6: PUBLIC COMMENT**

Numerous citizens had questions and made comments concerning the corridor and possible routing of the water line.

After public comment, Todd Pedersen made a motion to add the area from HWY 5 to the Treatment Plant for corridor surveying after letters have been sent to all property owners in that area. Second by Mike Kemp. Motion carried.

A motion was made to suspend the rules and add to the agenda discussion of the new route from Gourneck Valley Road to the reservoir site. Second by Jamie Reagan. Motion carried.

## **DISCUSSION OF NEW ROUTE FROM GOURNECK ROAD TO RESERVOIR SITE**

After discussion and concerns off money for easement acquisition, the discussion was tabled until a later date.

With no further business, a motion was made by Moriah Winkel to adjourn at 6:25 pm. Second by Mike Kemp. Motion carried.

Bobby L. Westbrook, Secretary/Treasurer  
Saline Regional Public Water Authority

**NEXT MEETING: JULY 24, 2025 at 5:00 PM AT THE CITY OF BRYANT COURT ROOM LOCATED AT 210 S.W. 3<sup>RD</sup> ST. IN BRYANT.**