

Water district seeks new legal counsel

BY ROGER SMITH
MOUNTAIN CITIZEN

INEZ — The Martin County Utility Board is seeking new legal representation following the planned departure of longtime counsel Brian Cumbo. The board, which oversees both the county’s water and sanitation districts, issued a request for proposals June 25 for a licensed attorney or law firm to serve as general counsel.

Chairman Tim Thoma announced Cumbo’s resignation June 10, stating that the Inez-based attorney is stepping away from the role after years of dedicated service.

“Brian is looking to slow down,” Thoma said. “Brian has done a wonderful job for the board and community for many, many years.”

Thoma mentioned that Kentucky law does not require a public notice for legal services.

“But in our case I think we need to do that to identify candidates,” he said.

According to a public notice issued by the board, the incoming counsel would provide services on a regular basis, typically



Martin County’s water and sanitation districts will accept proposals until the close of business July 30. (Adobe Stock)

10 to 20 hours per month. Applicants must hold an active license to practice law in Kentucky and be in good standing with the Kentucky Bar Association.

Before submitting a proposal, interested parties are expected to conduct an internal conflict of interest assessment, the notice states.

The advertisement states that the scope of legal work includes, but is not limited to, advising on regulatory compliance, employment matters, contract review, and issues involving the Kentucky Public Service Commission. It adds that experience in utility or municipal law is not a formal requirement, but recommends familiari-

ty with public utility operations, the Open Meetings and Open Records Acts, and PSC proceedings.

Proposals must include a statement of qualifications, relevant experience (particularly in the public or utility sector), hourly billing rates and availability to begin work.

The deadline for submission is the close of business July 30.

Proposals may be sent by mail or email to Martin County Water & Sanitation Districts, Attn: Timothy B. Thoma, 387 East Main Street, Inez, KY 41224 or via email at tbthoma@hotmail.com.

The board plans to interview applicants in a closed executive session Aug. 2 at 6 p.m.

POLICE

FROM FRONT PAGE

Moore, 27, and Erin A. Kugel, 22.

All three were charged with receiving stolen property valued between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

Deputies impounded the stolen vehicle, which the rightful owner later retrieved.



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