

The Commissioners of Ward Two Water District of Livingston Parish met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:00 pm at their Administration office on Carter Drive in Denham Springs, La.

Chairman John Easterly opened the regular meeting

Present:

J.Easterly, S.Westmoreland, S.Spillman, J.McCoy, J.Martone, S.Ball. D.Strickland

Absent –none

Guests - Agnes Killcrease, Administrative Director
Barry LeJuene, Manager
Toby Fruge of Owen & White
Legal Counsel, Colt Fore
Representatives of Core and Main,
Mr. & Mrs. Chance Parent
Mike Bankston, citizen

Motion to accept the minutes from regular meeting held with a wording change on December 21, 2021, as mailed with no public comment by J.McCoy seconded by S.Spillman Vote passed Yeas-6 Nays-none Absent-David Strickland

Under public comment, Mike Bankston addressed the board regarding his property along Sand Hill Road (4 tracts) and his wish for water access for the property that he will be selling in the future (potential of 14 lots). He noted that there is an existing force main nearby and that he is requesting consideration for an extension of approximately 700 feet to provide water service along Sand Hill Road. Board discussed and Chairman noted current District policy involving installing service lines on private property. Legal Counsel explained that public road issues and that developers provide the systems to tie in at the existing force mains versus the District installation of a service line on private property. Mr. Bankston commented that he considers his actions separate land sales and not a development. Board commented that he should confer with his engineer on this matter and tabled the request at this time.

Mr. Ricky Ruffino and Adam Roussel of Core & Main of Baton Rouge addressed the board with a presentation regarding electronic meter systems. He presented a history of AMI meter systems through the Neptune technology group. He reported on the meter equipment and technical functions of the ProCoder T-10 residential meter equipment. He covered options and accuracy benefits for providing water usage readings from customers along with the software base and security of data benefits. He reported on features like customer water consumption data to be used for research. He recommended this system as a great tool for better customer service needs. He also stated that this system is supported by the Dedicated Disaster Response Plan network which provides a priority service status when restoring power, etc. from disasters. He noted that another benefit can be realized regarding service line identification as each meter installation is made (will assist in meeting future mandates on line audit requirements by governing authorities over the District). He summarized the services provided to customers in the nation and others in Louisiana. He recommended present customer base for questions.

Chairman thanked the representatives for this presentation and requested a clear cost analysis per meter to be provided for future consideration.

Legal Counsel stated that there was no new legal activity to report.

Engineer, Toby Fruge, reported that both contracts in progress almost complete. Pressure testing is being performed on Sims Road and installation of mains is underway for the Vincent Place contract. A pay application has been submitted from contractor and is being tabulated at the present time for the Vincent Place contract.

Administrative Director reported on the Accounts Receivable customer analysis for the past month, noting that there continues to be 8 customers with balances greater than \$1000 (cut off notices will proceed soon).

Administrative Director reported that the GPS camera systems were installed this week on some vehicles and that the office cameras are next. Mr. Chance Parent explained items concerning the office cameras at the office facilities.

Administrative Director led discussion regarding a new utility billing program system. She covered options of purchasing a system versus paying a monthly service on a cloud base. It was estimated a system would cost near \$300,000 along with service contract for maintenance (paid \$38,000 for the past year). It was noted that a cloud based system would have unlimited data and continual updates with an estimated cost of \$72,000 per year with the customers served as of this time. Board discussed the options and requested a full research on the cloud base system for future consideration. Mr. Parent also stated that the cloud base system would be the best option given technology conditions.

Manager, Barry LeJuene, reported on the monthly customer update, noting that a total increase of 133 customers was realized thru December (year to date +757) resulting in a total customer count of 23,340.

He and Engineer, Toby Fruge, reported on fire protection communication and meetings held, noting that a full fire protection system standards cannot be met since the District has built over the decades a rural water supply system. Engineer noted there were small sections (recent developments) which could support the 750 gal per minute for a one hour time frame standard, but overall the system could not. Engineer is concerned over the huge liability that would be placed onto the District. Legal Counsel stated that a response letter should be written stating the type of system and a disclaimer needs to exist.

Chairman reminded the board that Ward Two Water District's goal and formation purpose has always been to provide the public with drinking water not a fire fighting system. Various board members stated the need to further communicate with Parish Council and Fire Chief on this important matter.

Engineer stated that the Fire Chief is doing the requesting and interacting with developers. Board agreed on the Chairman's advice to communicate our goals. Manager noted that the ditch witch boring rig equipment has been delivered.

A Financial report was presented by the Administrative Secretary for the month of December 2021, and a comparison of the period of operations and budget was given to the Board of Commissioners.

Motion to accept the financial report as presented with no public comment by S.Spillman seconded by S.Westmoreland Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

There were no further board comments.

Motion to approve the bills as presented with no public comment by J.McCoy seconded by S.Westmoreland Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Motion to approve the construction bills as presented for Loan #1063039-05 (2019 series) with no public comment by J.McCoy seconded by S.Westmoreland Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Motion to adjourn the meeting with no public comment by J.McCoy seconded by S.Ball Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none



Randall Smith Administrative Secretary

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 7 PM