

The Commissioners of Ward Two Water District of Livingston Parish met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm at their Administration office on Carter Drive in Denham Springs, La.

Chairman John Easterly opened the regular meeting noting that public may comment on any agenda item.

Present: J.Easterly, S.Spillman, J.McCoy, S.McDaniel, J.Martone, S.Ball, D.Strickland

Absent –none

Guests -Barry LeJuene, Manager

Agnes Killcrease, Administrative Director

Toby Fruge- of Owen & White

Legal Counsel, Blayne Honeycutt

Public-Leah Poole, Talbot Carmouche, attorneys with Talbot, Carmouche, & Marcello Wendell Luneau of Brown & Brown Insurance

Prayer was offered by the Administrative Secretary and a pledge of allegiance given.

Motion to accept the minutes from regular meeting held on September 19, 2023, as mailed with no public comment by S.Spillman seconded by J.McCoy Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Under public comments, Attorney Leah Poole addressed the board on behalf of an Environmental legal firm regarding rights under a PFAS Recovery Program (chemical circumstances under new EPA rules regarding the services to the customer base. It was noted that the District will be required in the future to test, treat, and eradicate PFAS issues in the water quality of the District. She noted that cost of removing PFAS will be great if involved and that there are funds currently set aside to assist any water utility district by the manufacturers of these chemicals (Dupont & 3M). These funds will be designated to assist a district to build infrastructure for the specific PFAS treatment. She recommended for the District to enter into a class action suit for settlement since a time frame is closing on 12-4-23. She recommended to opt to participate to gather funds for the described treatment in the water system. It was noted that the EPA is allowing a three year period for compliance. Jimmie McCoy questioned if the population of Ward Two and testing in the system area have resulted in these described factors. Manager noted that all testing thus far within the District for phase I PFAS have yielded no PFAS chemical presence.

Chairman tabled the proposal by the attorneys for further consideration by the board.

Wendell Luneau of Brown and Brown presented the 2023-2024 renewal of insurance coverage. He explained attempts to shop various carriers. He summarized the deductible clauses on the current policy and proposed coverage. Board discussed line items on the proposal. Mr. Luneau covered the summary premium for the renewal (page 30) \$157,666.48. Legal Counsel recommended importance of uninsured motorist coverage and recommended increasing with a additional quote on this line item. Agent stated that he could provide a rate soon on the additional increase of coverage for board consideration in the near future.

Motion to accept the 2023-2024 insurance renewal coverage as presented by Brown & Brown in the amount of \$157,666.48 with no public comment by S.Ball seconded by J.McCoy Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Legal Counsel reported that there were no new legal issues to report on.

Engineer, Toby Fruge, commented on the history of the District's source of water for our customers and stated the low chances of PFAS being present. He recommended to opt out of a class action at this time. Legal Counsel noted that if positive tests on this issue are found then legal action needs to be very timely. Manager further explained the testing in phase I for PFAS. Board agreed to opt out of the class action at this time.

Motion to opt out of the class action suit regarding PFAS factors presented by environmental attorneys in regards to a liability of the 3M Company and Dupont Corporation with no public comment by D.Strickland seconded by J.McCoy Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Engineer updated the board on the AMI meter project. He noted that early in 2024 meters will begin to be installed. He noted that after the first 250 meters are installed, he recommends that the linking process to software begin before trying to link large numbers of meters initially by the contractor. He presented information that will involve the tank repair and repaint project with an estimate of \$400,000 to be performed in the new year. He will assemble the specifications for the bid of this project.

Administrative Director reported on corrections needed regarding application #1 of the 2019 DHH series previously approved as well as the application #2 of the 2023 DWRL series loan. Both corrections involve .50 increase each.

Motion to amend the application #1 on the Advanced Metering Infrastructure AMI project from the 2019 DHH series loan by the increase of .50 in the total amount of \$1,891,663.75 to contractor, Baton Rouge Winwater which will close out this loan series of available funds with no public comment by J.Martone seconded by S.Ball Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Motion to amend the application #2 from the DWRL 2023 series funds for an increase of .50 for a total reimbursement of \$10,268.11 with no public comment by J.McCoy seconded by S.Ball Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Administrative Director presented a proposal to send \$9,325.44 of documented unclaimed property to the Louisiana Department of Revenue.

Motion to disburse \$9,325.44 to the Louisiana Department of Revenue for documented unclaimed property amounts with no public comment by S.Spillman seconded by J.Martone Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Manager, Barry LeJuene, reported that 47 customers were added in August with a year to date gain accumulation of +338 and that 24,502 customers were billed in August. He noted the need to advertise for bids for the 6 month plumbing supply listing from specifications assembled for plumbing supplies.

Motion to advertise for bids the specified plumbing supply listing for a 6 month period ended 06-30-2024, with bids received on December 7, 2023 with no public comment by S.Spillman seconded by D.Strickland Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Financial report was presented by the Administrative Secretary for the month of September 2023, 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 J.Martone Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Under board comments,
Scotty Martone reported that the donation to the District regarding a site near Port Vincent that he had been pursuing actually did not materialize.

Jimmie McCoy recommended for the Manager to survey the fleet condition for the potential of new unit replacement. Manager noted that 3 vehicles have been ordered on state bid, but not delivered.

Chairman also noted that equipment needs for 2024 should be evaluated.

Motion to pay the bills as presented with no public comment by J.McCoy seconded by D.Strickland Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Motion to pay the 2019 Construction bills on loan #1063039-05 as presented with no public comment by S.Spillman seconded by S.Ball Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Motion to pay the 2023 Construction bills on loan #1063039-06 as presented with no public comment by D.Strickland seconded by S.Spillman Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Motion to adjourn the meeting with no public comment by J.Martone seconded by D.Strickland Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none



Randall Smith Administrative Secretary

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 7 PM