

The Commissioners of Ward Two Water District of Livingston Parish met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at their Administration office on Carter Drive in Denham Springs, La.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, J. McCoy

Present – J. McCoy, J. Martone, S. Ball, C. Taylor

Absent - John Easterly, David Strickland, Steven McDaniel

Guests - Barry LeJeune, General Manager

Agnes Killcrease, Administrative Director

Toby Fruge, Owen & White

Legal Counsel, Blaine Honeycutt

Customer, Rebecca Roberts

Prayer was offered by Administrative Secretary and a pledge of allegiance was led by Shevis Ball.

Vice Chairman noted that any public may comment on any agenda item during this meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes from regular meeting held on April 16, 2024, as mailed by J. Martone seconded by C. Taylor Vote passed Yeas-4 Nays-none
Absent-John Easterly, David Strickland, Steven McDaniel

Under public comments, Rebecca Roberts addressed the board regarding her rental property water billing history. She covered her history summarizing her lease agreement with tenants noting that they receive the bills that are generated, but she is ultimately responsible. It was noted that one of her tenants had a past due water account greater than \$1100 which she was unaware of. She gave her understanding of the water district policy on past due accounts. She voiced her concern for the District's allowance of this past due bill which would result in a lien on her property if not paid. She requested the board to review a stronger past due policy for non-payment by individuals on their account. Shevis Ball responded that the policy will be enforced and that the policy will be reviewed. Legal Counsel also made comments that District policy regarding earlier cut off actions are in place but need to be enforced.

Board commented that the cut off policy should now be enforced by staff.

Administrative Director read introduction of proposed ordinance #200-10 of 2024. She gave an explanation on the time line procedures for hearing and approval in the future (June 18, 2024 regular meeting) She explained that this ordinance involves the water usage rate fees.

Legal Counsel commented on past open projects that he is reviewing.

Toby Fruge of Owen & White gave an update regarding the Water Tank painting project. He noted that the contractor is handling all issues with around a dozen autos that had experienced paint overspray. Contractor has noted full responsibility for satisfying owners of the vehicles. He stated that the pay application is being held by the engineer until all problems are resolved. Engineer also stated that an interior inspection revealed various poor conditions and that an upcoming report will be given.

*Engineer reported that the AMI meter installation began on 5-20-24 and the northwest quadrant of the District is being concentrated on first. He stated that 5 towers have been installed and the remainder will be installed by the end of May (base station and repeater equipment). He noted that July training on about 800 meters will be made with staff.

*Engineer reported that the Hwy 1024 line re-location is almost entirely complete with dress up action to follow.

General Manager, Barry LeJeune, reported that 51 customers were added in March with a year to date gain accumulation of 194 and that 24,980 customers were billed in March. He also reported the need to advertise for 6 month plumbing supply bids.

Motion to advertise for six month supply bids for the 7-1-24 through 12-31-24 period as presented and recommended by Manager with no public comment by J.Martone seconded by C.Taylor Vote passed Yeas-4 Nays-none
Absent-John Easterly, David Strickland, Steven McDaniel

A financial report for the April 2024 period of operations was given to the Board of Commissioners for their review. He also recommended for \$500,000 of reserve cash be transferred to the LAMP account. Board consensus agreed with this action.

Under board comments, Chris Taylor recommended to increase efforts in securing new employees for open positions. Manager explained the current market on labor and explained the rate of pay for each class level. Board discussed the needs for full staff and noted that Personnel Committee should investigate changes on compensation. Shevis Ball discussed the current cut off policy as noted by the customer's comments at this meeting and stated that the cut off back log needs to be timely addressed to comply with our present policy. Legal Counsel made comments on cut off procedures per the policy written and that a limit can be established that triggers automatic cut off. Administrative Director gave a summary of actions performed regarding cut offs in the past two weeks. Board consensus agreed that cut off procedures should begin again as noted by Adm.Director.

Motion to pay the operational bills as presented May, 2024, period with no public comment by S. Ball seconded by J. Martone Vote passed Yeas-4 Nays-none
Absent-John Easterly, David Strickland, Steven McDaniel.

Motion to pay the 2023 Water System Expansion bills with no public comment by C. Taylor seconded by J. Martone Vote passed Yeas-4 Nays-none
Absent-John Easterly, David Strickland, Steven McDaniel.

Motion to adjourn the meeting with no public comment by J. Martone seconded by S.Ball Vote passed Yeas-4 Nays-none Absent-J.Easterly, D.Strickland, S.McDaniel



Randall Smith Administrative Secretary

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 7 PM