

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY PARISH WATER & SEWER COMMISSION NO. 4

July 17, 2024
Baldwin, Louisiana

The Board of Commissioners of St. Mary Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 4, State of Louisiana, met on this date at the St. Mary Parish Water & Sewer Commission No. 4 Office Building at 900 Main Street in Baldwin, Louisiana, with Commission President Mr. Willie Scott presiding and the following members present: Mr. Joel Authement, Ms. Jenny Darce, Mr. Anthony Darden, Mr. Benjamin Grimm, and Ms. Stephanie Milton. Mr. William Gray was absent.

Others in attendance at this meeting include Commission Staff: Ms. Tambra Verret, Office Administrator; and Engineer: Mr. Nick Molaison with Miller Engineers & Associates

Mr. Darden made the motion to approve and dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, motion seconded by Mr. Grimm. Motion Passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ENTERTAIN GUESTS:

Mr. Scott recognized the guests: Ms. Jennifer Collins-Lanceslin, Mr. Arnold Watson, and Mr. Lionel “Butch” Metz and inquired if any had a public comment. None had any public comment.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

Mr. Molaison updated the commission on the Water Sector grant projects, which are moving along according to schedule. He presented invoices to be paid. Ms. Milton moved to accept and pay the invoices presented by the Engineer, seconded by Mr. Darden. Motion carried. There being no other business from the Engineer, Ms. Darce made a motion to accept the Engineer’s Report, seconded by Mr. Darden. Motion carried.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Mr. Scott informed he is still waiting to hear from the City of Jeanerette about the customers on St. Peter Street.

Mr. Scott questioned the employment case attorney relative to setting up a meeting with the EEOC for the Commission to hold a Special Meeting and discuss the items in Executive Session; the attorney has not received response from the EEOC. He informed the board that he’s contacted DHH and they will complete an investigation relative to the accusations from the last meeting. He also informed that he spoke with David H. Steil, Jr. Agency relative to coverage for the employees relative to the accusations from the last meeting. He also spoke with the Louisiana Board of Ethics; they advised there is nothing we need to do until we hear from EEOC, but Mr. Russell Cremaldi will send them a letter.

Mr. Scott discussed the transfer of a pump from the Tribe and advised he will sign paperwork with them soon. There being no other business from the President, Ms. Milton made the motion to accept the President’s report, seconded by Mr. Darden. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

The Superintendent Report for the month of June 2024 was presented to the commission. The Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System were in compliance with all Health Department requirements, along with Total Organic Carbon samples. Inventory of lead services lines is estimated to be 50% complete with no lead lines found as of June 2024.

All wastewater analysis passed for the Chitimacha Trail Plant and the St. Peter Plant. Deslignes Road was monitored closely for sewer issues with no issues found. The lift station and sewer line are clean and operating efficiently.

There being no other business from the Superintendent, Ms. Milton made the motion to accept the report, seconded by Ms. Darce. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Ms. Verret presented bills and discussed them with the Commission. Ms. Verret advised that a representative from Louisiana Rural Water Association will begin working on the sewer rate study on July 24, 2024. She also advised a conference call with FEMA is scheduled for July 23, 2024 relative to the saltwater intrusion declaration.

There was discussion about the Community Water Enrichment Fund grant the Parish received for the commission. The project is for the purchase and installation of a new chlorine dioxide generator and related piping at the water treatment plant.

There being no other business from the Administrator, Mr. Darden made the motion to accept her report, seconded by Ms. Darce. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update on Water Sector Program (ARPA) Grant: Discussed earlier in the meeting
2. Discussion of Sewer Rates: Discussed earlier in the meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Scott discussed increasing Operator Mr. Jeremy Bourque's pay based on his successful certification testing to Class 2 Operator. Ms. Milton questioned whether we are giving the raise retroactive since he passed the class in April. There was discussion relative to moving him to an Operator Class 2 or Operator Maintenance. Ms. Milton made a motion to change Mr. Bourque's classification to Operator – Maintenance with an hourly rate of pay of \$23.80, retroactive to when he passed the test in May 2024; seconded by Mr. Darden. The motion carried following a 6-0-0-1 roll call vote. Yeas: Mr. Authement, Ms. Darce, Mr. Darden, Mr. Grimm, Ms. Milton, Mr. Scott. Absent: Mr. Gray.

2. There was discussion relative to advertising for employment of a meter reader. Ms. Darce made the motion to advertise for this position, seconded by Ms. Milton. Motion carried. There was discussion about who would be on the hiring committee; Mr. Authement, Ms. Darce, and Mr. Darden agreed to be on this committee.

3. Mr. Authement advised he wishes to pull this item and add it to an agenda at a later date.

There being no other business before the commission, Mr. Darden made a motion to adjourn seconded by Ms. Darce. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING DATE: August 21, 2024

Willie J. Scott, President

Jenny R. Darce, Secretary/Treasurer