

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

August 21, 2024
Baldwin, Louisiana

The Board of Commissioners of St. Mary Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 4, State of Louisiana, held a Public Hearing 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. William Gray, and Mr. Benjamin Grimm. Ms. Stephanie Milton was absent. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive written and/or oral comments relative to the following item:

To consider levying additional or increased millage rates without voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to the rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum. The estimated amount of tax revenues to be collected in the next year from the increased millage is \$553,026.07, and the amount of increase in taxes attributable to the millage increase is \$8,286.38.

There were no written or verbal comments received regarding this item. There being no further business, Mr. Darden moved for adjournment. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, which carried.

Commission President Mr. Scott called the regular meeting to order immediately following adjournment of the Public Hearing. The following members were present: Mr. Joel Authement, Ms. Jenny Darce, Mr. Anthony Darden, Mr. William Gray, and Mr. Benjamin Grimm. Ms. Stephanie Milton was absent. Others in attendance at this meeting include Commission Staff: Ms. Tandra Verret, Office Administrator; Mr. Brian Mitchell, Superintendent; Mr. Jason Akers, Foley & Judell; Engineer: Mr. Nick Molaison, Miller Engineers & Associates; Parish Councilman Mr. Craig Mathews; and Mr. Arnold Watson.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT/ENTERTAIN GUESTS:

Mr. Arnold Watson addressed the Commission relative to his employment and requesting to be placed on administrative leave with back pay. Mr. Scott advised that we cannot discuss this due to the pending litigation. Parish Councilman Mr. Craig Mathews addressed the Commission relative to his statement made on a news story concerning a resident's allegation of contaminated water. Mr. Scott explained that the office had received many calls from residents concerned about the water supply following the news story and asked Mr. Mathews to direct those types of inquiries to this Commission who will be able to provide accurate information.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Molaison updated the commission on the Water Sector grant projects, which are moving along according to schedule. He presented an invoice to be paid. Ms. Darce moved to accept and pay the invoice presented by the Engineer, seconded by Mr. Grimm. 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 that the Mayor of Jeanerette advised the customers on St. Peters Street can remain on City of Jeanerette water. He advised that he signed the final paperwork on the donation of pump from the Chitimacha Tribe. He informed the Commission that an additional round of the Water Sector grant program will open in October. Mr. Scott reported that the Chitimacha Tribe is proposing another subdivision of approximately eight new houses in Charenton.

There being no other business from the President, Mr. Darden made the motion to accept the President's report, seconded by Mr. Gray. Motion carried.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

Mr. Mitchell presented the Superintendent's Report for the month of July 2024 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 60% complete with no

lead lines found as of July 2024. Mr. Mitchell advised the Department of Health conducted a Sanitary Survey in July and spoke in detail on the report. One significant deficiency was found related to a portion of the fencing around the Baldwin Elevated Tank that is below the minimum requirement of six feet, which will be corrected and a written response will be submitted before the deadline. He advised that the third quarter THMs and HAA5 sample averages are over the DHH limits; a public notice will be sent to the newspaper and by mail to customers within thirty (30) days.

All wastewater analysis passed for the Chitimacha Trail Plant and the St. Peter Plant. Department of Environmental Quality performed an inspection at the St. Peter Plant; final report is still pending. There were four new installations on St. Peters Street.

Mr. Authement questioned the number of gallons of water distributed versus the number of gallons sold and whether there may be a leak in the lines. Mr. Mitchell explained some of the difference is due to the sewer plant using water, backwashing, and flushing lines; among other issues with the old lines throughout the district and Baldwin.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update on Water Sector Program (ARPA) Grant: Discussed earlier in meeting.
2. Discussion of Sewer Rates: Ms. Verret explained the final report has not been received from LRWA.
3. Hiring of New Employee: Mr. Authement informed that a new employee was hired as a meter reader and began work

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mr. Jason Akers, Bonding Attorney with Foley & Judell explained the Resolution confirming the sale and delivery of the Series 2024 General Obligation Bonds; at the April 2024 election, the voters approved this sale and in June this Commission authorized his office to proceed with sale of the bonds. Mr. Akers expounded on this process and the bids received.

Ms. Verret read the following into the record:

RESOLUTION

A resolution approving the issuance and sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024 of St. Mary Parish Water & Sewer Commission No. 4, State of Louisiana, and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

Ms. Darce made the motion to adopt the Resolution; seconded by Mr. Darden. The motion carried following a 6-0-0-1 roll call vote. Yeas: Mr. Authement, Ms. Darce, Mr. Darden, Mr. Gray, Mr. Grimm, and Mr. Scott. Absent: Ms. Milton.

2. Mr. Akers explained the Resolution giving preliminary approval to a Revenue Anticipation Note for the upcoming fiscal year; this is an extension of the previous years' Revenue Anticipation Note. Following our approval, the Parish Council and State Bond Commission will have to approve.

Ms. Verret read the following into the record:

RESOLUTION

A resolution giving preliminary approval to the issuance of not to exceed Three Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$325,000) of Revenue Anticipation Notes of St. Mary Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 4, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

Mr. Darden made the motion to adopt the Resolution; seconded by Mr. Gray. The motion carried following a 6-0-0-1 roll call vote. Yeas: Mr. Authement, Ms. Darce, Mr. Darden, Mr. Gray, Mr. Grimm, and Mr. Scott. Absent: Ms. Milton.

3. Ms. Verret read the following into the record:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Water & Sewer Commission #4 of the Parish of St. Mary, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on August 21, 2024 which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1405 (B), that the following adjusted millage rates be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said Parish for the year 2024, for the purpose of raising revenue.

MILLAGE

Operations and Maintenance (WS4- Millage Key 1068 096) 15.12 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor of the Parish of St. Mary, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2024 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes: Mr. Gray made the motion to adopt the Resolution; seconded by Ms. Darce. The motion carried following a 6-0-0-1 roll call vote. Yeas: Mr. Authement, Ms. Darce, Mr. Darden, Mr. Gray, Mr. Grimm, and Mr. Scott. Absent: Ms. Milton.

4. Ms. Verret read the following into the record:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Water & Sewer Commission No. 4 of the Parish of St. Mary, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on August 21, 2024, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the taxing district voted to increase the millage rate(s), but not in excess of the prior year's maximum rate(s), on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2024, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes were levied. Said millage rate(s) are:

MILLAGE

	Adjusted Rate	2024 Levy
Operations and Maintenance (WS4 – Millage Key 1068 096)	15.12 mills	15.35 mills
General Obligation Bonds (WS4 – Millage Key 1068 095)		3.00 mills
General Obligation Bonds (WS4 – Millage Key 1068 107)		10.54 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor of the Parish of St. Mary, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2024 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by no less than two-thirds of the total membership of the taxing authority voting in favor as required by Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B). Mr. Darden made the motion to adopt the Resolution; seconded by Ms. Darce. The motion carried following a 6-0-0-1 roll call vote. Yeas: Mr. Authement, Ms. Darce, Mr. Darden, Mr. Gray, Mr. Grimm, and Mr. Scott. Absent: Ms. Milton.

5. Adopt other authorized millages or taxes: No action taken.

6. Discussion and action on requesting additional funding from the Water Sector Program: Discussed earlier in the meeting; no action was taken.

7. Discussion and action on agreement with the Town of Baldwin: Following lengthy discussion, Mr. Scott advised that he would ask Mr. Joseph Tabb, attorney for the Town to draft a formal written request so the Commission can take action.

8. Discussion and action on Parish Personnel Policy: Mr. Authement discussed the discrepancies between the Parish Personnel Policy and the Commission's current handbook. There was lengthy discussion, but no action was taken at this time.

9. Mr. Authement brought up changing the location of the Commission meeting place back to the sewer plant on Chitimacha Trail and discussion was had by the board with no action taken.

10. Discussion on the Commission's finances: Mr. Grimm rescinded this item with no discussion.

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

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 18, 2024

Willie J. Scott, President

Jenny R. Darce, Secretary/Treasurer