

Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of St. Mary Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 4, State of Louisiana, taken at a meeting held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at the St. Mary Parish Water & Sewer Commission No. 4 Office Building at 900 Main Street in Baldwin, Louisiana.

Mr. Willie Scott called the meeting to order @5:00 p.m., roll call answered by the following members: Mr. Joel Authement, Mr. Herbert Bell, Mr. Anthony Darden (late), Mr. William Gray, Mr. Camile Punch, and Mr. Willie Scott as present. Ms. Stephanie Milton was absent. Also, commission staff present was Ms. Tambra Verret and Mr. Brian Mitchell. Engineer: Mr. Nick Molaison. Guest: (None).

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

GUEST:

(None)

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Molaison informed the commission that bids were received on the Water Sector Grant Projects Phase I, with Southern Constructors being the low bidder. He stated that the Phase III portion bids would be received next week. The Phase II portion of the project was being handled completely by T. Baker Smith Engineering. The commission discussed a valve near the meter for Baldwin needs to be replaced. There being no other business from the Engineer Ms. Milton made the motion, motion seconded by Mr. Bell, to approve the Engineer's report. Motion Passed.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Mr. Scott informed the commission that an EEOC Discrimination Charge has been filed against the commission by an employee. The Water Sector Meeting approved the inclusion of the project done prior to grant approval as eligible for ARPA Grant funding reimbursement. There being no other business from the President, Mr. Darden made the motion to accept the President's report with Mr. Gray Seconding. Motion Passed.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

Mr. Mitchell informed the Commission that a Drinking Water Advisory was issued on October 3, 2023 because of a high salt content in the water supply. The advisory was rescinded on October 11, 2023. We have since switched back to the basin water intake and now must treat the high manganese in the raw water. This results in more reagents being used along with increased back flushing of the filters. The Water Treatment Plant and Distribution Systems were in complete compliance with all Health Department requirements, along with the Total Organic Carbon samples for September 2023. The Wastewater treatment Plant and Collection Systems were in complete compliance with all DEQ requirements for September 2023. The eight-inch water line project on Gordy Road is complete. He informed the Commission that Walmart has a problem with their fire & supply line, which is leaking causing the Commission to lose water. He informed the Commission that many of the customers that needed to comply with the backflow preventer requirements have started the process. The Town of Baldwin has not complied. There being no other business from the Superintendent, Ms. Milton made the motion to accept his report seconded by Mr. Bell. Motion Passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Ms. Verret presented bills and discussed them with the Commission. She stated they are paying bills as best they can. There being no other business from the Administrator, Mr. Darden made the motion to accept his report seconded by Mr. Gray. Motion Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update on Water Sector Program (ARPA) Grant (covered in President's report)
2. Update on Backflow Prevention Program (covered in Superintendent's report)
3. Discussion and Possible Action on Raising Sewer Rates – The President will work with the Administrator and run some numbers for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution Authorizing the Commission to issue \$650,000 Revenue Anticipation Note (attached) – Ms. Milton made the motion to adopt the aforementioned resolution seconded by Mr. Gray. Roll Call Vote Mr. Authement – Yes, Mr. Bell – Yes, Mr. Darden – Yes, Mr. Gray – Yes, Ms. Milton – Yes, Mr. Punch – Yes and Mr. Scott – Yes. Resolution Passed with seven – Yes votes and zero – No votes.
2. Approve the contract for the Phase I Raw Water Intake Upgrades – Mr. Darden made the motion to authorize the President to execute a contract for the aforementioned project seconded by Ms. Milton. Roll Call Vote Mr. Authement – Yes, Mr. Bell – Yes, Mr. Darden – Yes, Mr. Gray – Yes, Ms. Milton – Yes, Mr. Punch – Yes and Mr. Scott – Yes. Motion passed with seven – Yes votes and zero – No votes.

3. Adopt resolution authorizing the Commission to discuss participation in PFAS litigation – Mr. Darden made the motion to adopt the aforementioned resolution (attached) seconded by Mr. Bell. Roll Call Vote Mr. Authement – Yes, Mr. Bell – Yes, Mr. Darden – Yes, Mr. Gray – Yes, Ms. Milton – Yes, Mr. Punch – Yes and Mr. Scott – Yes. Resolution Passed with seven – Yes votes and zero – No votes.

Other Business:

A motion was made by Mr. Darden to expand the agenda to discuss and adopt an annual MWPP Resolution, seconded by Ms. Milton. Motion passed.

Motion to adopt the aforementioned resolution was made by Mr. Darden, seconded by Ms. Milton. Roll Call Vote Mr. Authement – Yes, Mr. Bell – Yes, Mr. Darden – Yes, Mr. Gray – Yes, Ms. Milton – Yes, Mr. Punch – Yes and Mr. Scott – Yes. Resolution Passed with seven – Yes votes and zero – No votes.

There being no other business before the Board Mr. Darden made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bell. Motion passed.

NEXT MEETING DATE: November 15, 2023

Willie J Scott, President

Camile J. Punch, Secretary/Treasurer