

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, November 15, 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. William Gray, Ms. Stephanie Milton, Mr. Camile Punch, and Mr. Willie Scott as present. Mr. Anthony Darden was absent. Also, commission staff present was Ms. Tambra Verret and Mr. Brian Mitchell. Engineer: Mr. Nick Molaison. Guest: (None).

Mr. Bell made the motion, motion seconded by Ms. Milton, 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 III. A motion was made by Mr. Authement and seconded by Mr. Bell to award the bid to NCMC for the base bid plus add alternate #1 and authorize the President to execute the construction contract with approval for LA OCD. Motion passed. There being no other business from the Engineer, Ms. Milton made the motion, motion seconded by Mr. Grey, to approve the Engineer's report. Motion Passed.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Mr. Scott informed the commission that he is writing a letter to all customers explaining the need to call a general election to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds. Also, he and Ms. Verret met with a company that offers insurance to customers to cover excessive water bills caused by leaks. Water Sector Grant processes are still slow. The parish is offering to release to the commission one of the lease trucks they have on order for the commission to lease. SMP W&S No. 5 is setup and working in the commission office. There being no other business from the President, Mr. Bell made the motion to accept the President's report with Mr. Gray Seconding. Motion Passed.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

Mr. Mitchell informed the commission that an Advisory will be issued because of one high Sodium reading in the water supply. The Main water intake pump went down and with the other pump already down they had to switch to the secondary intake which resulted in the high Sodium content of the water. A diesel pump was rented and set up to supply raw water at the main intake. A contractor performed an emergency dredging at the intake site to get better quality water. The diesel pump was becoming cost prohibitive, so an electric pump was rented and installed and is working well. The state is requiring the commission to take water samples at both sites on a daily basis. They repaired a big leak in the Sorrel area. Mr. Authement inquired about the status of the Fire Training Facility the City of Franklin is developing. The leak on the fire line at Walmart has been repaired. The Water Treatment Plant and Distribution Systems were in complete compliance with all Health Department requirements, along with the Total Organic Carbon samples for October 2023. The Wastewater treatment Plant and Collection Systems were in complete compliance with all DEQ requirements for October 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 has drawn \$100,000.00 of the \$650,000.00 bond proceeds for use to pay obligations. The Water Sector approved using grant money to pay for the work done before the grant was approved. She made the following announcement:

Notice is hereby given that at its meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at its regular meeting place, the St. Mary Parish Water & Sewer Commission No. 4 Office Building, 900 Main Street, Baldwin LA, the Board of Commissioners of St. Mary Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 4, State of Louisiana, plans to consider a resolution ordering and calling an election to be held in St. Mary Parish Water and Sewer Commission No. 4, State of Louisiana to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds.

There being no other business from the Administrator, Ms. Milton made the motion to accept her report seconded by Mr. Gray. Motion Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update on Water Sector Program (ARPA) Grant – Discussed earlier.
2. Update on Backflow Prevention Program – Program is going well, there are only a few left to comply.
3. Discussion and Possible Action on Raising Sewer Rates – Will be considered at a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution adopting the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for FYE 9/30/23. A motion to adopt a Resolution adopting the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for FYE 9/30/23 by Ms. Milton, seconded by Mr. Bell. Roll Call Vote – Mr. Authement – Yes, Mr. Bell – Yes, Mr. Darden – Absent, Mr. Grey – Yes, Ms. Milton – Yes, Mr. Punch – Yes, Mr. Scott – Yes, Motion carried – six – yes, zero – no and one – absent.

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

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 20, 2023

Willie J Scott, President

Camile J. Punch, Secretary/Treasurer