

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, December 20, 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, 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. Guests: Alex Verret, Jennifer Ronsonet, Arnold Watson, and Devon Derouen.

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

GUEST:

Mr. Verret addressed his concerns for a high-water bill to the commission. The commission and staff discussed the matter at length with Mr. Verret and will replace his meter and send it off for analysis. Arnold Watson, a commission employee, appeared to the board to discuss his Workers Comp claim. Mr. Watson requested to go into executive session but was informed that it was not on the agenda, which prevented the commission from going into executive session. Further it was determined that the commission could not discuss the matter without counsel present.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Mr. Molaison informed the commission that the commission received approval on the Water Sector Grant Projects Phase I contract. Discussed Water Plant upgrades. A commissioner asked about a problem with the water intake line. The engineer will look at it. Mr. Scott stated the intake pumps will be removed on January 4, 2024. There being no other business from the Engineer, Mr. Bell made the motion, motion seconded by Mr. Darden, to approve the Engineer's report. Motion Passed.

PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Mr. Scott informed the commission that they are down three trucks and need to make a decision to repair them or lease new ones. After discussion Mr. Scott will get repair estimates and the commission will need to decide how to proceed. He states the in the commission packet was the info on water leak insurance for the commissioners to review to be discussed at a future meeting. He informed the commission that they have finally received the first ARPA Grant reimbursement. Briefly discussed a worker's comp case status. Mr. Scott informed the commission it would be cheaper to lease an excavator, rather than rent. After further discussion it was decided to move forward with a lease purchase on a new excavator. Mr. Scott stated that the rented pumps for the raw water intake are working well. There being no other business from the President, Mr. Gray made the motion to accept the President's report with Mr. Darden Seconding. Motion Passed.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

Mr. Mitchell informed the commission that backwash water use is very high due to high manganese levels in the raw water. Also, the state is requiring Sodium Chloride reports daily. The pump roof will be removed by January 3. One of the Hach chemical detection units was not working correctly. The commission determined they would rather repair it than buy a new one. Discussed Backflow Preventer program. Mr. Mitchell brought up workflow and how he thinks it should be modernized. There being no other business from the Superintendent, Mr. Gray made the motion to accept his report seconded by Mr. Darden. Motion Passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT AND PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Ms. Verret presented bills and discussed them with the Commission. She informed the commission that bills are mostly caught up. Received a check from the insurance company on a lighting damage claim. Also, she stated as Mr. Scott said the commission has received its first ARPA Grant reimbursement and the second one was sent to the wrong entity again. There being no other business from the Administrator, Mr. Darden 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution ordering and calling special election on April 27, 2024, to authorize the issuance of General Obligation Bonds. A motion was made for the calling of a special election by Mr. Gray, seconded by Mr. Darden.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Authement – Yes, Mr. Bell – Absent, Mr. Darden – Yes, Mr. Gray – Yes, Ms. Milton – Absent, Mr. Punch – Yes, Mr. Scott – Yes
Motion carried – five yes votes and two absent.

2. Cost of Living Increase – No Action
3. Election of Officers will be held at the January 2024 meeting

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Devon Derouen (employee) asked to speak to the commission about how important the need for trucks was for them to do their work in a timely manner.
There being no other business before the Board, Mr. Darden made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Gray. Motion Passed.

NEXT MEETING DATE: January 17, 2024

Willie J Scott, President

Camile J. Punch, Secretary/Treasurer