

Waterworks District No. 2, Parish of Beauregard

MINUTES

The Board of Commissioners, governing authority of Waterworks District No. Two (2) of the Parish of Beauregard, Louisiana, met in an open and public session at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 9, 2023 at the regular meeting place of said Board, 9252 Hwy 27, Singer, LA.

*Jerry Cooley, President of the Board of Commissioners called the meeting to order and on roll call, the following members being present: **Jerry Cooley, Bill White, Lisa Gearen, Caroll Johnson, and Richelle Bowman.***

Absent: 0

Others Present: *Mathieu Rose, Steven Landreneau, Brian McReynolds, Mark McCarty, and George Boyer*

Public Participation: *There was no public participation for items on the agenda.*

Approval of Minutes:

Bill White, 2nd by Lisa Gearen, moved to adopt the Minutes of the August 2023, meeting and to forego the reading thereof. The motion carried without opposition.

Approval of Financial reports:

Bill White, 2nd by Lisa Gearen, moved to adopt the financial reports as written for August and September, the motion carried without opposition.

Payment authorization:

Bill White, 2nd by Lisa Gearen, moved to pay monthly invoices for October 2023, the motion carried without opposition.

New Business:

Mr. Steve Landreneau attended the meeting, and discuss the new PFAS lawsuit. He stated that he was partnering with Attorney John Young, and he wanted to inform the Board that he was wanting to inform the board of class action suit against 3M and Dupont. The suit at this time is approximately \$3 Billion's, and a decision to opt in or out needs to be decided by the Board as soon as possible.

The PFAS chemical has been found in Teflon cookware, Dental Floss, Fire Suppressant Foam, and so forth. Eventually all water system will be required by the EPA to test for PFAS, and all water companies that join the class action suit will be part of the process to help with any liability if PFAS is found in the water. He thinks the cost of testing is approximately \$3,000.00 per raw water source.

The Board of Commissioners thanked Mr. Landreneau, and Mr. McReynolds for attending the meeting, and will take their advice under advisement and let him know of their decision.

Mr. George Boyer-All Phase Construction attended the meeting to introduce himself as a state license and bonded contractor, and offered his services to the Water District. He stated he was looking forward to working for the district in the future.

Unfinished Business:

Griner Construction:

Mr. Mark McCarty discussed the “Confidential” letter by Griner’s legal counsel asking the Board their thoughts on it. He stated that it did not have clarification of what their desires were. (Due to the litigation of the circumstances, the “Confidential letter” will not be part of the Minutes.

Mr. Bill White stated that the letter leaves an assumption open, and is not conclusive as to what their offer is, the verbiage is very vague and not open to a counter offer. He further stated that he cannot see an arbitration in the future if this is what is to be expected. He asked Mark for his guidance, and clarification on where he (Mark) stood on behalf of the Board as their engineer.

Mrs. Richelle Bowman, and **Bill White**, asked for clarification on the proposed question #4 of the letter that was submitted by Griner’s Arbitrator, concerning Griner not being at fault for the delays. The arbitrator should already have the documentation of proof if she is disputing the delays in question without the District supplying the information.

Mr. Mark McCarty stated that after reviewing the letter, he was thinking maybe they wanted the cost added up, and for the district to make the counter offer. He tallied the numbers and the assessment is \$3,500.00. He quoted that with the Change Order the assessment was \$151,000.00, with liquidated damages of \$25,250.00. and at the last minutes adding the delays for RP Construction at \$25,000.00. He discussed one of two options. **First**, was to reply to Griner stating there was not a clarification in their offer, and an offer had to be rendered in order for a counter offer to be made. **Two**, we make an offer stating this is the final offer, take it or leave it.

Mr. Mark McCarty agreed that the letter from Griner’s legal counsel was not acceptable as an offer, and he would address it with Griner, and get back with the Board at the next meeting in November.

Mr. Bill White, and 2nd by **Richelle Bowman**, approved for **Mr. McCarty** to address this problem with Griner’s arbitrator. The motion carried without opposition.

The Water Sector Program:

Mark McCarty discussed deadlines for authorization to proceed, and once the Specs for the projects have been approved, there would be a 6-month deadline to meet the monetary match.

Maintenance Report: Mathieu Rose

1. System Overview: 81 Work Orders completed, 7 leaks repaired, 3 Leaks pending.
2. The 4-Wheeler, and the Side x Side has been maintenance and repaired.
3. The Board reviewed the Motor Alignment report both Phelps and Fields from KHebert Company.
4. Tools and Supplies:
 - a) Consolidated Pipe and Supply----Leak Locator, with a 5-year warranty, and 2 days of training. \$3,900.00

Bill White, 2nd by **Caroll Johnson** approved the purchase of the Leak Location for \$3,900.00. The motion carried without opposition.

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| b) Rural Pipe and Supply----- 12” pipe materials | \$4,083.39 |
| Ferguson Pipe and Supply---12” pipe materials | \$4, 063.72 |

Bill White, 2nd by Lisa Gearen, moved the tools and supplies by Ferguson in the amount of \$4,063.72. The motion carried without opposition.

Secretary Report: Paula Rose

a) The Secretary informed the Board that FNB will not increase their interest rates, as Sabine Bank did at 4%. B1Bank has offered the 4% increase for each account.

The Board of Commissioners requested for the Secretary to contact Beauregard Federal Savings, and the Barksdale Credit Union on their rates.

b) An estimated Cost Reimbursement report was given on the Tiger Island Wildfire, with a conclusion of the cost being ready for the next board meeting.

Richelle Bowan discussed charging for the use of the office as a temporary staging and command center during the wildfire. The Board approved charging for the use of the office, and for the secretary to set an amount for charges.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, upon a motion by Lisa Gearen, 2nd by Caroll Johnson, the meeting was adjourned, the motion carried without opposition.

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the business meeting held on Monday, October 9th, at the regular public meeting place of said Board at 9252 Hwy 27, Singer, Louisiana.



Paula Rose-District Secretary/Treasurer



Jerry Cooley, President