

**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, April 8, 2024, 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:*

**Absent: 0**

**Others Present:** Mathieu Rose, Ethan Foster, Attorney Joseph Delafield, Mark McCarty-Meyer & Associates, Danny Rogers, and Brittany Welch.

*Others Absent: District Secretary-Paula Rose*

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

*Richelle Bowman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Gearen, moved to adopt the Minutes of the March 4, 11, and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting and to forego the reading thereof, motion carried without opposition.*

**Approval of Financial reports:**

*Richelle Bowman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Gearen, moved to adopt the financial reports as written for March 2024, the motion carried without opposition.*

**Payment authorization:**

*Richelle Bowman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Gearen, moved to pay monthly invoices for April 2024, the motion carried without opposition.*

**The Board of Directors** *discussed the Theft of Utilities at 1062 Hollie Lane, DeQuincy, and what it would mean to file charges against the account holder because theft of utilities is not acceptable.*

*Mr. Danny Rogers stated that he was the one to illegally tap into the water systems main, and not his wife. He asked for leniency on filing charges against him, and if possible, to give him a few more days to make a full payment. He stated that his income tax should be available in about 2 to 3 days.*

*Mr. Bill White asked Mr. Rogers, what did he expect to happen if he did not have the means to pay in the next 2 to 3 days, because charges would have to be filed against his wife, because the account is in her name.*

*Mr. Rogers stated that he starts a new job next week, and that he is waiting on his income tax to come in to pay on the account.*

*Mr. Bill White stated that he would hate to see Mr. Rogers wife, Brittany Welch, go to jail over something that he did. Mr. Rogers was in agreement to the fact that he had caused the theft of utilities, and not his wife.*

**Mr. Joseph Delafield** suggested that the Board of Directors pass a Resolution giving the District Secretary-Paula Rose the authority to set a date and time deadline for full payment on the Theft of Utility charges, giving Mr. Rogers the final deadline to make restitution prior to charges being filed.

**Mr. Mathieu Rose** asked if this one a one-time authorization for the District Secretary/Treasurer Paula Rose, or is this to be standard protocol?

**The Board** agreed that it was a one-time incident, and each theft will be on a case-by-case basis as discussed.

**Mr. Bill White**, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Carroll Johnson, approved a Resolution giving the District Secretary/Office Manager a one-time authority, and on case-by-case situation to proceed with setting a date and time deadline for full restitution for the theft of utilities case involving Mr. Danny Rogers, and Ms. Brittany Welch. The motion carried without opposition.

Yeas 5, Nays 0, Absent: 0, Abstain:0. Jerry Cooley, Bill White, Richelle Bowman, Carroll Johnson, and Lisa Gearen.

**PFAS Case:**

Mr. Joseph Delafield discussed that there was a set back on the PFAS case due to the Attorney General kicking back the paperwork. He will re-do the Resolution adding the 25% fee.

**Mrs. Lisa Gearen**, 2<sup>nd</sup> by **Mrs. Richelle Bowman**, moved to adopt the revisions to the PFAS resolution adding the supplemental of 25%, and amending the resolution authorizing employment of special counsel for the PFAS case. The motion carried without opposition.

**Water Sector Program:**

Mark McCarty discussed the project plans that fall under the Water Sector Program, and proceeding without a Water Rate Study. He stated that a letter was sent to be signed agreeing to the terms set forth. You are basically signing a blank check, giving the Sector the approval to set water rates for your system, and proceeding with the grant money, with the District providing a match of \$342,000 of the \$1.3 million, or you can sit tight and wait.

Mr. Jerry Cooley asked what was the down side to proceeding without waiting for the Rate Study?

Mr. Mark McCarty stated that you're signing a blank check, giving them the authority to set your water rates, if needed. He also stated that he had not heard of any outlandish increases, but you will be giving them permission to proceed without prior knowledge of whether the rates will increase or not.

Mr. Mathieu Rose stated that the only high increase that he has heard of was a neighboring city water system that was struggling financial. The only other drawn back of not proceeding, and waiting on a water rate study is that they are not sure when they will get to Phase 2 to begin the rate studies.



Mr. Jerry Cooley asked if there were any benefits of proceeding ahead without waiting on the water rate study, are we trying to get in front of the line?

Mr. Mark McCarty said to some extent we are trying to get in front of this. The contractors are still flushed with work, we are still fighting the supply chain issues, and will it be better in 6 months? He can't say whether it will be or not.

Mr. Bill White, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Carroll Johnson, moved to proceed forward with the Water Sector Program financing, without a Water Rate Study being performed, and agrees to the following stipulations:

1. The agreement between the State of Louisiana and Waterworks District 2, Parish of Beauregard) identifies its conditions that must be satisfied in order to receive permission to bid and construct the proposed project in the approved application.
2. All grant conditions, with the exception of the completion of a rate study, have been satisfied.
3. If allowed to bid and construct the proposed project prior to the completion of the rate study, and any necessary actions regarding utility rates, I understand the system will be required to repay all Water Sector Program funds expended for the above-named grant if a rate study is not completed and actions taken regarding utility rates as identified in the completed rate study.
4. The system will actively participate in the rate study process and take actions to implement any needed changes to the rates when a firm is assigned by the OCD-LGA to complete the rate study.

The motion carried without opposition, with 5 Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain, and 0 Absent. Jerry Cooley, Bill White, Richelle Bowman, Lisa Gearen, and Mr. Carroll Johnson.

Mr. Mark McCarty said that the letter would get turned in, and he submitted the plans to the Health Department, and they have not responded yet. So, nothing will happen until the plans meet approval, and once that takes place, then the Water Sector will send you a letter saying that you are authorized it.

#### **Junction Water System:**

Mrs. Lisa Gearen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Bill White, moved to adopt March 25, 2024 as the start-up contract date between Waterworks District No. 2, Beauregard Parish (Singer Water), and Beauregard Parish Waterworks District No. 6 (Junction Water) for the operations and maintenance department. The motion carried without opposition. 5 yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Abstain, 0-Absent. Jerry Cooley, Bill White, Carroll Johnson, Richelle Bowman, and Lisa Gearen.

#### **Maintenance Report: Mathieu Rose**

- **Junction Water report:** He provided the Board with before and after pictures of the water at Junction prior to, and after he implemented a new flushing program trial. The water prior was slightly brown, and the after picture was clear water.
- We agreed to a period of 30 hours per week, but we did go over approximately 4 hours doing different trials on flushing to develop a program that would hopefully work. He flushed approximately 320-325 gpm, flushing 20-40 minutes per flush out/hydrant. They began with a slightly brown water, but by the end of the week, it was a lot clearer.

- **Singer Report:**

- Overview of the system with a completion of 38 workorders, 148 Zipility workorders, and 7 leaks repairs, with 3 leaks pending repair. The rain has slowed us down somewhat, but we are progressing as the weather improves.
- There are some problematic issues with Missions reading the tank levels correctly, and Mr. Andy Toupe's is supposed to come look at it on Wednesday of this week.
- The other issue at the Main Plant here in Singer with the one part that keeps burning up, is being reviewed by Kevin Comeau, and the engineer of DXP. They have come up with a solution to the problem, but Mr. Comeau had an emergency surgery causing a delay.
- Approximately 80% of the material has been delivered by Coburns.
- All material has been delivered for the Hwy 110/Newlin Cemetery Rd CWEF project.
- Mrs. Richelle Bowman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Lisa Gearen, moved to approve for Ethan Foster to attend Level 1 Operator class in Carencro, LA. The motion carried without opposition.
- **Mrs. Richelle Bowman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Lisa Gearen,** moved to accept the bid for land drainage improvements at 150 Stanley Smith Road at a cost of \$14,900.00. The motion carried without opposition.

*Mike McLeod	\$ 44,220.68
*All Phase Construction	\$ 14,960.00
*Creative Development, LLC	\$139,740.00

- There was a discussion concerning the Wells on the system citing that Well 1, 2, and 4 were in good shape. The problem is Well 3, and it has been pulled from service because the shaft is bent or the pump is broken at the bottom, it visibly wobbles, and you can feel the vibration. One of the reasons there is standing water at the shop is because we cannot tighten the packing on Well 3.

Mr. Bill White asked about the motor being previously replaced on Well 3.

Mr. Mathieu Rose explained that Layne Christensen thought it was the top motor that was causing the vibration, and issues with the packing, but it wasn't. After further investigation, it was discovered that there were internal problems with the Well and the estimated cost ranges from \$7,500 to \$8,000 to pull it in order to correctly diagnose it. The cost could run up to \$30,000 to \$100,000.00 to put back in service, depending on what the diagnoses is.

He cannot locate any record prior to 1980 where it was worked on. He is thinks that it has been, he just can't locate the records. They have been having packing issues for the past 1 ½ years are more to his knowledge.

He said the he talked with Paula, and she said that it could come out of the Emergency Fund to pay for the repairs or a new one.

Mr. Jerry Cooley discussed that if it is wobbling at the shaft or pump at the bottom, there is the risk of puncturing a hole in the wall of the casing.

Mr. Bill White, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Gearen, moved to hire Layne Christensen to pull Well 3, and diagnose the problem, and to replace part with new, instead of rebuilt at an estimated cost of \$100,000.00. The motion carried without opposition.



Mr. Jerry Cooley re-addressed the bid presented by All Phase Construction and the wording on the scope of the job, and that there were not any specifics of the perimeters, or what type of dirt was being used.

Mr. White, and Mrs. Bowman stated that it was on his previous bid with how many yards, type of dirt being used, and details of the work to be done. This was just a re-issue of the bid, because it had been tabled previously.

- Discussed the 2 application that had been turned in for a position in the maintenance department.

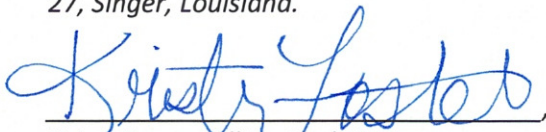
The Board agreed to advertise for the position for a Maintenance Operator.

- Mrs. Lisa Gearen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Bill White, moved to hire Charles Taylor Construction to paint the main office at the cost of \$9,600.00. The motion carried without opposition.
  - a) Charles Taylor \$ 9,600.00
  - b) Carlos \$12,500.00

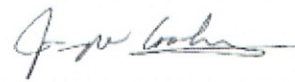
**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, upon a motion by Mrs. Lisa Gearen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mrs. Richelle Bowman, 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 April 48, 2024, at the regular public meeting place of said Board at 9252 Hwy 27, Singer, Louisiana.

  
Kristy Foster-Billing, Clerk-Assistant

Absent  
Paula Rose-District Secretary/Treasurer

  
Jerry Cooley, President