

**Water Works District No. 2  
St. Tammany Parish, State of Louisiana**

**Board of Waterworks Commissioners Meeting  
Water District No. 2 office, Hwy. 36, Covington, LA**

**November 12, 2024 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Staff Present:** A.J. Cigali – General Manager  
Julie Williams – Asst. General Manager  
Grady Thigpen – Field Supervisor

**Board Present:** Benjamin Martino - President  
Lorraine Saba – Secretary/Treasurer  
Pierre Fabre – Vice President  
Sarah Holzhalb – Board Member  
Monique Stubbs – Board Member

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Ben Martino.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the October 21, 2024 meeting were read. Motion to approve them was made by Pierre Fabre and seconded by Ben Martino.

**Bank Balances:** Bank balances for the month ending October 31, 2024 were read by Lorraine Saba.

**Julie Williams spoke:**

**Water Loss:** Water loss was 24.46% with usage about the same as before. Grady mentioned several water leaks that he and James had fixed and noted that the water that's lost adds up.

**Profit & Loss:** The Profit & Loss report for October 2024 shows that we are still doing good.

**Monthly Meeting:** Julie confirmed with the board that we want to continue having our monthly meetings on the second Monday of the month for 2025. She will publish notice in the St Tammany Farmer.

**Annual Budget Review:** Julie will publish in the St Tammany Farmer that our 2025 Proposed Budget board meeting will be held on December 9, 2024.

**Water Bill Assistance:** Julie stated we need to review our policy regarding water leak adjustments. She had to address an issue regarding the refund of a customer payment with Emily G Couvillon, Deputy Chief with the Civil Division of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District. During that process Emily Couvillon referenced an Attorney General Opinion 23-0027 from 2023 that was not a direct opinion regarding the refund of payment, however, it did address 90-A-1 Public Funds & Contracts LA Constitutional Article VII Section 14(A): Except as otherwise provided by this constitution, the funds, credit, property, or things of value of the state or of any political subdivision shall not be loaned, pledged, or donated to or for any person, association, or corporation, public or private.

14(B)(15) Authorized Uses: Nothing in this section shall prevent a political subdivision from waiving charges for water if the charges are the result of water lost due to damage to the water delivery infrastructure and that damage is not the result of any act or failure to act by the customer being charged for the water.

After reviewing the Attorney General Opinion 23-0027 and the Constitutional Article VII Section 14 we are a political subdivision and have no authority to forgive debts. However, we are allowed to initiate a payment plan with the customer to collect these charges. Therefore, the board agreed that we should follow the Attorney General Opinion letter and the LA Constitutional Article VII Section 14.

**Grady Thigpen spoke:**

**Field Work:** Grady said Lynn Dr. has been fixed, but they are waiting for the surface to dry out before paving the road.

Grady said that the pump in well #4 was making a vibrating noise. Griner Drilling pulled the pump to investigate. In the meantime, we are renting a submersible pump until they can make repairs.

The repair cost will be approximately \$35,000 - \$40,000. Therefore, Grady is waiting for a price estimate from Griner Drilling. No one else does this work, so we cannot get other estimates to do the job. Julie noted that we can pay for this with money from the Revenue Account or Reserve Replacement Account, since this would be for repair to pump. Since the board agreed that it should be repaired,

Ben asked that Grady get back to us with the final price.

Executive Session was called to discuss employee annual reviews.

No further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Monique Stubbs and seconded by Sarah Holzhalb.

**Submitted by:** Lorraine Saba, Board Secretary-Treasurer. Lcs: 11/13/24