

**Linden County Water District
Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2024**

Directors Present: President Lawrence Knapp, Vice President Steven M. Lagorio, Director Myron Blanton, Director Elaine Reed and Director Douglas E. Smith

Board Secretary Barbara Kascht and General Manager John Villierme were also in attendance

Directors Absent: None

Public Comment: None

1. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Front & Ione Street Water Main Replacement Project.** General Manager John Villierme reported on recent issues with the project. The water main shut off to cap the line could not be done as scheduled, so a night shut down was necessary due to school being in session during the day. The project is past the completion date. One major tie-in is done. Still needed are to cut the tee in, pavement overlay and clean up. No idea of cost overrun. Force main tie-ins and another cut-in and tie-in on the 8" mains were not needed. The District has only paid half the contract.
- b. Sustainable Groundwater Management.** Director Doug Smith and Director Myron Blanton both attended the September ESJGWA meeting. Department of Water Resources (DWR) submitted their list of failed domestic wells for San Joaquin County. No one has actually applied for any relief yet, which is made available through the \$200,000 allocation for the replacement of dry domestic wells if it was caused by over drafting by one of the ESJGWA public service wells or one of the members. The Grand Jury response from the Steering Committee is due by Sept. 25, 2024. West Gate Landing test well is now complete and in service. Satellite data update of satellite telemetry on groundwater is available on the ESJGWA web site. A study on interconnected waterways as part of the DWR demand is being done. It is the 10th anniversary of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- c. PFAS.** General Manager John Villierme advised there was nothing new. Sampling to be scheduled after completion of the Front & Ione Street Water Main Replacement project.
- d. 2024-25 Budget.** General Manager John Villierme presented two versions of the budget, one with a 2% Cost of Living Allowance and the other with a 3% COLA. Last year, San Joaquin County gave out a 5% COLA and LCWD did 3%. The County gave a 4% COLA this year. Necessary sewer expenses include approximately \$5,000 for a new gear box and about \$40,000 for a new aerator. Sewer flows are good so sludge removal is not needed at this time. Villierme will look at ways to use the tank and wells more efficiently. PG&E rate increases have really affected the District.

General Manager Villierme unsure of his retirement date. He could be staying until August 2025 instead of April. There is one more fiscal year on the current rate increase schedule. Contact Catherine Hansford regarding the Cost-of-Service Study. John commended Brayden Fredricksen. Myron spoke in favor of 3% COLA, as the recent Social Security cost of living increase was 2.5%. Doug Smith moved to accept the budget with a 3% COLA, seconded by Steven Lagorio. **AYES**: 5 **NOES**: 0 **ABSTAIN**: 0 **ABSENT**: 0 Motion carried.

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Water Loss.** General Manager John Villierme reviewed this month's water usage figures. Too many fire service lines without any meters, Fire Department usage, unmetered buildings at the high school and the hydrant by Linden El could all contribute to unaccounted-for water.

3. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Steven Lagorio moved to accept the consent calendar as follows:

- a. Minutes – August 15, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Warrant Listing
- c. Financial Reports
- d. Operations Reports
- e. Compliance Log
- f. Correspondence
- g. Water Usage Reports

seconded by Elaine Reed. **AYES**: 5 **NOES**: 0 **ABSTAIN**: 0 **ABSENT**: 0 Motion carried.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.