

**Linden County Water District  
Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2021  
via Teleconference**

**Directors Present:** President David Fletcher, Vice President Lawrence Knapp, Director Myron Blanton, Director Elaine Reed and Director Steven M. Lagorio

Board Secretary Barbara Kascht, General Manager John Villierme, and District Engineer Matt Ospital were also in attendance

**Directors Absent:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Agenda Items:**

**1. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Swearing In of Newly Appointed Director.** President David Fletcher administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Director Steven M. Lagorio.

**2. Closed Session as Provided by the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54957, Personnel Matters.** Upon coming out of closed session, President David Fletcher stated he would provide salary recommendations and details to Barbara Kascht at the end of the meeting.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Water Storage Tank.** District Engineer Matt Ospital advised that bids received for the office and tank projects were all considerably over the engineer's estimate. The office addition and shop bathroom remodel came out to \$350.00/sf. Ospital's other ideas for the office relocation would be to rent in town or purchase a smaller modular unit (24' x 40') for around \$150,000.00. Construction was to be stick frame, concrete slab with metal siding. Several directors posed the idea of adding onto the existing steel building. President David Fletcher has already arranged for the District to use the meeting room at school district. Low bidder on the water storage tank & booster pump station project was Crosno Construction, out of Rio Grande, with a total bid of \$1,851,074.00. The engineer's estimate for the 500,000 gallon tank was \$1.5 million. The eight bids received ranged from \$1,851,074.00 to \$2,135,518.00. The District has a \$2.4 million loan with F&M Bank. A recommended 10% contingency brings the lowest bid total to \$2,036,181.00. Project design costs are currently at \$182,000.00. Construction management/inspection costs are estimated at \$230,000.00 for a total projected cost of \$2.8 million. Barbara Kascht mentioned the office expense could be split between water and sewer, as it serves both, whereas the tank and loan are water only. To make any changes to the size or design of the tank or pipes would incur an additional design cost. Bolted vs. welded tank previously considered would yield a shorter life span and minimal savings. President Fletcher noted there is money in the water fund to cover the overage. A loan modification is another possibility. Water income has to fund water projects, which is difficult to project, as rate

increases based upon July water usage will not be billed in August. Remodeling the existing shop and renting existing office space downtown were also considered. F&M Bank is asking for a firm bid or contract in order to draw loan funds. The \$182,000.00 for design costs has already paid out of the District's existing water fund capital. Matt Ospital offered to cut some inspection time and utilize District staff. Selling and/or moving the current District office building was also discussed. Myron Blanton moved to move forward on Matt Ospital's recommendation regarding the tank and to work on the office portion; motion died for lack of a second. John Villierme and Barbara Kascht were directed to look into possible rentals, cost of removing/disposing of trailer, fixing existing shop/office and sale of surplus property. The Board will make a decision at the March 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- b. **2020 Capital Improvement Program.** Nothing to report at this time. Additional Capital Improvement Projects may be delayed due to increased costs of office and water storage tank & booster pump station projects.
- c. **Solar Project.** General Manager John Villierme advised that he still needs to do a final job walk with Frank Neto before final payment is issued.
- d. **Sustainable Groundwater Management.** President David Fletcher advised they submitted their 2020 water usage for the annual report. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be April 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### 4. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Lawrence Knapp moved to approve the consent calendar as follows:

- a. Minutes – January 21, 2021
- 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.

#### 5. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.