



AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS

La Junta, Colorado

January 16, 2024

4:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

Municipal Building

601 Colorado Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL (City Clerk)

Board Members P/A

Supervisors

Others

Ayala

Berg

Bourget

Cranson

Velasquez

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Chairman)

Regular Meeting December 19, 2023

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY *(5-minute time limit per person)*

REPORTS

A. ARPA Board (Gary Cranson)

B. Water & Wastewater Treatment (Tom Seaba)

C. Electric Department (Bill Jackson)

D. Sanitation (Martin Montoya)

NEW BUSINESS

A. City Manager's Comments

B. Governing Body's Comments

ADJOURN

CITY OF LA JUNTA)
COUNTY OF OTERO) SS
STATE OF COLORADO)

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Utilities Commissioners of the City of La Junta, Colorado, was called to order by Vice-Chairman Gary Cranson on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Roll was called and the following Board Members were present:

Present Joe Ayala, Mayor
 Patrick Berg, Commissioner
 Mike Bourget, Commissioner
 Gary Cranson, Vice-Chairman
 Paul Velasquez, Council Member

Absent: None

Also present: Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
 Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
 Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
 Tom Seaba, Director of Water/WW
 Martin Montoya, Director of Engineering
 Aliza Libby, Director of Finance

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Vice-Chairman Cranson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2023. Hearing none, the Vice-Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 21, 2023 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Ayala

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Aliza Libby, Director of Finance: Reminded people that this time of year is really hard on some of our citizens and they have problems paying their utility bill. A lot of charities are out of money. If you want to do something nice for your neighbor, you can put a little bit towards their utility bill.

REPORTS

A. ARPA Board. Gary Cranson gave the following report:

1. **Summary of October 2023 Financial and Operating Statements:** During the month of October, revenue from power sales was more than budget by \$10,473 (0.5%) and total revenue was more than budget by \$82,447. Total cost of goods sold was under budget by 5.1%. Purchased power costs were under budget by \$24,031 (3.0%). Transmission expenses were under budget by \$44,127. Net Revenue from Operations for the month was \$459,873.

2. **Year to Date Income Statement:** Revenue from power sales was less than budget by \$702,170 (3.0%). Total revenues were less than budget by \$398,870 YTD. Interest income was \$299,151 which is better than budget. Total cost of goods sold was less than budget by \$1,153,354 (7.3%). YTD purchased power costs were under budget by \$764,068 (8.1%). YTD Transmission expenses were under budget by \$422,730. Total YTD A & G expenses are under budget by \$69,513 (1.3%). YTD Net Revenue is \$3,677,542. Debt Service Coverage YTD is 1.43X.
3. **Operating Report:** ARPA paid \$52.23 per MWh for 27.9 MWh reported as produced by member solar installations. Energy sales for October was 0.3% less than budget and 4.3% more than 2022. Energy Sales YTD was 3.5% less than budget and 1.8% less than 2022. *Coincidental peak demand* was 1% more than at 38.0 mW and occurred on October 2nd in hour ending 2:00 p.m. All in cost of power to members YTD is \$0.10023 per kWh; 2.1% lower than 2020.
4. **Other Business:** a) ARPA 2024 budget was approved. Proposed Wholesale Rate IV, Schedule E was approved. Schedule E stipulates that ARPA will provide replacement energy for delivery shortfalls anticipated in Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) sales to Lamar Utility Board. Replacement energy will be priced at ARPA's then current fixed energy rate. b) Discussion with JK Energy Consulting regarding the Cost-of-Service study for rates for 2025 and beyond after the change to Guzman Energy at that time. The Guzman contract is a 17-year fixed rate contract which will provide some reduction in costs to ARPA. c) Update on "Power Supply Portfolio" options. Reviewed progress on ARPA's ongoing work to incorporate additional (bulk) renewable energy resources into the area and facilitate local projects of that type. Several projects are in various stages of planning and implementation, (Sandhills energy project for total of 11.4 mW – La Junta and Lamar will have 4.8 mW, Trinidad 1.8 mW).
5. **Next Meeting** –February 29, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at Otero College in La Junta.

B. Water & Wastewater Treatment. Tom Seaba gave the following report:

1. **R.O. Plant**
 - Routine maintenance: tested emergency lights, flushed/cleaned all chemical lines, injectors, pumps to manganese filters, flushed pressure transducers, sampled all RO's.
 - Moved tank level transducer from sulfuric acid tank to sodium hydroxide tank and adjusted the backpressure valve. Will order replacement transducer in 2024.
 - Repaired vent hood on 3MG tank.
 - Moved meter from well #12 to well #11 to replace broken meter.
 - Installed new flow transmitter on scale inhibitor feed line.
 - Replaced coolant line on west field generator and refilled generator with coolant. Old line burst during testing.
 - Meter reading, building maintenance, and groundskeeping.
2. **Distribution**
 - Main break at Main Street and Vine, North La Junta.
 - Valve inserted for Sutherlands fire service.
 - Service connection repairs on San Juan and Bradish Avenue.
 - New service installed on south San Juan.
 - Service repairs and reconnects on North Highway 109.
 - Meter reading and utility billing office generated work orders, equipment maintenance.
3. **Wastewater**
 - Treated 28.080 million gallons. Removed 30.0 ft³ of screenings and 49.0 ft³ of grit.
 - RO concentrate discharge to plant was 5.931 million gallons.
 - Jetted 3,884 feet of line for ten emergency calls and thirty-six manhole locate requests.
 - Complete quarterly jetting of known trouble spots.
 - Waiting on parts to repair heater in headworks building.

- Repairs made to grit PLC controls.
 - Brown's Hill fixed PLCs to main boards and VFD's.
 - Received quotes for heater/AC unit replacement in disinfection building. Will pause project until 2024.
 - Additional plant, collection system, grounds maintenance.
4. Other Notables:
 - Monthly safety meeting topic was first aid for common injuries.
 - Wastewater training for lagoons conducted by Colorado Rural Water.
 - Compiling data for PFAS class-action liability litigation.
 - Continue data collection for lead and copper rule.
 5. Tom Seaba and Meghan Yergert are on the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum Planning Committee. The Water Forum will be in La Junta on March 6th and 7th next year at Otero College with a local leader's dinner which will be held March 5th.
 6. Lengthy discussion regarding the summary vs. financials along with solar companies.

C. Electric Department. Bill Jackson gave the following report:

1. Line Crew
 - Daily reads, disconnects and maintenance.
 - The crew did some troubleshooting on the speakers that play music downtown. All the Christmas decorations are up!
 - New outlets were installed at the new Brick & Tile Park. They are located on the south-east and northwest corners of the park.
 - Two poles were changed out at Highway 350 & 6th Street and 10 Cactus Drive; both were hit by vehicles.
 - Two crewmen went to Las Animas for a flagger certification class and another is completing an advanced distribution class online.
 - Overloaded connectors at the La Junta Mill & Elevator were replaced.
 - Set up the electric trailer at the compactor for the Street Department. A digger truck is securing a power pole at 5th Street and Gardner so that a new culvert can be installed.
 - Several light services were dropped in order for TLM to be able to get a cement truck onto the new trail.
 - A pole was relocated for the construction crew working on the parking lot at 315 W. 3rd Street.
2. SOLAR Accounts
 - The total kWh returned to the system was 8,694 from 25 customers. A total of \$469.48 was rebated at the avoided costs. There are currently 30 solar customers.
3. System Update
 - Planning continues on the AB Sub breaker replacement and upgrades.
 - Solar providers and net metering was discussed at the last Operating Committee meeting.

D. Sanitation. Martin Montoya gave the following report:

1. Will be doubling up sanitation routes due to the Christmas holiday. Friday will be picked up on Thursday and Monday will be picked up on Tuesday.
2. Rocky Ford has been having some trouble with their trash trucks. We've been helping them out.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers for 2024

1. **Chairman.** The Vice-Chairman opened the floor for nominations. Ayala nominated Gary Cranson for Chairman, seconded by Bourget. Hearing no further nominations, the Vice-Chairman closed the nominations and called for the vote. Gary Cranson was unanimously elected as Chairman.
2. **Vice-Chairman.** The Vice-Chairman opened the floor for nominations. Ayala nominated Paul Velasquez for Vice-Chairman, seconded by Bourget. Hearing no further nominations, the Vice-Chairman closed the nominations and called for the vote. Paul Velasquez was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman.

B. Asst. City Manager's Comments.

1. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody. Hope everybody has a great holiday.
2. There were twenty people who responded to Facebook to come look at their Christmas lights. But there was probably sixty we could have looked at.

C. Governing Body's Comments.

1. Vice-Chairman Velasquez: Asked about the notice for applications for the executive director for Southeast Water Conservancy. Who retired? Mr. Seaba confirmed that Mr. Broderick is retiring.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Gary Cranson, Chairman

A. ARPA Board. Gary Cranson submitted the following report:

1) Summary of November 2023 Financial and Operating Statements:

During the month of November, revenue from power sales was less than budget by \$ 19,176 (0.9%) and total revenue was more than budget by \$ 1,624

Total cost of goods sold was over budget by 1.5%

Purchased Power costs were over budget by \$ 38,245 (4.8%)

Transmission Expenses were under budget by \$ 29,366

Net Revenue from Operations for the month was \$ 298,496.

2) Year to Date Income Statement:

Revenue from power sales was less than budget by \$ 721,346 (2.8%)

Total revenues were less than budget \$ 397,247 YTD

Interest income was \$ 320,072 which is better than budget.

Total cost of goods sold was less than budget by \$ 1,133,154 (6.6%)

YTD Purchased power costs were under budget by \$ 725,823 (7.1%)

YTD Transmission expenses were under budget by \$ 452,096

Total YTD A & G expenses are under budget by \$ 69,341 (1.2%)

YTD Net Revenue is \$ 3,804,255

Debt Service Coverage YTD is 1.40X

3) Operating Report:

ARPA paid \$ 55.37 per mWh for 22.4 mWh produced by member solar installations.

Energy sales for November was right on budget and 2.9% less than 2022.

Energy sales YTD was 3.2% less than budget and 1.9% less than 2022.

Coincidental peak demand was 37 mW. It occurred November 27th in the hour ending 9:00 A.M. and was 4% less than the 2022 peak.

All in cost of power to members YTD is \$0.10013 per kWh; 2.1% lower than 2020.

4) Next Regular Meeting February 29, 2024 10:00 AM at Otero College in La Junta.

Utility Board Meeting

01/16/2024

Departmental Goings-On

R.O. Plant

- Routine maintenance: Tested batteries on generator, clear-well inspection, inspected/cleaned intake screens on degassifiers, tank inspections.
- PFAS testing on wells. Second test under current PFAS testing grant.
- Changed cartridge filters.
- Replaced leaking valve on 2" Clortec line.
- Replaced quad-rings on RO's A & B.
- Assisted WWTP diagnose/repair AUMA actuators on aeration basins.
- Meter Reading, facilities maintenance.

Distribution

- Main leak at 1900 San Juan Ave. Affected 4" water service to Otero College.
- Maintenance on Air Base transition line. New air vacs installed,
- Assist contractors on new Sheriff's office buildings.
- Replace several leaking meter setters.
- Assist Rocky Ford with ¾" and 2" water tap.
- Meter Reading and utility billing office generated work orders, equipment maintenance.

Wastewater

- Treated 33.121 million gallons. Removed 37ft³ of screenings and 29ft³ of grit.
- RO concentrate discharge to plant was 8.90 million gallons.
- Jetted 7,597' of line for 9 emergency calls and 17 manhole locate requests.
- Assisted plumbers move clog caused by FOG and wipes from Wendy's to lift station.
- ISCO samplers were evaluated. Heads to be pulled and shipped for repair in January.
- Cleaned walls of UV channel of algae growth and snails.
- Received rebuilt motor for Orbal basin. Stored as a backup/reserve.
- Additional plant, collection system, and grounds maintenance.

Other Notables:

- Monthly safety meeting topic was slips & falls, and workplace harassment.
- Violation notices mailed to businesses not in compliance with 2023 backflow testing.
- Continued work on lead & copper survey of city.
- Adjusting plan for SRF funding request due to changes in availability of funds notice from CWRPDA.
- Several employees received training at CRWA office in Pueblo West.
- Compiled testing services needed for 2024. Purchasing department will handle quotes/bids.
- Cheraw high school students toured RO plant.

**CITY OF LA JUNTA
TREATED WATER PUMPING REPORT**

2023 DECEMBER	DAILY TOTALS	RUNNING TOTAL	RUNNING AVERAGE
1	1,064,974	1,064,974	2,700,918
2	636,113	1,701,087	850,544
3	959,802	2,660,889	886,963
4	861,066	3,521,955	880,489
5	1,129,547	4,651,502	930,300
6	766,653	5,418,155	903,026
7	873,171	6,291,326	898,761
8	1,060,711	7,352,037	919,005
9	671,035	8,023,072	891,452
10	859,617	8,882,689	888,269
11	867,451	9,750,140	886,376
12	1,006,882	10,757,022	896,419
13	909,915	11,666,937	897,457
14	940,066	12,607,003	900,500
15	855,618	13,462,621	897,508
16	842,375	14,304,996	894,062
17	934,411	15,239,407	896,436
18	947,508	16,186,915	899,273
19	822,256	17,009,171	895,220
20	948,626	17,957,797	897,890
21	925,693	18,883,490	899,214
22	724,951	19,608,441	891,293
23	874,909	20,483,350	890,580
24	697,735	21,181,086	882,545
25	680,286	21,861,372	874,455
26	782,317	22,643,689	870,911
27	807,318	23,451,007	868,556
28	802,265	24,253,272	866,188
29	924,294	25,177,566	868,192
30	582,634	25,760,200	858,673
31	865,016	26,625,216	858,878

WATER PUMPING REPORT - TOTAL MONTHLY AVERAGE AND ANNUAL DAILY AVERAGE

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
JANUARY	930,230	976,015	921,401	982,581	951,866	1,008,129
FEBRUARY	903,344	920,841	972,783	899,325	990,441	944,202
MARCH	1,400,422	1,189,742	1,162,262	1,185,289	1,260,958	1,362,603
APRIL	1,919,708	1,555,048	1,628,607	1,951,903	1,675,183	1,531,140
MAY	2,736,470	2,574,223	2,554,895	1,407,158	2,126,396	1,664,063
JUNE	3,780,595	2,945,785	3,116,761	2,443,088	2,684,200	2,792,473
JULY	3,915,341	3,109,772	2,679,176	2,987,266	3,118,577	2,704,002
AUGUST	3,613,710	2,925,098	2,619,138	2,929,069	3,215,891	2,158,243
SEPTEMBER	2,687,163	2,646,114	2,494,287	2,678,312	2,761,297	2,370,071
OCTOBER	1,530,418	1,887,994	1,816,309	1,786,327	2,053,569	1,440,836
NOVEMBER	1,109,195	1,082,438	1,107,138	1,139,791	1,194,828	1,135,276
DECEMBER	986,978	960,383	898,572	919,619	999,685	1,045,058
Total of Monthly Average	25,513,574	22,773,453	21,971,329	21,309,728	23,032,891	20,156,096
Annual Monthly Average	2,126,131	1,897,788	1,830,944	1,775,811	1,919,408	1,679,675
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
JANUARY	1,017,718	985,506	1,044,009	1,161,771	1,102,644	1,079,783
FEBRUARY	990,572	995,785	1,016,581	1,246,955	1,087,932	1,050,626
MARCH	1,423,137	1,028,287	1,308,317	1,207,604	1,115,113	1,068,667
APRIL	1,763,265	1,682,223	1,868,792	1,841,144	1,840,332	1,899,967
MAY	2,715,473	2,239,430	2,824,709	1,951,034	2,419,403	2,109,724
JUNE	3,373,343	2,626,847	3,329,929	2,685,689	2,837,504	2,374,146
JULY	3,048,099	2,865,161	2,816,800	3,227,453	2,696,154	2,432,048
AUGUST	2,588,089	3,044,966	3,048,754	3,049,651	2,656,857	2,432,048
SEPTEMBER	2,459,879	2,814,694	2,427,889	2,656,326	2,506,060	2,126,370
OCTOBER	1,339,430	1,546,996	1,920,007	1,811,689	1,872,821	1,637,142
NOVEMBER	1,026,190	1,079,446	1,185,766	1,246,012	1,115,090	970,307
DECEMBER	982,878	1,042,740	1,090,004	1,077,914	1,094,785	858,878
Total of Monthly Average	22,728,073	21,952,081	23,881,557	23,163,242	22,344,695	20,039,706
Annual Monthly Average	1,894,006	1,829,340	1,990,130	1,930,270	1,862,058	1,669,976

ANNUAL MONTHLY AVERAGE from 1978-2011	
YEAR	
1978	3,417,038
1979	2,359,628
1980	2,340,723
1981	2,204,668
1982	1,981,657
1983	2,202,084
1984	2,077,328
1985	2,041,761
1986	2,448,842
1987	2,392,992
1988	2,617,253
1989	2,452,398
1990	2,274,213
1991	2,600,497
1992	2,468,108
1993	2,706,996
1994	2,772,865
1995	2,599,979
1996	2,718,012
1997	2,778,802
1998	2,764,985
1999	2,686,897
2000	2,870,918
2001	2,613,727
2002	2,545,514
2003	2,294,070
2004	1,936,373
2005	2,050,567
2006	1,907,597
2007	1,819,832
2008	1,825,493
2009	1,742,560
2010	1,834,444
2011	2,014,490