

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 Chairman Frank McKenzie on Tuesday, January 17, 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
 Mike Bourget, Commissioner
 Gary Cranson, Vice-Chairman
 Frank McKenzie, Chairman
 Paul Velasquez, Council Member – arrived at 4:44 p.m.

Absent: none

Also present: Rick Klein, City Manager
 Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
 Phil Malouff Jr., City Attorney
 Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
 Tom Seaba, Director of Water & Wastewater
 Martin Montoya, Director of Engineering
 Elaine McIntyre, City Council
 Damon Ramirez, City Council
 Taylor Stokes, La Junta
 Cheryl Lindner, La Junta
 Betty McFarren, RF Gazette

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman McKenzie asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2022. The information on the sanitation report for Clean Valley Recycling E-waste should be tons not pounds. Hearing no further corrections or additions, he declared the December 13, 2022 minutes approved as amended.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Herminia Quintanilla, 506 Barnes Avenue: Water heater broke causing high water usage, is unable to come up with the funds to cover the utility bill, the landlord will not help. Mr. Malouff knows a benefactor that will apply \$100.00 to Ms. Quintanilla's account.

REPORTS

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

1. **Summary of November 2022 Financial and Operating Statements:** During the month of November, revenue from power sales was better than budget by \$14,201 (0.7%) and total revenues were better than budget by \$26,874. Total cost of goods sold was under budget by \$39,833 (3.0%). Net Revenue from Operations for the month was \$437,965.
2. **Year to Date Income Statement:** Revenue from power sales was less than budget by \$71,927 (0.3%) and cost of goods sold was less than budget by \$697,617 (4.3%). YTD Net Revenue is \$6,105,420. Debt Service Coverage YTD is 1.72X.

2. **Operating Report:** Member Energy sales for November is 1.5% better than budget and 8.0% better than 2021. Member Energy Sales YTD is 0.7% less than budget and 0.43% better than 2021. All in cost of power to members YTD is \$0.1003 per kWh; 2.3% lower than 2019.
3. **Next Meeting** –February 23, 2023 at Otero College in La Junta.

City Manager Klein shared a letter from Steven Baker, ex-La Juntan, who has been helping those in need with their utility bill and wishes to continue to do so in the future.

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

1. R.O. Plant
 - Installed new 5000-gallon chlorine storage tank. Tank put into operation after passing pressure testing.
 - Manganese filter chlorine pump diagnosed and repaired. Replacement pump quoted at \$7,822.00 (pump only, no controller or motor).
 - New coolant heater installed on Prairie View booster generator. New batteries installed in North Well Field generator after it failed to start during load test.
 - Troubleshooting issues with heater at plant.
 - Began digitizing older files.
 - Changed oil in chemical pumps.
 - Completed 4th quarter storage tank inspections.
 - Meter Reading, property maintenance.
2. Distribution
 - Repaired a main break in the 400 block of Bradish.
 - Worked with numerous customers with frozen services. Replaced frozen meter and setters.
 - Equipment maintenance.
 - Meter reading and utility billing office generated work orders.
3. Wastewater
 - Treated 23.688 million gallons. Removed 26.0 ft³ of screenings and 27.0 ft³ of grit.
 - RO concentrate discharge to plant was 18.173 million gallons.
 - Jetted 0 feet of line due to severe cold weather and absences due to illness. Thirteen emergency calls and nineteen manhole locate requests.
 - Oil changed and coolant leak repaired on generator.
 - Electrical issues repaired on composite sampler shed.
 - Annual biosolids sampling completed.
 - Training by CRWA conducted at plant on December 14th and by Zoom on December 15th.
 - Additional plant, collection system, and grounds maintenance.
4. Other Notables:
 - Received a \$10,000 planning grant to continue project needs assessment for SRF funding.
 - Moltz Construction continues ground and piping work on the new south booster station.
 - Bryan Hill passed his Level 1 Distribution certification exam.
 - Kevin Grasmick passed his Level D Water Treatment exam.
 - Katelin Reed passed her Level 4 Distribution certification exam.
 - Safety training concerning slips and falls.
5. Arkansas Valley Conduit Update
 - Spoke with our attorney, Julianne Woldridge, she will be coming down here to speak and answer any questions we have at our next meeting. Since the last meeting, she strove to

make contact with all the folks that we've wanted her to, no one has returned her calls or emails yet. Her belief, when it comes to project water, is that we continue to wait until the contract repayment papers are drawn up from the District to show exactly what rules will follow along and how much everything will cost. There's still the possibility of having the governance committee that the District wants to create.

- (Discussion continued amongst the Board members.)

Council Member Velasquez joined the meeting

Finance Director Libby shared information she received regarding a scam about utilities being disconnected. The City of La Junta does not send out these types of texts/messages.

C. Power Distribution/Power Plant. Bill Jackson gave the following report:

1. Line Crew/Power Plant
 - Daily reads, disconnects and maintenance.
 - A power pole was removed on the North side of East School for the Street Department.
 - The crew set a pole for the new bath house service at the Brick & Tile Park on 10th Street.
 - A new power pole was set at 24th Street and Carson Avenue.
 - Some of the lights were retrofitted and new globes added in the parking lot at Colorado Bank & Trust.
 - The crew worked with Black Hills Energy on replacing a power pole that is shared at 505 Jackson Street in North la Junta.
 - The crew repaired a damaged underground service at 1502 Carson Avenue.
 - Extra Christmas decorations were added around City Park.
2. SOLAR Accounts
 - The total kWh returned to the system was 2,207, from 12 customers. A total of \$112.56 was rebated at the avoided costs. There are currently 22 solar customers.
3. System Update
 - We continue to evaluate system weaknesses and determine areas of focus for improvement and upgrades.
 - JK Engineering will present results of the rate study at the February meeting.

(Discussion continued regarding five- and ten-year plans, annual project plans and the engines at the LP Sub. Should the engines be left to sit or go back out for bid?)

MOTION TO PUT THE ENGINES IN THE LP SUB BACK UP FOR BID: Ayala

SECOND: Cranson

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0

BOARD OF UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS – January 17, 2023

D. Sanitation. Martin Montoya gave the following report:

1. December 2022

Item	Year to Date Total				December			
	2021	2022	Diff	% Diff	2021	2022	Diff	% Diff
Special Pick-Ups (Quantity)	68	90	22.00	24.44	11	6	(5.00)	(45.45)
40-yd Boxes (Rental & Service)	44	56	12.00	21.43	7	2	(5.00)	(71.43)
20-yd Boxes (Rental & Service)	48	52	4.00	7.69	3	2	(1.00)	(33.33)
40-yd Box (Service)	246	234	(12.00)	(4.88)	15	12	(3.00)	(20.00)
20-yd Box (Service)	107	103	(4.00)	(3.74)	9	5	(4.00)	(44.44)
Overage on Boxes (Days and/or Weight)	82	119	37.00	31.09	12	9	(3.00)	(25.00)
Compactor Box (Service)	38	51	13.00	25.49	3	4	1.00	25.00
Transfer Station Open Top (tons)	Added in 2022	405.86	N/A	N/A	Added in 2022	17.24	N/A	N/A
Transfer Station Compactor (tons)		132.56	N/A	N/A		8.12	N/A	N/A
Replaced Tote		120	N/A	N/A		2	N/A	N/A
Replaced Lid		57	N/A	N/A		3	N/A	N/A
Additional Tote		133	N/A	N/A		9	N/A	N/A
Repaired/Replaced Dumpsters		20	N/A	N/A		0	N/A	N/A

Item	Year To Date Total				November			
	2021	2022	Diff	Change	2021	2022	Diff	% Diff
Otero County Landfill (tons)	5915.92	5661.31	(254.61)	(254.61)	546.43	467.13	(79.30)	(14.51)
Southeast & East Central Recycling (tons)	195.5	166.01	(29.49)	(29.49)	21.82	17.62	(4.20)	(19.25)
Clean Valley Recycling Curbside (tons)	35.22	39.435	4.22	4.22	5.23	3.86	(1.37)	(26.20)
Clean Valley Recycling Trailer (tons)	21.53	18.2175	(3.31)	(3.31)	2.58	2.06	(0.52)	(20.16)
Clean Valley Recycling E-Waste (tons)	Added in 2022	385.91	N/A	N/A	Added in 2022	0	N/A	N/A

2. Shared a sanitation rate comparison between La Junta, Lamar, Las Animas, Rocky Ford, Fowler and Sugar City.
3. Rates at the landfill have changed beginning at the first of this year. They're no longer doing per capita rates. It's a set rate.
4. Reva with Southeast Colorado Recycling has retired. There was a per capita rate increase from SECRA.
5. Looking into the possibility of leasing side loading trash trucks.

NEW BUSINESS**A. Election of Officers for 2023**

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

B. Taylor Stokes (Solar). Taylor Stokes requested a review of her electric bill for the month the city started their net metering. She presented a spreadsheet with historical utility bills, consumption, cost, solar production and the hours returned for this year. The months in question are June, July and August of 2022 for 118 Santa Fe Avenue. City Manager Klein will arrange a meeting to go over the details of the billings during that time frame. Asst. City Manager Jackson asked for permission to make the situation right if the city is at fault.

C. SRF Funding. The SRF is a fund that functions like a bank for distributing low interest loans and grants to specific entities, municipalities and some non-profits, so that you can handle big ticket infrastructure. The way the program generally worked is there would be an allotment given to the states by the federal government. Now, with the infrastructure act money, new categories have been created for money on specific projects. Some of these come with principal forgiveness. Some of them are full grants. It all depends on what the specific project is and you find out what it qualifies for as you go through the funding process. We are currently putting the final touches on our applications so it can go for review.

D. Asst. City Manager's Comments.

1. There were no city manager comments.

E. Governing Body's Comments.

1. There were no governing body comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Frank McKenzie, Chairman