

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE MARCH 10, 2026 UTILITIES BOARD MEETING**

BOARD OF UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS – February 10, 2026

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 Patrick Berg on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED COMMISSIONER. The City Clerk administered the oath of office to newly appointed Commissioner CaSandra Thomas.

Roll was called and the following Board Members were present:

Present:            Joe Ayala, Mayor  
                      Patrick Berg, Chairman  
                      Mike Bourget, Commissioner  
                      CaSandra Thomas, Commissioner  
                      Paul Velasquez, Council Member/Vice-Chair

Absent:             none

Also present:     Michael Hart, City Manager  
                      Erin Harris, City Attorney  
                      Melanie Scofield, City Clerk  
                      Tom Seaba, Director of Water/WW  
                      Chris Arguello, Electric Superintendent  
                      Martin Montoya, Director of Engineering  
                      Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Chairman Berg asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 13, 2026. Hearing none, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 13, 2026 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Ayala

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

1. There was no citizen participation.

**REPORTS**

**A. ARPA Board (Gary Cranson submitted the following report):**

**1. Summary of December 2025 Financial and Operating Statements:**

- In December, revenue from power sales was less than budget by \$105,664 (5.1%).
- Cost of goods sold was under budget by \$64,860 (5.2%).
- Net operating revenue for December was \$4941817

2. **Year to Date Income Statement:**

- Revenue from power sales was better than budget by \$206,876 (0.8%).
- Total revenues were better than budget by \$525,770.
- Total cost of goods sold was under budget by \$305,838 (1.9%).
- Total A & G expenses are under budget by \$279,975 (4.3%).
- YTD Net Revenue is \$4.8 million (30.0%) better than budget.
- Average of 147 days cash on hand.
- Debt service coverage year to date is 1.42X.

3. **December Operating Report:**

- Member Energy sales were 3.0% less than budget in December and about the same as they were in December 2024.
- Member energy sales YTD are 0.53% better than budget and slightly less than YTD 2024 sales.
- Member demands of 39 mW were slightly lower than December 2024.
- All in cost to members YTD is \$0.09244 per kWh which is 7.6% lower than 2024 and 9.5% lower than 2020.
- The avoided cost rate for January will be \$40.54 per mWh.
- The 2025 YTD blended rate for power is \$42.16 per mWh compared to \$52.32 per mWh in 2024, about 19% cheaper.

4. Next Regular Meeting: February 26, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at Otero College in La Junta.

**B. Water & Wastewater Treatment (Tom Seaba):**

1. R.O. Plant

- Routine maintenance: Flushed air valves, cleaned chlorine tanks, checked manganese filter media depth, changed oil & grease in motors.
- Troubleshooting issues with Chlor-Tec; replumbed brine supply lines and poppet valves.
- Washed RO "B".
- Began repairs on well #15; the well needs new pump and additional column pipe, well #5 needs a new column pipe. Video inspection discovered large hole.
- Continue troubleshooting Prairie View tank aviation obstruction lights.
- New employee training.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance; meter reading.

2. Distribution

- Repair 4" service break in 1500 block of San Juan Avenue.
- Repair valve at 14<sup>th</sup> & San Juan Avenue.
- Install valve for water main replacement at Otero College.
- Repair main in 600 block of Lewis Avenue.
- Meter Reading and utility billing office generated work orders, equipment maintenance.

3. Wastewater

- Treated 30.54 million gallons. Removed 33ft<sup>3</sup> of screenings and 42ft<sup>3</sup> of grit.
- RO concentrate discharge to plant was 9.224 million gallons.
- Jetted 3,926 feet of line for ten emergency calls and nine manhole locate requests.
- PM's on HVAC systems.
- Construction continues on press building.
- Hauled 200,000 gallons of sludge to Industrial Park lagoons.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance.

4. Other Notables:

- Submitted loan package to SRF for distribution/lead service line replacement.
- Continued meeting with CDPHE for DSV submittal. Prehearing materials submitted.
- Prequalification meeting for EC grant submission. Grant submission due February 4<sup>th</sup>.
- CDPHE meeting on new-proposed Lead & Copper rule improvements.
- ABRT meeting with Ag/Muni Subcommittee and joined Lower Ark River Corridor Initiative subcommittee.
- Training with Colorado Rural Water.

**C. Electric Department (Chris Arguello):**

1. Line Crew

- Daily reads, disconnects, and maintenance.
- Replaced a broken cross-arm during maintenance at Big Potter Park.
- Performed maintenance at the warehouse, bypassing ballast and converting to LEDs.
- Tested the underground wire and energized the cutouts at 322 Santa Fe Avenue.
- Connected the primary jumpers on Himebaugh Street in North La Junta.
- Replaced a street light pole that was hit by a vehicle accident on Hwy 50 by McDonalds.
- Responded to a house fire at 1021 Cimarron Avenue to cut the electric service.
- Six crew members are now enrolled to attend the 2026 Mesa Hotline School in Grand Junction, Colorado.

2. SOLAR Accounts

- There are currently 40 residential and 2 commercial customers with one additional residential customer pending.

3. System Update

- No new updates.

4. Scholarship Application

- Information is available on the City website.

**D. Sanitation (Martin Montoya):**

1. Cardboard Program: Started picking up last week of January and charging this month. Still plan to go out in person to speak to customers face-to-face. We currently have about fifty customers.
2. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR): This is funding brought down from the state. They collect the money from the big box companies and enterprises and distribute it to the municipalities in an effort to fund all recycling. the City has put in an application into C3 which is a state organization for recycling. They've accepted the initial application and we are now on the second step.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. A Resolution Recommending to City Council the Amendment of the 2026 Budget for the Water Fund.** Tom Seaba, Director of Water, Utilities explained that this amendment will pay for the replacement and upgrade of the headgates at our Holbrook Farms. This last summer, the ditch company looked at everybody's headgates to see how they were operating. In very late November, letters were sent stating that people need to have repairs or a replacement done and that it needed to be complete before the beginning of the next irrigation season or they would lock your gate and receive no water. We received two bids for the job and went with Habitat Construction. They were the lower bid and have knowledge of the Holbrook Ditch.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. RUB-1-2026: Bourget

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0

**B. City Manager's Comments**

1. There were no City Manager comments.

**C. Governing Body's Comments**

1. There were no Governing Body comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

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Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

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Patrick Berg, Chairman