

BOARD OF UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS – June 10, 2025

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, June 10, 2025, 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, Chairman
- Mike Bourget, Commissioner
- Keith Manweiler, Commissioner – arrived at 4:02 p.m.
- Paul Velasquez, Council Member/Vice-Chair
- Absent: None

Subject to approval at the  
July 8, 2025  
Utilities Board Meeting

- 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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Berg asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2025. Hearing none, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 13, 2025 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 April 2025 Financial and Operating Statements:** In April, revenue from power sales was \$22,182 (1.2%) more than budget. Cost of goods sold was right on budget. Net operating revenue for April was \$458,108. Revenue from power sales was less than budget by \$17,198 (0.2%). Total revenues were better than budget by \$100,508. Total cost of goods sold was on budget at \$5,171,186 (0.1%). Total A & G expenses are under budget by \$23,185 (1.1%). YTD Net Revenue is \$802,588 (18.8%) better than budget. Average of 128 days cash on hand. Debt service coverage year-to-date is 1.14X.
2. **April Operating Report:** Member Energy sales were 2.0% less than budget in April and 0.1% better than they were in April 2024. Member Energy sales YTD are 1.1% better than budget and 0.3% better than YTD 2024 sales. Member demands of 40.0 mW were just a bit lower than April

2024. All in cost to members YTD is \$0.09119 per kWh which is 7.8% lower than 2024 and 9.8% lower than 2020. The avoided cost rate for May is \$41.80 per mWh. The 2025 YTD blended rate for power is \$45.57 per mWh compared to \$52.74 per mWh in 2024, about 14% cheaper.

3. **Next Regular Meeting:** August 28, 2025 10:00 AM at Otero College in La Junta.

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

1. R.O. Plant

- Routine maintenance: Flushed chlorine lines and repaired chlorine line leaks, flushed PSI transducers, chain hoist inspection, inspected fire extinguishers and backflow devices.
- Repaired leaking end-caps on RO's.
- Tightened packing on south booster pump #1 and reserve booster pumps.
- Worked with Brown's Hill Engineering troubleshooting RO "C" comm issues.
- Conducted UCMR 25 sampling for EPA.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance; meter reading.

2. Distribution

- Continuing hydrant maintenance.
- Continue working on 6<sup>th</sup> Street main replacement.
- Farm weed control/irrigation.
- Service repairs.
- Maintenance on combo vac truck.
- Meter Reading and utility billing office generated work orders, equipment maintenance.

3. Wastewater

- Treated 25.674 million gallons. Removed 43ft<sup>3</sup> of screenings and 21ft<sup>3</sup> of grit.
- RO concentrate discharge to plant was 18.084 million gallons.
- Jetted 5,628 feet of line for three emergency calls and thirty-six manhole locate requests.
- Removed plug and cleaned south clarifier trough. Cleaned trough of gravity thickener.
- Cleaned UV channel.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance.

4. Other Notables

- PFAS lawsuit update. Received first allotment from 3M in the amount of \$834,229.01. We will be receiving moneys from them for the next ten years to complete their obligation of \$4,171,145.00. DuPont will have a one-time payout that will be in the amount of \$417,114.50. This money is being split between water and wastewater because they both have obligations to meet PFAS.
- Continuing data requests for D&E grant. Kickoff meeting scheduled for June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Preliminary report for EC grant alternatives analysis submitted. Complete report will be completed and submitted on June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Working on applications for grants from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable and Colorado Water Conservation Board.
- Farm management plan completed. Preliminary IGA with Otero County under review.
- Attended an auction last weekend and acquired four very large reel type sprinklers and two pumps for only \$30,750. Generally, these items would cost well over a quarter million dollars. Plus, we will get all the operational training from Aurora.

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

1. Line Crew

- Daily reads, disconnects and maintenance.

- Begun annual tree trimming and clearing of power lines.
  - The crew started adding pole-enforcers to the transmission poles.
  - Line maintenance was performed on the west side of town.
  - Built a new 208/75 kVA transformer bank for the Police Department.
  - Sent a total of seven line-crew members to the Mesa Hot Line School in Grand Junction, Colorado for training.
2. SOLAR Accounts
    - No new changes.
  3. System Update
    - SF6 Breaker Replacement: Had an external kick-off meeting. Eaton was able to find a different manufacturer for the breakers. As a result, the project is now expected to be completed in 2026 rather than 2027. We will have a site visit on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

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

1. April 2025 supplemental information

**CUSTOMER INFORMATION**

CUSTOMERS	2025	2024
RESIDENTIAL	2,769	2,795
COMMERCIAL	439	439
INDUSTRIAL	12	10
MUNICIPAL	29	29
	3,249	3,273

**LANDFILL**

TONS	2025	2024	2025	2024
	May	May	YTD	YTD
OTERO COUNTY LANDFILL	619.17	684.77	2,757.19	2,552.74
SOUTHEAST RECYCLING	4.20	20.87	189.38	95.02
CLEAN VALLEY - CURBSIDE	3.17	4.99	17.05	17.80
CLEAN VALLEY - TRAILER	1.86	3.11	6.46	13.84
	628.40	713.74	2,970.08	2,679.40

**OTHER INCOME**

ITEM	2025	2024	2025	2024
	May	May	YTD	YTD
SPECIAL PICK-UP	7	4	17	14
40-YD BOXES	38	28	178	122
20-YD BOXES	15	53	77	133
OVERAGES	9	38	62	73
COMPACTOR	4	4	21	24
TRX STATION (OPEN BOX)	31.57	38.11	162.52	163.19
TRX STATION (COMPACTOR)	14.04	13.65	51.00	58.95
TOTE REPLACEMENT	4	8	35	45

2. Currently working on Conely Road and it is still scheduled to be paved tomorrow.

3. Transfer Station: Both of the roll off trucks are currently unavailable. That's why the facility was closed on Saturday and probably will be the next few days.
4. Thanked the Board and City Council for passing the budget amendment for the cardboard program. Currently trying to get spec sheets from the manufacturer to make sure they fit the trucks properly and that adjustments don't need to be made before placing an order.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. City Manager Comments.**

1. Shared tree dump report.

**B. Governing Body's Comments.**

1. Chairman Berg:
  - This was the first go around of trying to use this digital system of getting through our packet. I thought it worked really well and I wanted to say thank you to Melanie for putting all of this together. I know that you've worked really hard to make it as seamless as possible. I thought that this worked wonderfully and I like being able to prepare for it before the meeting and then be able to leave notes as we're going through. I appreciate the attention to detail.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

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Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

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Patrick Berg, Chairman