



MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING LA JUNTA BOARD OF  
UTILITIES  
LA JUNTA, CO  
APRIL 14, 2026  
4:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
601 COLORADO AVENUE

CALL TO ORDER

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, April 14, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL (City Clerk)

Board Members

Ayala  
Berg  
Bourget  
Thomas  
Velasquez

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

Absent: CaSandra Thomas, Commissioner

Also Present: Erin Harris, City Attorney  
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk  
Tom Seaba, Director of Water Utilities  
Chris Arguello, Electric Superintendent  
Martin Montoya, Director of Engineering  
Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Chairperson)

A. Regular Meeting March 10, 2026

Chairman Berg asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10, 2026. Hearing none, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 10, 2026 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Bourget

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0 (Thomas absent)

## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (5-minute time limit per person)

There was no citizen participation.

## REPORTS

### A. ARPA Board (Gary Cranson)

#### Summary of February 2026 Financial Statement:

- In February, power sales revenue was less than budget by \$197,422 (10.3%).
- Cost of goods sold was under budget \$155,622 (12.2%).
- Net operating revenue for February was \$304,082.

#### Year to Date Income Statement:

- Revenue from power sales was less than budget by \$304,773 (7.5%).
- Total revenues were less than budget \$321,279.
- Total cost of goods sold was under budget by \$229,640 (8.7%).
- Total A & G expenses are under budget by \$42,343.
- YTD Net Revenue is \$432,281.
- Average of 172 days cash on hand.
- Debt service coverage year to date is 1.14X.

#### February Operating Report:

- Member Energy sales were 10% less than the budget in February and 10.6% less than they were in February 2025.
- Member Energy sales YTD are 6.7% less than budget and 9.5% less than YTD 2025 sales.
- Member demands of 38 mW were 13% lower than February 2025.
- All in cost to members YTD is \$0.09142 per kWh.
- The avoided cost rate for March will be \$42.95 per mWh.
- The 2026 YTD blended rate for power is \$42.38 per mWh compared to \$49.30 per mWh in 2025, about 14% cheaper.
- In February, ARPA purchased 17,145 kWh from individual La Junta renewable (solar) generators for \$718.20.

Next Regular Meeting: May 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Otero College in La Junta.

### B. Water & Wastewater Treatment (Tom Seaba)

R.O. Plant

- Routine maintenance: Cleaned and inspected chemical pump brushes, PM on de-gasifier systems, changed oil and filters on wells 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13; performed tank inspections, changed oil in all booster pumps.
- Clortex system (sodium hypochlorite generator) requires new electrolyzers which are on order. Currently, ordering chlorine in 250-gallon totes and creating the proper solution by hand every four days.
- Replaced screen on well #10.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance; meter reading.

## Distribution

- Several service leak repairs.
- Chlorinate and flush new main at the college.
- Completed four-inch service and new valve at 15th and San Juan Avenue.
- Installed a new eight-inch valve in the south well field.
- Meter reading and utility billing office generated work orders and equipment maintenance.

## Wastewater

- Treated 30.749 million gallons. Removed 40 cubic feet of screenings and 56 cubic feet of grit.
- The RO concentrate discharge to the plant was 17.756 million gallons.
- Jetted 3,982 feet of line for fifteen emergency calls and thirty-two manhole locate requests.
- Repaired broken brace on oral system gearbox.
- Evaluating the condition of mixing disks. Will quote out the proper number of replacements.
- Changed all oils to summer blend in system gearboxes and motors.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance.

## Other Notables

- Level 1 water restrictions begin April 15th through October 15th. Probable elevation into Level 2 restrictions depending on water allotments.
- Currently listed in Level D1 or moderate drought conditions as of April 2nd.
- Four employees attended the annual CRWA conference in Loveland.
- Continued work on distribution main replacement and emerging contaminants projects.
- Attended Arkansas Basin Round Table meeting and Lower Ark Initiative meetings.
- Jobs were posted for both water treatment plant and wastewater collection

crews.

### C. Electric Department (Chris Arguello)

In addition to daily reads, disconnects, and maintenance, the crew performed these additional tasks:

- Added three pole enforcers to our transmission poles, two in North La Junta and one on 2nd Street.
- Relocated a guy wire in the alley of 1st and Colorado Avenue for the Street Department.
- Had a streetlight pole hit by a vehicle on 3rd and Belmont Avenue.
- Fixed some lights on Highway 50 and in the downtown area.
- Demoed an old cooling system at the Light Plant Substation.
- Had a cement vault collapse at CB&T Bank which also damaged a primary junction.
- Had two employees attend the 2026 meter school in Fort Collins, Colorado.
- Added a new service out on South San Juan Avenue for a new home.
- Worked on a damaged underground service at Tippy Ballfield.
- Had an arrester blow up on 6th and Smithland Avenue, causing a power outage to several customers.

### System Update

- We had a site walk-through with Eaton for the La Junta 69 Breaker Replacement Project.
- Drury Brothers Roofing was at the Light Plant stoking the roof with material.

### Solar Accounts

- There were 21,736 kWh put back onto the system in March, with 40 residential and two commercial customers.

### D. Sanitation Department (Martin Montoya)

#### SECRA/CVR Merger

- The original deadline for the merger was set for June 1st. After a talk with a lawyer, it seems the merger will not happen until the end of this year or beginning of this year.

### Cardboard Program

- The method by which we are picking up all the containers is a little shy or short. We are picking up quite a bit of cardboard and have half the personnel. Right now, we're just making it work. During budget talks, I'll be asking for additional employees.

NEW BUSINESS

A. City Manager Comments

There were no City Manager comments.

B. Governing Body's Comments

There were no Governing Body comments.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

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Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

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Joseph Ayala, Mayor