



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING LA JUNTA BOARD OF
UTILITIES
LA JUNTA, CO
JUNE 9, 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, June 9, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL (City Clerk)

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

Absent:

Also Present: Michael Hart, City Manager
Cristian Estrada, Deputy City Clerk
Aliza Libby, Director of Finance
Chris Arguello, Electric Superintendent
Martin Montoya, Director of Engineering
Maureen Rikhof, La Junta

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Chairperson)

A. Regular Meeting May 12, 2026

Chairman Berg asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2026. Hearing none, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 12, 2026 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Velasquez

SECOND: Thomas

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (5-minute time limit per person)

There was no citizen participation.

REPORTS

A. ARPA Board (Gary Cranson)

Summary of April 2026 Financial Statement:

- In April, power sales revenue was less than budget by \$36,845 (2%).
- Cost of goods sold was over budget \$230,794 (19%).
- Net operating revenue for April was \$149,868.

Year to Date Income Statement:

- Revenue from power sales was less than budget by \$444,507 (5.7%).
- Total revenues were less than budget \$371,676.
- Total cost of goods sold was over budget by \$104,137 (2%).
- Total A & G expenses are under budget by \$92,976 (4.5%).
- YTD Net Revenue is under budget by \$654,760 (21%).
- Average of 173 days cash on hand.
- Debt service coverage year to date is 1.06X.

April Operating Report:

- Member Energy sales were 2.4% less than the budget in April and 4.4% less than they were in April 2025.
- Member Energy sales YTD are 5.4% less than budget and 6.3% less than YTD 2025 sales.
- Member demands of 41 mW were 23% higher than April 2025.
- All in cost to members YTD is \$0.09196 per kWh.
- The avoided cost rate for May will be \$42.92 per mWh.
- The 2026 YTD blended rate for power is \$42.43 per mWh compared to \$45.57 per mWh in 2025, about 6.6% cheaper.
- In April, ARPA purchased 30,255 kWh from individual La Junta renewable (solar) generators for \$1,267.99.

Next Regular Meeting: August 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Otero College in La Junta.

B. Water & Wastewater Treatment (Tom Seaba)

R.O. Plant

- Routine maintenance: PM emergency lights/backflows/fire alarm system, flushed chlorine lines, well statics.
- Replaced fuses in wells #9 and #11.
- Replaced packing glands in reserve booster pump #1
- Replaced cartridge filters.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance; meter reading.

Distribution

- Planted 22 acres cover crop/irrigation on Holbrook farms.
- Rehab valves at 16th & San Juan Ave.
- Redo sidewalks on San Juan Ave. and Cimarron.
- Bulk water station delivered. Working on installation of piping and electronics.

- Meter reading and utility billing office generated work orders and equipment maintenance.

Wastewater

- Treated 26.529 million gallons. Removed 19 cubic feet of screenings and 33 cubic feet of grit.
- The RO concentrate discharge to the plant was 20.411 million gallons.
- Jetted 5,657 feet of line for four emergency calls and twenty-two manhole locate requests.
- Replaced dipper and scum ropes for both clarifiers and sludge thickener.
- Worked with government contractor for septic hauling from the Pinon Canyon Maneuver site.
 - o Commissioner Thomas inquired regarding the hauling from the Pinon Canyon Maneuver site; per Tom Seaba: It was a contract with the army during their May training cycle. This was just a one-time contract for this specific occasion. They may reach out again if they have more training cycles.
- Orbal bearings greased.
- Dewatering press delivered on May 30th. Electric, water, and piping installation will begin June 1st.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance.

Other Notables

- Stage 2 water restrictions began June 1st.
- Sponsored fire hydrant class attended by water departments and fire department.
- Continue work on currently funded grants and loans.
- Continue work on Risk & Resilience Assessment for EPA due June 30th.

C. Electric Department (Chris Arguello)

Chris Arguello – This wasn't mentioned in the report, but would like to call attention to extension cords for the public; if anybody sees extension cords from one neighbor to the next-door neighbor, please report to the utilities department (Chris Arguello). They usually are being covered by debris or trash, which is a fire hazard. Please report if you see extension cords going from neighbor's house to the next.

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

- We replaced a bad primary pole on South San Juan Ave.
- We added a new anchor on 2nd St. and Lewis Ave.
- We replaced a broken primary jumper at the golf course pump house.
- Sent a crew to Trinidad to assist with the connection of the mobile substation.
- We had two linemen recertified for drone operation.
- Initiated our annual tree trimming program.

System Update

- Breaker replacement; there will be two engineers from Eaton here from 6/16/2026

through 6/18/2026 to conduct a relay study and a fault current study.

Solar Accounts

- There were no updates.

D. Sanitation (Martin Montoya)

- Revenue was \$118,711.69. Our monthly expenses were roughly \$86,081.46. For the year, we are under \$169,000 and that is because we bought a roll-off truck. Hopefully that will help us catch up a bit. We are definitely in the black, and not in the red.
- The Sanitation Department is fully staffed.
- The Juneteenth holiday closure is approaching on June 19th; Thursday's trash service will be as normally scheduled, while Friday's trash service will pick up on the following Monday.
- The merger between Clean Valley Recycling and SECRHA is going smoothly. Had a meeting with SECRHA and Clean Valley Recycling and everyone is in support and working together in both organizations. The last thing they are discussing is who will serve on that board once it is all completed.
 - o Patrick Berg: When is the anticipated finalization of the merger?
 - Martin Montoya: I'm thinking it will be the beginning of 2027, in January.

NEW BUSINESS

A. City Manager Comments

There were no City manager comments.

B. Governing Body's Comments

1. Patrick Berg: Wanted to mention that some of the companies out in the industrial park had come to me and asked some questions as to whether or not a meeting could be had in a larger group setting; ask questions of how we can save both the city and participants money by finding incentives, deductions from cost, etc. Would like to plan a work session with anyone whom would like to attend to bring ideas to the board. I will be reaching out later this month for the work session date.
2. Joe Ayala: As everyone can see there is an empty seat in between Patrick and myself; Mike Bourget, who announced at the last meeting that he would no longer be living in the City of La Junta, which makes him no longer eligible to serve on this board. We will figure out what we need to do to get that vacancy posted to be able to start accepting letters of interest for that vacancy.
 - Michael Hart, Meghan Yergert, Tom Seaba and myself met with Kevin Strong from CBS Colorado regarding the conduit. Representative Boebert helped in passing H.R. 7567, which is also known as the "Agriculture Appropriations Bill", and included in that legislation was included to "finish the conduit". It has passed the House and the Senate. They don't think it can be vetoed, since it is part of the Agriculture Appropriations Bill.
 - We had a great tour of the R.O. plant; did talk to Mr. Seaba about when we do get this seat filled, if they or anyone else would like to check the R.O. plant is able to.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Patrick Berg, Chairman