

# Minutes

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## *April 13, 2021- Board Meeting*

On April 13, 2021, the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Public Water District convened virtually in a regularly scheduled meeting at the hour of 5:30 p.m. Chairman Gerold Topcik, Vice-Chairman Richard Moe, General Manager Don White, and Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary Karen Johnston were physically present at the conference room of the District, 500 –17th Street, Zion, Illinois. Present virtually were: Trustees, Monk, Walsh, Jaeger, and Attorney Dan Kucera. Trustees Mitchell and Ruchti were absent. Present virtually as a member of the public was water operator Anthony Baillie. Chairman Topcik opened the meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Chairman Topcik started the meeting with the following statement: I have determined that an in-person meeting of the board of trustees is impractical and imprudent, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and that related disaster declarations and orders issued by the governor, therefore this meeting of the board is being conducted by virtual protocol pursuant to authorizations by the governor and Public Act 101-640.

Chairman Topcik proceeded to a roll call:

Present: (5) Monk, Walsh, Jaeger, Moe, Topcik

Absent: (2) Mitchell; Ruchti

Chairman Topcik turned the floor over to Mr. Baillie, a member of the public and employee of the Lake County Public Water District. Mr. Baillie was present to address his concerns regarding the employee health insurance plan. He thanked the board for the opportunity to speak to the board. He stated that one of the reasons that he took his position with the District were the benefits, and that every year since he since his employment began those benefits have slowly diminished. He stated that the health insurance provided at the District has always been a huge benefit and always appreciated, especially now more than ever during the global pandemic, and that during these times of uncertainty and economic distress, he asked the board to consider what is best for the employees of the Lake County Public Water District as well as their families. Their health and welfare depend on the decisions the board would make this evening. He then thanked the board for their time.

Chairman Topcik then stated that he would like a motion to approve and use the consent agenda for all items, except the disbursements, which General Manager White requested be removed from the consent agenda. They would be discussed later in the meeting with the health insurance. Trustee Moe made a motion to use and approve the consent agenda for the minutes, treasurer's report, budget, and MOS report, which was seconded by Trustee Walsh. The vote on roll call was: Trustees: Monk, aye; Walsh, aye; Moe, aye; Jaeger, and Topcik, aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Topcik appointed the following committees, per his letter included in the board packet:

### **Nominations Committee:**

Trustees: Douglas Jaeger, Chairperson  
Dorothy Mitchell

### **Salary Committee:**

Trustees: Amos Monk, Chairperson  
Michael Ruchti

### **Long Range Planning:**

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Trustees: Richard Moe, Chairperson  
Patrick Walsh

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Filter Underdrain Replacement**– General Manager White stated the District received the construction permit on Tuesday April 6. However, there are some questions on the submittals that need to be cleared up before the submittals are finalized. He indicated that Tom Foley would approve the underdrain system and filter media contingent on the submittal of the pressure transducers. This is so that Boller can attempt to get Leopold to complete one cell to see how it performs before tearing out all the cells. Discussion of this subject followed.
- **End of Year Projections for availability & R&R charges, and update on Facilities Cost Estimate** –General Manager White stated that this item was a somewhat of rehash of the past two months. He reminded the board that these are all estimates, but felt that the numbers were relatively close. He reviewed the various charts, and explained the process to develop the figures. He reminded the board that the costs for the underdrains would be spread out over five years. At this time, it is difficult to estimate the R&R charges to include this project, as it has not been completed. He has discussed this with the auditor to see how they will be handling the calculation of those costs in the R&R figure. Discussion of this subject followed.
- **Estimated refund and estimated water rate for FY2022** – General Manager White included charts for the estimated projected refund, and the estimated water rate. He stated that the current estimate is an increase due to increased costs, increased water sales, and increased depreciation. He discussed those items. He further stated that his estimated water rate would be an increase of approximately 4.3 cents. He read the numbers applicable to each of the customers. Discussion of this subject followed.
- **Draft Budget** – General Manager White again presented the budget line items, along with the draft budget numbers. He reminded the board that the budget needed to be approved at this meeting. He proceeded to review items that had changed from the previous version, and gave his explanation of those changes. Discussion of these subjects followed. Trustee Walsh made a motion to approve the budget as presented, which was seconded by Trustee Jaeger. Chairman Topcik asked if any further discussion was desired. There was none. The vote on roll call was: Trustees Monk, aye; Walsh, aye; Moe, aye; Jaeger, aye; Topcik, aye. Motion carried.
- **Approval of Health Insurance for Fiscal Year 2022** – General Manager White read his memo, which outlined the differences between the BCBS and the UHC programs. He informed the board that while the UHC program was less expensive to the District, it would place a heavy burden on several of the employees. The UHC program did not include all the physicians that the employees utilized. This was significant as one employee was still under the care of an oncologist. In addition, the prescription coverage was prohibitive. One prescription alone for one employee, should UHC not approve it would cost that employee over \$15,000 annually. In addition, the copayments for specialist coverage would double. General Manager White hoped that based on this information the board would be able to make a decision.

Chairman Topcik asked the board to take a few minutes to read and review the information that had been provided, and then asked each trustee to state their opinion. The trustees all made comments

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indicating that in spite of a lower cost to the District, they felt they did not want to burden the employees with such extreme changes in coverages and costs. Trustee Jaeger made a motion to approve the BCBS health insurance program, which was seconded by Trustee Walsh. Chairman Topcik asked if any further discussion was desired. There was none. The vote on roll call was: Trustees Monk, aye; Walsh, aye; Moe, aye; Jaeger, aye; Topcik, aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Topcik reminded the board that the disbursements now needed to be approved. In addition, the North Shore Reclamation District bill would cause the budget amount to exceed the annual budget. Trustee Walsh made a motion to approve the disbursements with the BCBS bill included, and the North Shore Reclamation District charge, which was seconded by Trustee Monk. Chairman Topcik asked if any further discussion was desired. There was none. The vote on roll call was: Trustees Monk, aye; Walsh, aye; Moe, aye; Jaeger, aye; Topcik, aye. Motion carried.

### OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT April, 2021 – Disbursements

ACCT. #	VENDOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT DUE
2920	FICA Withholding Taxes (EE Portion)	Mar-21	2,642.73
2921	Federal Withholding Taxes	Mar-21	3,346.17
2922	IL Department of Revenue	Monthly Remittance	1,074.68
2923	WI Department of Revenue	Monthly Remittance	537.62
2925	IL Dept. of Employment Security	Mar-21	49.92
7205	FICA Withholding Taxes (ER Portion)	Mar-21	2,642.73
7255	Correll Co.	Mar-21	5,879.87
7211	Commonwealth Edison	Electricity - Mar-21	72.78
7211	Constellation New Energy	Electricity - Mar-21	13,101.92
7212	No. Shore Reclamation District	Wastewater Charges	4,472.18
7215	Eurofins Eaton Analytical	Sample Testing	1,475.00
7215	PDC Laboratories	Sample Testing	104.00
7215	UPS	Sample Shipping	52.20
7221	Hawkins	Chlorine Shipment	764.00
7221	Usalco	Aluminum Sulfate	6,254.69
7222	Ace Hardware	Misc. Supplies	59.61
7222	Cintas	First Aid Supplies	61.29
7222	Reinders, Inc.	Misc. Supplies	125.53

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7223	Vortex Technologies	Calibration of meters	850.00
7223	Zoro Tools	Misc. Supplies	108.07
7225	Concentric Integration	Time & Material Support Services	192.38
7225	Evoqua	Maintenance Contract	577.98
7225	Hansen Associates, Inc.	Apr-21 Copier Maintenance	95.00
7225	Klean Korner Commercial Cleaning	Janitorial Service Mar-21	500.00
7231	DeLage Landen Financial Services	May-21 Copier Lease	124.12
7232	AT&T	Telephone Service	1,125.05
7232	Verizon Wireless	Cellular Phone/Data Service	469.28
7234	Office Depot	Office Supplies	92.87
7235.2	AARP Medical	Medical Insurance for Diane Fragassi	341.25
7235.2	AARP Prescription	Prescription coverage for Diane Fragassi	92.80
7235.2	Blue Cross/Blue Shield	May-21 Health Insurance	8,204.27
7235.2	Euclid Managers (Delta Dental)	May-21 Dental/Vision	488.98
7235.2	Principal Insurance	May-21 Disability/AD&D	599.62
7237	Hungerford Technologies	WebEx Service - Teleconference Meeting	26.00
7241	Hamlin, James	Payroll Fees - Mar-21	246.02
7242	Kucera, Daniel	Legal Services - Mar-21	2,227.50

## FIRST BANKCARD

	Acct. 7222	Misc. Supplies	76.02
	Acct. 7223	Maintenance & Repairs	35.99
	Acct. 7225	Maintenance Contract	30.25
	Acct. 7234	Office Supplies	94.37
	Acct. 7236	Transportation	140.06
	Acct. 7238	Dues/Subscriptions	27.72
	Acct. 7251	Miscellaneous	-2.42
		<b>Total First Bankcard</b>	401.99
		<b>Grand Total - Operations</b>	<b>\$59,480.10</b>

R&R

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ACCT. #	VENDOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT DUE
7300.03	Campanella & Sons, Inc.	Drainage repair & shoreline stabilization	128,323.15
7299	Clark Dietz	Filter Replacement Project	375.00
7300.05	Krause Electrical Contractors	Cable Replacement Project	22,391.00
7300.07	Swaby Manufacturing Co.	Sump Pump Chemical Feed Building Replacement	5,590.00
		<b>Grand Total - R&amp;R</b>	<b>\$156,679.15</b>

Anthony Baillie left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Trustee Walsh made a motion to move into executive session to discuss security issues, which was seconded by Trustee Jaeger. Chairman Topcik asked if any further discussion was desired. There was none. The vote on roll call was: Trustees Monk, aye; Walsh, aye; Moe, aye; Jaeger, aye; Topcik, aye. Motion carried.

\* \* \* EXECUTIVE SESSION \* \* \*

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Discussion of AWWA Regulatory Advisory – Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule Proposed – UCMR5** – General Manager White attached a document from the AWWA regarding this subject. This is a regulation that is coming down and relates to PFAS that have been receiving close review recently. General Manager White indicated that the costs for sample testing could increase due to this. Discussion of this subject followed.
- **Bond Principal & Interest Payment** – General Manager White advised the board that the bond principal & interest payment of \$881,584.00 (principal) and \$62,584 (interest) was due on May 1. The payment will be made at the end of April, as the board ordinance requires payment at least three days prior to the due date. He further indicated that the account technician for the State of Illinois had advised that the past due invoices were being processed, and if received by the end of the month, would not require borrowing from the R&R account to make the payment.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- **Correll Quarterly Reports** – General Manager White included the quarterly reports from Correll Co. for the board’s review and information.
- **News Article – Water Online - U.S. Lawmakers Seek To Strengthen Cybersecurity At Drinking Water Plants** – General Manager White stated that there had been three cyber break ins at water plants in the last six months. The information that he had received was that this was most likely due to disgruntled employees. General Manager White assured the board that the District’s firewall has been updated several times and is diligent on this matter.

Chairman Topcik briefly mentioned the status of groundwater and water levels.

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Trustee Jaeger made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Trustee Moe.

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Karen L. Johnston  
Board Secretary