

Minutes

March 10, 2026- Board Meeting

On March 10, 2026, the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Public Water District met in a regularly scheduled meeting at the hour of 5:30 p.m. in the conference room of the District, 500 –17th Street, Zion, Illinois. Chair Ruchti called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. Upon the roll being called, Trustees Ower, Torres, Ewert, and Smith were present. Trustees Latif, and Onan was absent Also present were General Manager Jeremy Thompson, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary Karen Johnston. Present as members of the public were Mr. Clyde McLemore, Mr. Chet Andrew Grant. Also present was Ms. Gina Roberts, Lake County Board Representative. Present via telephone was Attorney Gretchen Neddenreip.

Mr. McLemore and Mr. Grant's Public Comment forms were accepted by Chair Ruchti. The gentlemen were then asked to speak. The conversation began with Mr. McLemore asking why his water bill was so expensive. Mr. Grant expressed the same worries as Mr. McLemore. Following a long discussion between the board and Ms. Roberts, Mr. McLemore and Mr. Grant realized that the Lake County Public Water District does not determine the water rate for the City of Zion, where they both live. Mr. McLemore, Mr. Grant, and Ms. Roberts left at 5:55 p.m.

Chair Ruchti indicated that the only reports available this month was the list of Disbursements for March, 2026, and asked for a motion to approve them. Trustee Torres made a motion to accept the consent agenda, which was seconded by Trustee Ewert. Chair Ruchti asked if any additional discussion was required, as there was none, and upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

Ayes: (4) D. Ower; W. Torres; T. Ewert; K. Smith;
Nays: (0) None
Absent: (2) S. Latif; A. Onan

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT March 2026 – Disbursements

ACCT. #	VENDOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT DUE
2920	FICA Withholding Taxes (EE Portion)	Feb-26	3,161.29
2921	Federal Withholding Taxes	Feb-26	3,712.68
2922	IL Department of Revenue	Monthly Remittance	991.36
2923	WI Department of Revenue	Monthly Remittance	962.73
2925	IDES	Jan-26	166.98
7205	FICA Withholding Taxes (ER Portion)	Feb-26	3,161.29
7255	Correll Co.	Feb-26 Pension	7,131.22
7235	AARP - Health	Health Insurance - Diane Fragassi - Apr-26	479.00
7235	AARP - Prescription	RX Coverage - Diane Fragassi - Apr-26	113.90
7222	Ace Hardware	Misc. Supplies	19.99
7222	Grainger	Misc. Supplies	39.60
7223	Allied Instrumentation	Maintenance & Repair - PMV Converter	930.72
7223	Amazon Capital Services	Maintenance & Repair Supplies	144.87
7222	American Outfitters	Misc. Supplies - Uniforms	351.25

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7232	AT&T	Telephone Service	1,116.30
7243	Baxter & Woodman	State Revolving Loan Fund Assistance/Application	32,371.05
7235	Blue Cross/Blue Shield	Apr-26 Health Insurance	15,233.37
7234	CDW Government	Computer Equipment	8,187.94
7239	Clear Loss Prevention	Qtrly. Security Maintenance	2,000.00
7211	Commonwealth Edison	Jan/Feb-26 Electricity	118.89
7223	Core & Main	Meter Calibration/Repair	6,525.00
7251	Correll Co.	Investment Services	876.00
7231	DeLage Financial	Apr-26 Copier Lease	161.76
7211	Direct Energy	Electricity	20,696.84
7235	EM Benefits(Delta Dental)	Apr-26 Dental/Vision	683.47
7242	Fuqua Winter Ltd.	Legal Services - Feb-26	1,530.00
7225	Hansen Associates, Inc.	Apr-26 Copier Maintenance	69.55
7238	IL Municipal League	2026 Subscription Renewal	30.00
7235	IL Public Risk	2nd Qtr. 2026 Work Comp	4,092.00
7237	IL Section AWWA	Watercon 2026	950.00
7225	Lakeland/Larsen Elevator Corp.	Annual Pressure Test	235.00
7241	Lauterbach & Amen LLP	Prof. Services - State Filing Assistance	950.00
7235	Madison, Jim	Insurance Deductible Reimbursement	972.75
7212	No. Shore Water Reclamation Dist.	Wastewater Charges 12/31/24-06/30/25	10,775.05
7235	Principal Insurance	Apr-26 Disability/AD&D	803.06
7232	Verizon	Telephone Service	595.67
7241	Your Payroll Dept.	Payroll Fees - Feb-26	224.80
			Total
			\$130,565.38

FIRST BANKCARD

	Acct. 7222	Misc. Supplies	139.73
	Acct. 7234	Office Supplies/Postage	30.99
	Acct. 7236	Transportation	129.53
	Acct. 7237	Meetings/Seminars	311.94
			Total First Bankcard
			612.19
			Grand Total - Operations
			\$131,177.57

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R&R

ACCT. #	VENDOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT DUE
7300.42	Clark Dietz	FY26 Roof Replacement Proj. - Prof. Services	2,416.25
7270.03	Clark Dietz	FY2026 Intake Stone Placement	1,068.75
		Total	\$3,485.00

RESOLUTIONS:

➔ **Audit Engagement Letter Fiscal Year 2027** - Chair Ruchti addressed the Audit Services Engagement Letter from Eccezion, the District’s current auditing firm. The board raised concerns regarding the cost of the services and inquired whether the District could pursue some concessions from Eccezion on the pricing. Trustee Torres made a motion to approve the resolution approving the Audit Services Engagement Letter from Eccezion with a request for a price reduction, which was seconded by Trustee Smith. Chair Ruchti asked if further discussion was desired, and as there was none and on the following roll call vote, the motion was carried.

Ayes: (4) D. Ower; W. Torres; T. Ewert; K. Smith;
Nays: (0) None
Absent: (2) S. Latif; A. Onan

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**LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING PROFESSIONAL AUDIT SERVICES ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH ECCEZION
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2026**

WHEREAS, the Lake County Water District (the "District") is an Illinois public water district organized and operating pursuant to the Public Water District Act, 70 ILCS 3705 et. seq.; and,

WHEREAS, the District is required to comply with the State Audit requirement for the year ending April 30, 2026, and,

WHEREAS, the District has received an engagement letter from its current auditor, Eccezion, to provide professional audit services necessary for the District to comply with the State Audit requirement for the year ending April 30, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees have determined that the Engagement Letter for Professional Audit Services from Eccezion is appropriate and should be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Public Water District, Lake County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are incorporated into this Resolution and shall be fully set forth herein.

SECTION 2. The Board of Trustees hereby approve the Engagement Letter with Eccezion, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

SECTION 3. The District's General Manager is authorized to execute the attached Engagement Letter with Eccezion in substantially the form attached hereto with such changes as may be approved by the officials executing same, the execution of which constitutes conclusive evidence of the approval of such changes.

SECTION 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after this Resolution's passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

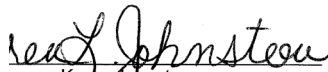
LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT



Michael B. Ruchti
Chair, Board of Trustees



ATTEST:



Karen Johnston
Secretary

PRESENTED AND READ: March 10, 2026

PASSED AND APPROVED:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Trustees voting aye: [None]
Trustee voting nay: None
Trustees absent: S. Latif, A. Onan

MOTION CARRIED

➔ **Roof Replacement Project** –General Manager Thompson stated the project's bid opening was held on March 6. He said that the District, working with Clark Dietz, thoroughly examined the bids, recommended the lowest responsible bidder, and asked the board to accept the resolution awarding the bid in accordance with the advice. Trustee Ower made a motion to accept the resolution awarding the bid to Top Roofing, per Clark Dietz' recommendation, which was seconded by Trustee Smith. Chair Ruchti asked if any additional discussion was required, as there was none, and upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

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Ayes: (4) D. Ower; W. Torres; T. Ewert; K. Smith;
Nays: (0) None
Absent: (2) S. Latif; A. Onan

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LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD AND EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE BIDDER FOR THE REPAIR OF THE ROOF FOR THE DISTRICT FILTRATION PLANT

ed and **WHEREAS**, the Lake County Water District (the “District”) is an Illinois public water district organiz
operating pursuant to the Public Water District Act, 70 ILCS 3705 et. seq.; and,

Street, **WHEREAS**, the District owns and operates a Filtration Plant (the “Filtration Plant”) located at 500 17th
7100 Illinois 60090, and,

t, through its engineers, **WHEREAS**, the roof of the Filtration Plant is in need of certain repairs and the Distric
Clark Dietz, Inc., requested proposals for its repair; and,

g Design, Inc. DBA Top **WHEREAS**, the District received bids from two (2) companies, and Premier Roofin
Roofing is the lowest responsible bidder for the Project; and,

ard and execution of an Agreement with **WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees for the District find that the awa
not to exceed Two Hundred Seventeen Premier Roofing Design, Inc. DBA Top Roofing, in an amount n
of the Filtration Plant roof is in the best Thousand Five Hundred Four and no/100 (\$217,504.00), for repairs
interest of the District.

ard of Trustees of the Lake County Public Water District, **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Bc
Lake County, Illinois, as follows:

l into this Resolution and shall have the same force and **SECTION 1.** The above recitals are incorporated
effect as though fully set forth herein.

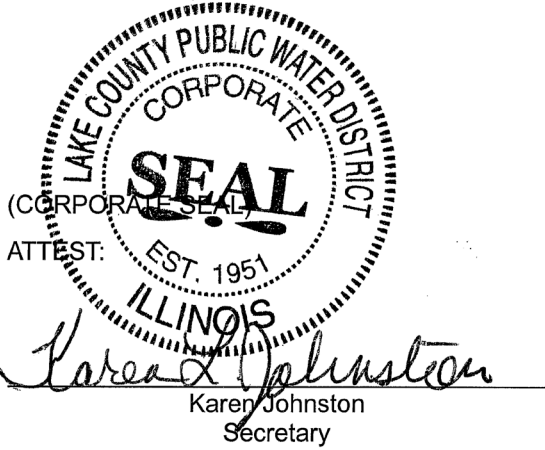
s hereby approve the Agreement with Premier Roofing Design, Inc. DBA **SECTION 2.** The Board of Trustee
Filtration Plant roof, a copy of which is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit Top Roofing for repairs of the Filtra
A.

l Manager is authorized to execute the attached Agreement with Premier **SECTION 3.** The District’s Genera
Roofing in substantially the form attached hereto with such changes as may Roofing Design, Inc. DBA Top Roo
be officials executing same, the execution of which constitutes conclusive evidence of the be approved by th
changes. approval of such c

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SECTION 4. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after this Resolution's passage and approval in the manner provided by law.



LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT

Michael B. Ruchti
Chair, Board of Trustees

PRESENTED AND READ: March 10, 2026

PASSED AND APPROVED:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Trustees voting aye: D. Ower; W. Torres; T. Ewert; K. Smith
Trustee voting nay: None
Trustees absent: S. Latif; A. Onan

MOTION CARRIED

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Application** – General Manager Thompson indicated that he met with Mark Siefert and Kaitlin Wright to verify the District’s readiness for the IEPA Loan Funding Nomination form deadline on March 31. Baxter & Woodman currently projects the cost to be approximately 3.4 million dollars. Their objective is to seek 4.0 million dollars in the Funding Nomination form to address any unexpected expenses that may occur with these projects. General Manager Thompson addressed the potential for increasing the amount in light of a prospective pharmaceutical company’s interest in purchasing water in the future. A discussion on this subject ensued.
- **2025 Intake Stone Placement** – General Manager Thompson stated that he received the revised plans for the Intake Stone Placement project from Tom Foley at Clark Dietz. After examining the updated designs and confirmed that they comply with the standards set forth in the Intake Inspection Report for Midwest Marine Contractors, the Joint Application Form with updated drawings has been finalized and submitted it to the Army Corps of Engineers, IDNR, and IEPA for project approval. Following approval, we will initiate the bidding process. Discussion of this subject followed.
- **Discussion of Annual Financial Reporting with Illinois State Comptroller’s Office**– General Manager Thompson reported that Ms. June Canello of the Illinois State Comptroller’s Office contacted Ms. Jamie Wilkey of Lauterbach & Amen. Ms. Canello advised that the District needs to file a New Government Registration form, and upon filling out that form that office will decide whether the District needs to file an annual report. The registration form and supporting documents were submitted the previous week. Discussion of this subject followed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **End of Year Projections for availability & R&R charges, and update on Facilities Cost Estimate**
- General Manager Thompson provided his estimates for fiscal year 2027 for the R&R Account. Based on his estimated projections, the District’s customers should see a credit on this account, as the bond issue has been retired and the Filter Underdrain amortization has been fully paid.

He further stated that the facilities cost estimate for fiscal year 2027 had been included and was used in the calculation of the estimated R&R charges. Discussion of this subject followed.
- **Estimated refund and estimated water rate for FY2027** - General Manager Thompson provided his estimates for fiscal year 2027 for customer refunds and the water rate. He indicated that the refunds would decrease for the coming year. In addition, based on his estimated water usage the water rate would increase slightly. Discussion of this subject followed.
- **Discussion of Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2027** – General Manager Thompson provided the estimated draft budget for fiscal year, along with the line item discussion points. He anticipates the budget for fiscal year 2027 to be \$2,878,741; an increase of approximately 6%. Discussion of this subject followed.
- **Discussion of Project Pharma B** - General Manager Thompson he had been contacted by Mr. Ron Lanz representing Lake County Partners. Lake County Partners has collaborated with ILEDC (Illinois Economic Development Corporation), DCEO (Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic

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Opportunity), and the Governor’s Office to secure a significant biopharmaceutical manufacturing opportunity to Lake County referred to as Project Pharma B. This project will necessitate substantial and intricate infrastructure enhancements, including power, water, wastewater, and roadway systems, to facilitate its intended operations. Their interest lies in sourcing water, estimated at 700,000 gallons per day, from Lake Michigan, specifically from the Lake County Public Water District.

General Manager Thompson further stated that he participated in a Teams meeting with Mr. Lanz and representatives from the City of Zion, Wadsworth, Lake County Public Water District, and the State, among others. In this meeting, the project was presented, detailing the contributions the planning group hopes each organization will make to ensure its successful implementation. More information will be provided during Tuesday’s meeting. Discussion of this subject followed.

- **Discussion of Operations Manager Position** - General Manager Thompson indicated that the board had earlier recommended he explore the option of hiring or promoting one of the District’s operators for the role of Operations Manager. Operator Pintescu has shown interest in the position, and given his extensive experience with the District and his substantial knowledge of the plant, General Manager Thompson has requested that the board consider including Operator Pintescu in the nominations for this role.

Trustee Ower made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Trustee Smith. Upon a voice vote the motion was carried.

X

Karen L. Johnston
Board Secretary