

# Minutes

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## *April 14, 2026– Board Meeting*

On April 14, 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, Ewert, Smith, and Latif were present. Trustees Torres and Onan were absent Also present were General Manager Jeremy Thompson, Administrative Assistant/Board Secretary Karen Johnston, and Attorney Bryan Winter. Mr. Jake Carlson of Hub International was present as a guest speaker.

Chair Ruchti turned the floor over to Mr. Jake Carlson of Hub International to present the health insurance renewal. The board was provided with a presentation outlining the renewal program and optional programs. Mr. Carlson reviewed the plans with the board, indicating that the premium for the plan with the current carrier, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, had increased approximately 19.5%. He provided an alternate program quotes from Blue Cross and from United Health Care. He advised the board that he had solicited quotes from other carriers, but they all declined to provide them due to the District’s size group. Mr. Carlson proceeded to review the coverages, deductibles, and copayments, comparing them to the alternate plans. Discussion of this subject followed, and Mr. Carlson left the meeting at 6:40 p.m., after the presentation.

Chair Ruchti indicated that he would entertain a motion to use the consent agenda for the following items:

- 5a) Approval of Regular Session Minutes of February 10, 2026 and March 10, 2026.
- 5b) Disbursements for April, 2026.
- 5c) Treasurer’s Report for February 28, 2026 and March 31, 2026.
- 5d) Budget Report for February 28, 2026 and March 31, 2026.
- 5e) Monthly Operation Summation as of February 28, 2026 and March 31, 2026.

Trustee Latif made a motion to use the consent agenda for items 5a through 5e, 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.

<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>(6)</b>	D. Ower; T. Ewert; K. Smith; S. Latif
<b>Nays:</b>	<b>(0)</b>	None
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>(0)</b>	W. Torres; A. Onan

Chair Ruchti then indicated that he would entertain a motion to accept the consent agenda and read the items into the record. Trustee Ewert made a motion to accept the consent agenda, 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, with Chair Ruchti reading the above items into the record.

<b>Ayes:</b>	<b>(6)</b>	D. Ower; T. Ewert; K. Smith; S. Latif
<b>Nays:</b>	<b>(0)</b>	None
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>(0)</b>	W. Torres; A. Onan

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## OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT April 2026 – Disbursements

ACCT. #	VENDOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT DUE
2920	FICA Withholding Taxes (EE Portion)	Mar-26	3,117.93
2921	Federal Withholding Taxes	Mar-26	3,578.46
2922	IL Department of Revenue	Monthly Remittance	948.84
2923	WI Department of Revenue	Monthly Remittance	984.16
2925	IDES	Mar-26	12.10
7205	FICA Withholding Taxes (ER Portion)	Mar-26	3,117.93
7255	Correll Co.	Mar-26 Pension	7,034.82
7211	Commonwealth Edison	Feb-26/Mar-26 Electricity	146.76
7211	Direct Energy	Electricity	15,592.68
7212	No. Shore Water Reclamation Dist.	Wastewater Charges 06/30/25-12/31/25	12,554.51
7215	Pace Analytical	Sample Testing	378.00
7221	Hawkins	Chlorine Shipment	4,383.20
7221	Usalco	Aluminum Sulfate Shipment	8,379.71
7222	Ace Hardware	Misc. Supplies	115.89
7222	Amazon Capital Services	Misc. Supplies	770.83
7222	Grainger, W.W.	Misc. Supplies	199.94
7222	Hach Company	Lab Supplies	372.45
7222	Idexx	Lab Supplies	4,636.25
7222	Napa	Misc. Supplies	6.99
7223	Allied Instrumentation	Maintenance & Repair Supplies	1,210.24
7223	Grainger, W.W.	Maintenance/Repairs - Supplies	2,024.22
7223	Vortex Technologies	Equipment Calibration	900.00
7223	Zion, City of	Annual Elevator Inspection	110.00
7225	Concentric Integration	2025-2026 Support Services Contract	15,240.00
7225	Hansen Associates, Inc.	May-26 Copier Maintenance	69.55
7231	DeLage Financial	May-26 Copier Lease	161.76
7232	AT&T	Telephone Service	1,127.46
7232	Verizon	Telephone Service	595.68
7234	CDW Government	Computer Equipment	1,801.88
7235	AARP - Health	Health Insurance - Diane Fragassi - May-26	479.00
7235	AARP - Prescription	RX Coverage - Diane Fragassi - May-26	113.90

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7235	Blue Cross/Blue Shield	May-26 Health Insurance	18,192.99
7235	EM Benefits(Delta Dental)	May-26 Dental/Vision	683.47
7235	Principal Insurance	May-26 Disability/AD&D	921.47
7241	Your Payroll Dept.	Payroll Fees - Mar-26	286.80
7242	Fuqua Winter Ltd.	Legal Services - Mar-26	1,327.50
7243	Baxter & Woodman	State Revolving Loan Fund Assistance/Application	11,421.50
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$122,998.87</b>

### FIRST BANKCARD

	Acct. 7222	Misc. Supplies	48.54
	Acct. 7234	Office Supplies/Postage	80.99
	Acct. 7236	Transportation	185.72
	Acct. 7237	Meetings/Seminars	317.05
		<b>Total First Bankcard</b>	
		<b>Grand Total - Operations</b>	<b>\$122,998.87</b>

### R&R

ACCT. #	VENDOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT DUE
7300.43	Dahme Mechanical Industries	Zion Pump State Pump Seals Replacement	9,888.00
7300.42	Federal Express	Roof Replacement Project	46.72
7300.44	B&L Office Furniture	Replacement Conference Room Chairs	4,884.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,818.72</b>

General Manager Thompson indicated that a permit fee of \$3,440.00 was necessary for the stone placement project. Secretary Johnston indicated that it was not included in the list of disbursements and required separate approval from the board. Trustee Ower made a motion to amend the approval of the disbursements to include this fee, 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.

**Ayes:** (6) D. Ower; T. Ewert; K. Smith; S. Latif  
**Nays:** (0) None  
**Absent:** (0) W. Torres; A. Onan

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustee Latif provided a verbal report from the Nominations Committee, which included herself and Trustee Smith. Their recommendations were as follows:

Chairperson, Board of Trustees	Michael Ruchti
Vice Chairman, Board of Trustees	Douglas Ower
District Secretary	Karen L. Johnston
District Treasurer	Jeremy Thompson
District General Manager	Jeremy Thompson
Operations Manager	Operator Ioan Pintescu (nominated by District GM)
District Attorney	Bryan R. Winter
District Engineer	Clark-Dietz, Inc

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

➤ **State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Application** – General Manager Thompson stated he met with Baxter & Woodman for the 30% design review on Monday, March 23. He indicated that he answered B&W's questions on the replacement equipment and explained Phase 2 design ideas. The Funding Nomination form was on schedule to fulfill the March 31 deadline, and B&W will be requesting \$3.7 million to finance the generators and Phase 2 projects. Kaitlin Wright (B&W) signed the District's Funding Nomination Form for Chris Covert (IEPA) on Wednesday, March 25.

The IEPA's release plan is slated for June, and the District will learn in July whether or not funding will be received. Discussion of this subject followed.

➤ **2025 Intake Stone Placement** – General Manager Thompson stated that The Army Corps of Engineers, IDNR, and IEPA are still reviewing the project's permit application. The IDNR has requested additional information for the permit, as well as a review fee of \$3,400.00, which will be mailed to them this week. The District will proceed with the bidding process once approval has been received. Discussion of this subject followed.

➤ **Roof Replacement Project** – General Manager Thompson stated at the March board meeting that the Roof Replacement project had been bid, that the District, in partnership with Clark Dietz, evaluated the bids, and that Top Roofing Inc. was the lowest responsible bidder. He advised that the Top Roofing had been sent a Notice of Award and the required documents had been sent to Top Roofing for their signature and return of those documents as well as the required insurance and bond documents. Upon receipt of those documents, a Notice to Proceed will be sent to Top Roofing. Discussion of this subject followed.

➤ **Discussion of Annual Financial Reporting with Illinois State Comptroller's Office**– General Manager Thompson stated the Illinois Comptroller has registered Lake County Public Water District. The Comptroller's Office requires three years of reporting from FY23 to FY25. The information is being submitted via the Comptroller's website, but is time consuming due to difficulties with the website.

➤ **End of Year Projections for availability & R&R charges, and update on Facilities Cost Estimate** – General Manager Thompson Tom Foley of Clark Dietz had provided the updated facilities cost estimate for fiscal year 2027 showing an estimated increase of 2.87% from fiscal year 2026. He

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indicated that based on this facilities cost estimate, the District's customers would receive a credit of approximately \$323.00 per month for the R&R account. He further explained that there are no longer any availability charges as the bond issue will be retired as of May 1, 2026.

General Manager Thompson further indicated that the board needed to approve the Facilities Cost estimate for fiscal year 2027. Trustee Ewert made a motion to accept Clark Dietz facility cost estimate as presented, which was seconded by Trustee Ower. 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: (6)** D. Ower; T. Ewert; K. Smith; S. Latif  
**Nays: (0)** None  
**Absent: (0)** W. Torres; A. Onan

- **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 \$2,875,441; an increase of approximately 6%. He stated that there were no changes from the previous month. He also indicated that a budget must be approved for fiscal year 2027. Trustee Latif made a motion to approved the draft budget as presented, 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.

**Ayes: (6)** D. Ower; T. Ewert; K. Smith; S. Latif  
**Nays: (0)** None  
**Absent: (0)** W. Torres; A. Onan

- **Discussion of Project Pharma B** - General Manager Thompson informed the board that this project would not proceed, as the time constraints were unmanageable for all interested parties.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Final Bond Principal & Interest Payment** - General Manager Thompson stated the District will pay \$330,000.00 in bond principal on May 1 and \$5,445.00 in interest on April 27. Due to the bond ordinance, payment must be made three days prior. This is the final payment on 2015 bond issue.

Secretary Johnston has contacted Wintrust to discover whether any more steps are needed to finalize the bonds and access the Bond Reserve account cash. Ms. Deanne Schmidt said there are no actions needed for the bonds, but she hasn't said when the Bond Reserve Funds will be available.

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- **2025 Water Quality Report (CCR)** - General Manager Thompson stated that the 2025 Water Quality Report (CCR) was completed and provided to District customers on March 31. A copy of that report was attached. He indicated that the legislation requires District consumers to obtain the CCR by April 1.

He was pleased to inform the board that the District reached all EPA maximum pollutant level targets for 2025 again.

- **Fiscal Year 2027 Consulting Engineer Services Agreement** – General Manager Thompson attached a copy of the Consulting Engineer Services Agreement for Clark Dietz for fiscal year 2027. He reminded the board the District needs to choose a consultant for upcoming fiscal year 2027 by the April board meeting; this is a requirement of the Water District act. Trustee Latif made a motion to approved the agreement as presented, 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: (6)** D. Ower; T. Ewert; K. Smith; S. Latif  
**Nays: (0)** None  
**Absent: (0)** W. Torres; A. Onan

- **Concentric Integration Managed Support Agreement** – General Manager Thompson provided a copy of the proposed fiscal year 2027 service agreement from Concentric Integration. He stated that Concentric provides the SCADA and hardware support for the plant. Discussion of this subject followed, with General Manager Thompson asking for approval of the agreement. Trustee Ewert made a motion to approved the agreement as presented, 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.

**Ayes: (6)** D. Ower; T. Ewert; K. Smith; S. Latif  
**Nays: (0)** None  
**Absent: (0)** W. Torres; A. Onan

- **Health Insurance Renewal Proposals for Fiscal Year 2027** – Chair Ruchti stated that this subject had been presented earlier in the meeting. The board discussed options for the insurance, indicating that they would like more research into the subject for the following year. Trustee Ewert made a motion to approve the insurance program renewal as presented, which was seconded by Trustee Ower. Ruchti asked if any additional discussion was required, as there was none, and upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

**Ayes: (6)** D. Ower; T. Ewert; K. Smith; S. Latif  
**Nays: (0)** None  
**Absent: (0)** W. Torres; A. Onan

- **Correll Quarterly Reports** – General Manager Thompson indicated that the reports satisfied the retention criteria for all but two of the funds. These will be monitored and will be replace if they fail after two quarters.

- Trustee Ewert made a motion to enter executive session for the purposes of discussing the compensation of the General Manager and District Secretary pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings action, which was seconded by Trustee Ower. Ruchti asked if any additional

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discussion was required, as there was none, and upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

**Ayes: (6)** D. Ower; T. Ewert; K. Smith; S. Latif  
**Nays: (0)** None  
**Absent: (0)** W. Torres; A. Onan

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

- ▶ Upon leaving executive session Trustee Ower made a motion to approve the salary committee recommendations as presented with General Manager Thompson receiving a bonus for fiscal year 2026 of \$3,500 and a salary increase of 7.3%. Secretary Johnston would also receive a bonus for fiscal year of \$2,500, which was seconded by Trustee Ewert. Ruchti asked if any additional discussion was required, as there was none, and upon the following roll call vote, the motion was approved.

**Ayes: (6)** D. Ower; T. Ewert; K. Smith; S. Latif  
**Nays: (0)** None  
**Absent: (0)** W. Torres; A. Onan

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

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Karen L. Johnston  
Board Secretary