

**LAMAR UTILITIES BOARD
MINUTES OF THE UTILITIES BOARD MEETING
June 23, 2020**

The Lamar Utilities Board met in regular session in the Utilities Board Room at 12:00 p.m. with Chairman Thrall presiding.

Present: Jay Brooke, Doug Thrall, Patrick Leonard, Clifford Boxley, Kirk Crespin, Don Steerman, Houssin Hourieh, Lisa Denman, Leala Owen, Linda Williams

Absent:

Minutes of Previous Meeting – June 9, 2020

Boardmember Brooke moved and Boardmember Leonard seconded to approve meeting minutes of June 9, 2020.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Boxley

Voting No: None

Purchase Orders #89468 through #89495

Boardmember Leonard moved and Boardmember Boxley seconded to approve purchase orders #89468 through #89495 in the amount of \$15,393.47.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Boxley

Voting No: None

Payment of Bills

Boardmember Leonard moved and Boardmember Brooke seconded to approve payment of bills: Vouchers #49943 through #49976 for a total of \$859,066.05.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Boxley

Voting No: None

Consider Approval of Irrigation Contract – Neil Parmely

Boardmember Brooke moved and Boardmember Leonard seconded to approve Irrigation Contract – Neil Parmely for 20 HP irrigation pump in the amount of \$10.00 per horsepower resulting in a minimum payment of \$200.00 annually and \$18.00 monthly service charge.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Boxley

Voting No: None

May 2020 Financial Report

Superintendent Hourieh reviewed the May 2020 financials which included the following:

Balance Sheet – Cash is down \$20,707.00 from April 2020 and accounts receivable has increased by \$42,292.00.

Income Statement – Total operating revenue is \$1,019,299.00 with total operating costs being \$1,020,925.00 for a gross operating loss of \$1,626.00.

Adding in non-operating revenues and expenses brings the net loss to \$172,245.00.

YTD Income Statement – YTD operating revenue is \$5,144,171.00 and total operating costs are \$4,715,942.00 resulting in gross operating income of \$428,229.00. Adding in non-operating revenues and expenses, there is a net loss of \$409,657.00.

YTD Comparison to 2019 – Retail sales are up \$132,192.00 or 3%. However, operating expenses are up approximately \$184,068.00 or 4% resulting in a net loss of \$409,657.00 for the year.

System Operating Report

Superintendent Hourieh reported that in continuous efforts to improve system reliability and efficiency, the line crew have installed a 288 kva, 200 Amp, 24.9kv voltage regulator that has been serviced by Solomon Corporation. The voltage regulators are on the East end circuit that feeds Bristol, Hartman, and Holly. This regulator will help reduce line losses and maintain proper voltage on that circuit.

He stated that the crew has also replaced a 40ft wooden pole at County Road NN and Rd 8 which broke off due to high wind. The crew has also been performing general line maintenance and tree trimming.

Superintendent Hourieh reported that they are working with KnowBe4 an IT company that specialized in system security and simulated phishing platform. The plan includes baseline testing, system protection, and training focused on phishing, spoofing, and social engineering indicators. The goal is to protect our network from hacking and be able to recover in case we get attacked.

Superintendent Hourieh gave a COVID-19 update. He stated that the Governor did not extend his order on banning disconnections of utilities for nonpayment on accounts by customers that are affected by COVID-19. The new Executive Order D-2020-098 directs utilities to waive disconnection, reconnection fees, and suspend accrual of late payment fees for residential and small business customers who have missed payments during the pandemic.

He stated that on June 9, 2020 the Board approved extending the payment plan from 6 months to 12 months during COVID-19 utility arrears from March 1st – June 13, 2020.

Superintendent Hourieh reported that they have also received an updated Guidance from the Executive Director of Colorado Energy Outreach. The Guidance has been changed to allow claims made for home cooling in addition to home heating. This means our customers who meet the income criteria will qualify for LEAP funding. However, the season expires at the end of July. If for whatever reason customers do not meet LEAP guidelines, the state has made other resources available at EOC and the legislature just appropriated \$4.8 million to support non LEAP low income bill payment with the passage of HB 20-1412. He state that in an effort to connect our customers with the bill pay resources EOC has produced the following:

“Many people are struggling with economic hardships as a result of COVID-19. If you have been impacted by the pandemic and have fallen behind on the payment of your home energy bills, help is available to qualifying households today. Please apply to the Colorado State LEAP Program or Energy Outreach Colorado’s Bill Payment Assistance

Program. Learn more at <https://www.energyoutreach.org/programs> or call 1-866-HEAT-HELP (1-866-432-8435). We are here to help.”

Superintendent Hourieh gave a brief update on rates and Kwh for 2017-2020 along with a handout.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Boardmember Boxley moved and Boardmember Leonard seconded that the meeting adjourn.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Boxley

Voting No:

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Linda Williams – City Clerk

Doug Thrall – Chairman