

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 1 OF THE PARISH OF ASSUMPTION, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT THE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING AND THE REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JULY 24, 2017 AT 630 P.M.

President Bryan Dugas called the Public Hearing to order with the pledge and silent prayer.

Board members Present: Bryan Dugas, Scott Sternfels, Vincent Nelson, Calvin Steward, Wayne Arboneaux, Charles Brown, Jr., Jim Boudreaux, Keith Sheffie, Glen Comeaux, Paul Lewis, and Jeremy Pipsair.

Also Present: B. J. Francis, Donna Robertson, Lucille Guillot Amy Daigle, Ginger Rushing, Rickey Mollere, Hollis Miles, Shaun Dupaty, ADA Cody Martin, Jeff Lemoine, Linda Cooke with the Bayou Pioneer, Roy Waggenspack with Owen and White Engineering, Joseph Savoie, C J. Savoie, Jr. and Michael Newchurch with C.J. Savoie Engineering, Stephen Savoie with Lula-Westfield LLC., Ed Stock, Henry Dupre Police Juror, Frank Naquin, John Williams, Alicia Martinez with LDHH

Public Hearing was opened to discuss 2017-2018 Budget.

President Bryan Dugas asked if there were any comments from the public on the 2017-2018 budget. There were no comments.

President Bryan Dugas closed the Public Hearing and opened the Regular Board Meeting.

On a motion by Charles Brown, seconded by Paul Lewis and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

A motion was made by Wayne Arboneaux, seconded by Calvin Steward and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2017 board meeting.

President Dugas opened a public hearing to discuss agenda items.

Henry Dupre commented on the agenda item referencing the revocation of the C. J. Savoie Engineering consulting contract. He made reference to a comment made by Jim Boudreaux stating that he did not know the workings, the nuts and the bolts, of the plant. He also stated that he thought that that particular comment went for everyone on the board. He stated that it is pretty difficult to know everything about the plant, you'll agree. My question would be, why are you'll considering letting someone go that knows this plant back and forth. Is it because of all the controversy he caused you'll earlier? The man should be applauded for the things he brought to the table, pointing out the issues that's happening at this plant. I don't know about you all but wherever I go, I get complaints about the water smell, the flushing. That's some things you'll need to consider, so I think in a long run, you'll will be better off applauding Joseph when he brings something to the board and ask that you'll consider what he is thinking about and also assist, ask more, get more information, instead of trying to hush him up by letting him go with the contract. That's all I have to say. Oh, there is one more thing, Mr. Boudreaux also said that the water from this plant is the best in the state, he may think so, and you'll all may think so, if that is so, as the plant manager, when she makes her report, make a motion to stop all the flushing and fill up the tanks, if you have no problem with the water being distributed from this plant, stop flushing. Thank you'll.

Charles Brown asked Mr. Dupre, did he know why all the flushing was being done?

Mr. Dupre replied, "Yes I do". Then he asked Mr. Brown did he know?

Mr. Brown replied, "Sure".

President Dugas stated that the board appreciated Mr. Dupre's comments and they would take up the reason for the revocation next and then after item four we have Department of Health and Hospitals here and they will entertain any questions we may have and hopefully they can give us some insight into our water quality. And if we got specific questions about why we flush, they can answer. Can we stop flushing, no we can't stop flushing today? We do not know how we will meet DHH's standards without flushing and when we figure it out, we will stop flushing. So, we will take those two items up.

On a motion by Wayne Arboneaux, seconded by Glen Comeaux and unanimously carried to close the public comment hearing.

The board discussed the revocation of the consulting engineering contract. Jim Boudreaux thanked Henry Dupre for his comments in reference to Joseph Savoie and his job as an engineer. Then he addressed Joseph Savoie by reading an excerpt of the contract APWW had with C. J. Savoie Consulting Engineers. Mr. Boudreaux stated, all he is asking for is a third-party engineering consultant for checks and balances and to have a non-bias opinion in the decision between the water districts and engineering.

Glen Comeaux stated the he agreed with the comments of Mr. Boudreaux. His thought process is that we need to have someone other than the person designing our projects technically inspecting them as well.

Jim Boudreaux stated that it is his opinion also. I am looking for the checks and balances as brought up in the police jury meeting, checks and balances for our water system, which I am in total agreement, which is coming up in our next segment. I am also wanting checks and balances for engineering. I don't know how to treat water. I am also not an engineer. With that being said, checks and balances go a long way, from the beginning of blueprints all the way down to the construction workers. With a third-party engineer, the engineer underneath's mistakes can be monitored, changed and done before the project even starts with corrections be made. A third party, non-bias opinion, between the water district and the construction engineer. Mr. Boudreaux stated that it was nothing personal against anyone. I just want check and balances. We are about to do it for the plant, why not engineering and that's my point. If no one else has anything to say, I would like to ask Joseph if he would mutually agree to terminate the engineering consulting contract between C. J. Savoie Consulting Engineering and Assumption Parish Waterworks District No. 1.

Joseph Savoie replied, you are asking me if I am in agreement in you terminating my contract?

Mr. Savoie went on to say, gentleman you have a 30 day opt out clause in that contract, that at any time you can opt out that 30-day clause. If this board so choses to revoke my contract, then the 30-day clause will go into effect. So basically, in a 30-day time frame, it will be only one more month, the contract will opt out. It has been renewed every year since 1978, so with that said I would ask this board to please go on record for the reason why they are terminating the contract. If you say it is a conflict of interest and that is your reason then so be it. So, with that said, whatever this board choses to do, I cannot object or not object to your revoking my contact if you chose to do that, that is your choice and by the terms of my contract I will abide.

Scott Sternfels stated I am not exactly clear on what we are doing here, I know you are trying to terminate his contract, but what do we do as a board when we're looking, say we are having a tower, which this engineer designed and has taken care of everything, as far as for that and we went out to bid and all of that, who takes care of all of that after this.

Jeremy Pipsair stated for clarification that Joseph can still be hired to do anything thing APWW needs if we desire to use him.

Jim Boudreaux replied only the revocation of the consulting contract is being discussed.

Joseph Savoie stated that I understand it, you'll are basically requesting to revoke, I have a monthly consulting retainer and the board as well as the administration utilities to call for whether it be advise, whether it be engineering expertise, or if there's a question concerning the plant on a general day to day basis, whether it is cost estimates or recommendations with regards to plant operation or proposed improvements, such as the bond issues, when those things came about, that is what that consulting contract covers. It is a monthly retainage type service, In essence if you chose to revoke that basically you would no longer have me on a monthly service, you are free to hire me on a case by case basis as you have done, that contract has an allowance in there, so if this board so choses, because it is a professional service for an individual project such as the bond issue project, you chose to hire me individually to design those particular projects and you are still free to do that and you are free to reinstate the consulting contract at any time so you should chose that is entirely up to you.

Scott Sternfels asked who to call to run a water line and to get a cost estimate?

Joseph Savoie replied, you can contract me or you can contact any engineer you so choose.

Scott Sternfels commented, so that was part of your service that you provided with the consulting contract?

Joseph Savoie stated, in other words, when you have small projects under a certain amount of hours again, the contract is from 1978, it did include some small designs services which were under a certain construction amount, with regard to Scott's question, there were often times you would call me and say, hey look, we have low pressure

down here, what do we need to do, we would take a look at it, often times we would consult with Owen and White with regards to if they did your pressure analysis system, we would recommend a line size and come in and give you also a cost estimate for the design and installation of that line, if was under a certain amount you would in the past if you so choose you would hire me to design that line, but you are not solely stuck to hiring me to design anything. You could go out for a RFP process similarly what you do for the SCADA System.

President Dugas stated, when we do have issues between engineering contract and contractors, the board gets stuck in the middle. How do you solve an issue when have been involved in multiple issues between engineering and a contractor? Then we are stuck trying to figure out the mediation of it. We have gotten our hand slapped for meeting with contactors in the past, and we are stuck, do I take the contractors word or do I take the engineering's word, who's right and who is wrong. I have to two opinions and I don't have a third objective view for the board to look to say, ok our consulting engineer, you have the design here, you have the contractor here, now let's come up with a solution. We lose that today option and I think that is the biggest down side of the way of doing business.

Jim Boudreaux stated for the water district itself, between engineering and the water district, there is no in-between persons for answers or opinions on things and it is becoming a fight, and basically once again, I am looking for that third party, Joseph you are more than welcome to do engineering work, I am not saying that at all, we are going into the next segment of the water system, we are looking for a third party consultant, I am looking for that fresh face, ideas, something new, non-bias for the system that we have, come up with different ideas to oversee the direction in which we are going and, that is my only goal here, we were asked to third party and I totally agree to a third party coming in here, just like the flushing situation. Do I like flushing, no, not at all. I don't think anyone sitting on this board does. I am open for opinions on how we can correct those issues, the may come back and tell us we can't, at least we will know by a third party. Being the same entities working together, not working together should I say, I am just trying to mend things and move forward in a positive direction. I want you to be a part of it as an engineer, I am not saying that I don't want you here as an engineer.

Glen Comeaux stated that as far as I am concern, you can take the actual individuals or companies out of the equation, when you look at it objectively, it does not make sense to have someone that is hired to consult for you, and is also hired to do the work. It would not be in the best interest of the APWW to keep doing business as we are today. Consulting and designing needs to be two be two separate entities.

President Dugas stated, I think it needs to be separated.

Jeremy Pipsair stated, "I have similar agreements, so contact some places to see other entities are doing.

Joseph Savoie stated that they work with St John the Baptist Parish, St Charles Parish, St James in the same capacity as here at APWW and it is not considered a conflict of interest because you have to understand, it is a professional service. I know I contract to you all but working as a professional service, we are working, so in a lot of cases where someone ask my opinion on something, I will give you an opinion of cost, it is up to you as the body to decide whether you want to move forward with that recommendation or that opinion. You are not forced or tied to hire me to design anything. I recommend to you and you are not forced to hire me. Case in point, I was asked under the retainer contract when the tornado took down the ground storage tank, I had recommended at that time that we look at increasing the size of the booster station and even recommended bringing on Owen & White to do an analysis of the system without it, at which time you did. You moved forward with that recommendation and you hired a design engineer to design that point. You are free to hire me, that's a professional service, it happens all the time.

Henry Dupre asked the APWW president to be recognized at this time, stating that on this Wednesday coming, he had on the police jury agenda to discuss hiring a consultant and he was going to be going through the parish taking water samples and everything else. I don't know if that is what Mr. Boudreaux is leaning towards or towards the plant side. But if that follows through, that may involve the third party that you'll are looking for as a consultant advisement on water or what you are using in the water system in helping the flushing and everything.

Jim Boudreaux stated coming up in the next segment, I have a couple of opinions that I would like to bring up to the board also. I don't want to jump the gun into it, but yes, those things will be discussed.

Charles Brown stated that he thinks this has been said three or four times, so I am going to repeat it. When you design a project for the water district and the board or staff have problems and can't get it going right, we go to our engineer that is sitting here in the meeting to ask about the project and you already designed the project. We don't have another opinion to refer to, then when we get into war with you because it's your design. Do you follow that.

Joseph Savoie stated I think I hear what you are saying, as your agent you are never at war with me, I am giving you a recommendation and I will always work with you.

President Dugas stated I think it is that exact point that you just made Joseph that causes conflict, when a contractor thinks there is a design flaw and the design engineer thinks there's not, then we are asked to make the call and who are we to make a call. It would be nice to have a third engineer overseeing it that would be objective and say, no, your engineer is right or your contractor is right and they give us an opinion and then we have something to base our decision on instead of us being mediators trying to determine whose right and whose wrong, and I think that's where the problem exists. I know I have been in a couple of those conversations and that's not where I want to be.

Keith Sheffie stated at this point we want to be at a happy medium, everybody wants to move forward and it's not happening because we have issues here that is keeping us from going forward. The issues that we are having with Joseph, some things that are not being cleared, and when issues come about it is bickering, and I don't think we should be bickering at all. We all should move forward smoothly. We are not moving forward on our main projects and hit a rock and it looks like we are falling apart. We should be able to come to you, and when we come to you it should be smooth and with the staff, we should be able to fix it ourselves. With another opinion, we figure make it that easy, then the burden is not on us, not on you or BJ and the staff, it's not on nobody. We can all tell somebody let's see what our engineer has, then see what the other guy has and come a happy medium on that, we are not getting that and I think we are falling apart.

Jim Boudreaux stated to add to what Keith just said, is the proper way, it would not get to us. Among themselves, three parties working together, things will be resolved. It will probably be worked out before it gets to the point that it's been getting to where the board is involved in situations that we should not be involved in, trying to be the mediator between two parties.

ADA Cody Martin stated I would just like to clarify what the contract says, Joseph made a comment about a 30-day notice. I do not see that in the contract and this contract was since 1979. Cody continued to read what was on the contract that he had available, giving the board the mechanisms available to them to cancel the contract.

Joseph replied, whatever the terms are gentleman, we will abide by them regardless. Whether it is seven days or thirty days.

ADA Cody Martin then read, seven days upon mutual consent or immediately if you give good reasons for failure to consent.

President Dugas stated that I did hear the request for mutual agreement, I did hear anyone in favor of a mutual agreement, so that means we will need to state reasons for revocation.

ADA Cody Martin stated that a motion needs to be made to state the reason of substantial performance of the contract.

Wayne Arboneaux stated that he was appointed to the board about two years ago, project was already substantially in place at the time 4-5 million dollar project which is awesome for this parish because we are finally after 50 years renovating this plant to bring the water standards up to the best that they can be. Are there still issues? Absolutely, nobody is questioning that, we do way too much flushing, we know that, but we have to meet the requirements of the regulatory guidelines, it's just that simple until we come up with a better solution. Unfortunately, in those two years, I have seen a lot of bickering, a lot of animosity, a lot of going around people to other people in authority and that is not the way it should be. We should be working together, our consulting engineer, our board and our administration and staff should all be working as one to make this plant as successful as possible. Joseph, you and I had numerous discussions and you told me that this goes all the way back to your grandfather being a part of the engineering operation before your dad and you. Is that correct. There is a history and there is a knowledge and that is very important to this organization. I don't know if I am ready to vote on anything tonight, I think this should be thought out very carefully, because it is a major move, but I do know we can't continue to operate the way we have been operating. Because there are meetings and after that everybody is flustered because this didn't go that way or that way, we are just about at the end of the project, it's been a very large and difficult process, but we are almost there, and I think with that some of this will cease to exist because we won't have those big projects, but I do think we need to come to a point where we are all in agreement that we can work together or that we mutually agree that may there are certain things we can't do together, and list the best way to resolve them, My opinion would be, I do know if I am ready to vote on this, I think it does require quite a bit more discussion or evaluations, simple questions like who do we get for the next issue we have, what is the term that we have to abide by, so I think there is a lot of open questions we need to answer before we can make the final decision.

Jeremy Pipsair stated I agree a lot with what Mr. Wayne just said, but as a contractor on a large project we are not going to get everything to a Tee in one shot. I also agree that the board, in a situation, have to come up with a better result, because I am kind of tired of getting surprises. I am really against the surprises and I will leave it at that. It looks like every meeting we have more and more people here, I don't understand it personally. I think a lot of this can be resolved and go away. It was brought up tonight that we don't know this plant, I don't know this plant. I am not an engineer and I do not want to learn how to make water. It is not my job, that is BJ and his staff's job. But you do need someone you can go to and have a non-bias opinion, that is the only issue I have. I would like to say, when Joseph recommends things I don't know about, I have to take your word. It is not that I don't trust you or anything you did, I don't know, that is my opinion of it. I want to be able to sit down with someone and say, this was recommended by an engineer, what do you think. That is why Cody is here. Cody explains this to us, we are not lawyers and that's to me the beginning of fixing a lot of these issues. Before something is designed, we can discuss it, we can explain it, we can say what we want, that's it, it is not about not liking someone. I am tired of all of that mess. I am moving on with that.

Joseph Savoie state just with regards to whether I give you an advised opinion, I am giving you a professional opinion because you asked me to analyze something. Joseph gave the analogy of going to a doctor and getting his opinion based on what you told him. You are free to get a second doctor's opinion, but that is not saying their opinions were non-bias.

Glen Comeaux stated, I agree with that, but we don't have that option right now to get a second opinion on engineering.

President Dugas stated we have discussed this, I do not have an existing motion on the table, we have heard discussion whether or not the contract needs to be terminated mutually within the 30 days or at the end of December contract, and I have heard comments that it we want to terminate it earlier than the December time frame we will need cause.

ADA Cody Martin gave a complete clarification of the option for the termination of the engineering contract could be handled. He stated that you just give the engineer notice that the contract would not be renewed.

Glen Comeaux asked basically that if we voted on it tonight and it passed we would be serving notice that the contact would end.

Cody Martin explained that prior to the seven days, we have to give notice that the contract would not be renewed. If the contract terminates on December 29, 2017 notice will need to be given by December 22, 2017 on non-renewal. Cody also stated that the board could motion to terminate the contract now but it would not go into effect until December 29, 2017.

President Dugas asked if they were any motions to be made.

On a motion by Jim Boudreaux and seconded by Glen Comeaux to terminate the engineering consulting contract at its completion date in December, 2017. Motion did not unanimously carry. Therefore, a roll call vote was taken:

Yea votes: Jamie Boudreaux, Charles Brown, Calvin Stewart, Vincent Nelson, Jeremy Pipsair and Glen Comeaux.

Nay votes: Scott Sternfels, Keith Sheffie and Wayne Arboneaux

Bryan stated according to roll call the motion passes.

President Dugas stated we have had several concerns and discussions about our water quality. Several people from the Department of Health and Hospitals are here, I would like for them to introduce themselves and they are here to answer any questions and to give us as a board an opportunity to find out about our water quality and get their comments on Assumption Parish's water and the results of what the staff has been able to do.

John Williams, Deputy Chief of Field Operations, so I cover half of the state, before that I was a District Engineer, I have been with the department for 15 years. More than happy to answer any questions that you have regarding flushing, working with the staff, or any topic.

President Dugas asked that Mr. Williams introduce the rest of his staff.

Mr. Williams introduced, Frank Naquin Region 3 Sanitarian Compliance and Alicia Martinez she took my position as the District Engineer about 3 or 4 months ago.

President Dugas thanked them for being here.

Mr. Williams asked any for me?

Wayne Arboneaux replied, the big elephant in the room is we are talking a lot about flushing. Assumption Parish is going through the major renovation and we know that without flushing it would be more difficult to meet the regulatory requirements to meet with DHH. Is Assumption Parish unusual compared to other parishes in your opinion or is what we are doing a necessity that needs to be worked on to decrease the money we are losing by flushing.

John Williams stated, I will give you a little perspective where the flushing came from. In 2011, we had two deaths of brain eating amoeba (*Naegleria fowleri*) in St Bernard and DeSoto parish. It was not attributed to the water system at that time because we did not have the technology to sample to make that connection. In 2013 there was another case in St Bernard, twice and that time a new piece of equipment was actually used that filters for the amoeba right off of the distribution system. It was identified, we had a smoking gun and it was the amoeba that had perforated into the distribution system. We have since been doing monitoring, we do it in the summer when the temperatures come up, because that's when these amoebas grow more. forget how many, but we have quite a few systems where we have identified this. As part of evaluating how to control this, it's rare but its deadly, because it is in potable water, no one expects it to be in potable water. Part of the recommendation from CDC, EPA and the science panel that we convened to look at this, was to raise chlorine residuals up to 0.5 free or total depending on what type of plant you are. You are either a free chlorine system or total but regardless a 0.5 throughout the distribution system, so the issue here is that systems previous to the 2013 when the emergency rule kicked in they didn't have to achieve the 0.5 just a trace and they have been running along at trace forever and now we are asking to go to a 0.5. In order to maintain that residual, what a lot of systems found they had to do is to increase the residuals at the plant at that has some impact on some other roles or flush because the residuals as it gets out to the extremities its depleted and you have to get the out and the new water in and so that is what they are trying to accomplish with the flushing to ensure that the residuals maintain and the science has shown that the amoeba is controlled at 0.5. There will be some cases where we get it higher residuals but they extenuating circumstance. That is going on across the state. Other systems like Assumption has the same issues in order to get the residuals up throughout the distribution system especially in the extremities they have had to do a lot of flushing. Flushing was easy and that is the first thing they went to. There are other things that can be done, but what these systems are finding is that the flushing the cost the main power, they are looking for something more of a permanent solution. There are other things that can be done there out there. But Assumption by no means is unique, flushing, you can go to St Charles on both sides of the river they have increase flushing, St John. St Bernard Parish this is across the board.

Jeremy Pipsair stated the flushing to meet your standards is to have a better quality of water, correct?

John Williams, Correct

Jeremy Pipsair stated that I just wanted to make sure that was on the record as to why we are flushing. I am good.

John Williams stated that it was an emergency rule in 2013 and 2016/2107 it was adopted into rule. I think it was January of this year, so now it is part of the code where 0.5 chlorine residual free or total wherever you are it is required throughout the distribution system.

Charles Brown asked if this plant quit flushing and does not meet that requirement, then where are we?

John Williams stated that you will be issued public notices, you will be in violation and ultimately that would result in more than likely a compliance order where we would compel you to do something to meet.

Ginger Rushing stated violations could cause possible death.

John Williams agreed with Ginger and stated, possible death

Charles Brown stated to Mr. Williams, we know this, but a lot of the public does not know this. That is the reason I wanted you to say that tonight and I thank you for it.

Jim Boudreaux asked is there any amount of different chemicals that will reduce flushing and are safe?

John Williams stated what we are talking about here is being able to maintain a residual of 0.5 or greater and the reason why you are having trouble with your residual, one reason your chlorine system and even free chlorine system have issues as well, the residuals degrade for various reasons, it is not just chemicals, it's not just at the plant,

everything you can do at the plant, that helps. It's two things, getting the chemistry right at the plant to get the best residual you can after the distribution system, once it in the distribution system its having the best conditions possible so where you are not exerting demand on that residual you've created. So, it's treatment at the plant and it is distribution. Where you have an old distribution system with plenty of scale, what they call tubercle, scale on the pipe it's going to exert a demand on that chlorine, it going to tank it. So, doing something at the plant isn't necessarily going to improve that. But the issue that you Assumption and every other water system is experiencing, getting to the solution is typically not a magic bullet, like a chemical change, once chemical change at the plant, one action, flushing out in the distribution system. Its bringing to bear on the problem numerous solutions, that's been our take, it's not simple, it takes work, and is it necessarily expensive, but can be labor intensive, but there are expensive remedies up front. It's using whatever you can, but it's going to take some evaluation.

President Dugas asked what about your comments on the over water quality that we produce out of this facility?

John Williams stated we are impressed, you are in compliance with your disinfection by products right now, you have some low residuals that, I know you'll have to work on flushing, but that is not uncommon, most system have them. I looked over your deficiencies for the plant for the sanitary survey, there's nothing major, we find deficiencies practically on every survey we go to, so I would say that you are doing well, but you are not where ideally you would want to be. Which is to have the residuals out of the distribution system, where you are not having to fight, by way of flushing, apparently, I don't know the numbers but it sounds like you are spending a lot of money and time and effort keeping those residuals up. So, again you are like a lot of other systems, there might be some things you can do to minimize that flushing, but it's not the same thing that can be used across the board for each plant is different, each distribution system is different and it has to be looked at, it depends on each system. I mean we have plenty of resources we could provide to the system for what other systems are doing, what EPA guidance says, what our guidance says (DHH), for what we think you ought to be looking at, but I can't come in here and tell you that if you do this, your problem is solved.

Jeremy Pipsair stated but you would be willing to help if we reached out to you to give us guidance and what not?

John Williams replied certainly.

Jeremy Pipsair then stated, I have one more question, how is working with our staff, what's your opinion of our staff?

John Williams state that it's been very pleasant, I deal with 45/50 surface water systems in the Metro area and the River parish, I have a lot of ground water systems and it runs the gambit from systems that you know this operation is not conscientious and just giving you the time of day until you leave, and then there are others who are really striving to produce good water quality and are paying attention. Our experience in working with BJ is that his staff is at the higher end and it's been a pleasure to work with them.

Glen Comeaux asked, just in your profession opinion, because I will be honest with you, flushing has been a thorn in our side since we started, we know it has to happen but a lot of people and the public are not informed and does not understand why it's happening, do you see in the future or technology or things that are coming down the pipe that will scientifically cut back on flushing possibly or eliminate down the road.

John Williams replied, again you are flushing to achieve the residual, so flushing is one trick in the tool bag to achieve that. Just to throw out some other tricks that could be used /applied would be booster chlorination that's actually where you have a low chlorine residual area, you install a booster chlorination treatment plant to get the residuals up. A lot of times the distributions system outer extremities, the pipe is corroded, applying some types of flushing, I don't know what type of flushing you are doing, but directional flushing when you get the velocities really high through the pipe and you knock off the bottle flow in the scale and you blow it out at the end and have a clean pipe, I've seen St. Bernard do that and they get your residuals up and they can stay up. Sometimes some treatment at the plant removing of what excreting the demand on the chlorine helps. There's various things that can be done, those are there, flushing isn't the only way, but it's usually and has been in this case where you just upped the residuals, it has been the go to, the first thing that every water system did.

Wayne Arboneaux asked, if you have an extremity at the end of the line with various little use or volume, putting a booster?

John Williams stated, putting a booster makes sense where you don't have just a few houses, you still have some significant usage but was does make sense like that they have automatic flushing stations, where you don't have someone opening a hydrant, they will install the flushing device and it will be set to go off at certain times and it

will flush a certain amount. All its doing is moving old water out and replacing it with new water, it is not scoring or cleaning, but that might be good enough. St. Bernard installed about 30 of these in response to theirs.

President Dugas asked, but just from a time base and not from a chlorine level base, there's no automatic flushing that will do front line chlorine sample.

John Williams stated then you get a little more expensive, you've got automation and analysis going on, you can put bells and whistles out there you can be looking at ammonia, nitrate and everything else, and actually St. Bernard has some of those too. That was ground zero for the amoeba they got a lot of stuff. Simple automatic flushing stations that are just base off of set to go off at a certain time and flush for so long. What ends of happening is the staff through historical knowledge and familiarly with the system, they know that this works and they tweak it out and get it to where they kind of set it and forget it thing.

President Dugas stated that we do have some of those stations here

Jeremy Pipsair asked how many do we have?

Ginger Rushing answered probably 10 or 15.

Charles Brown stated that we also have two chlorine booster stations,

John Williams asked have we tried directional flushing.

Ginger Rushing replied that we have done a little of that, it's kind of difficult because we have some line issues we need to take care of, I find out we have double lines that's an issue.

John Williams stated that directional flushing is great but a lot of systems by the nature of how they network together, it is very difficult to accomplish. We see that in a lot of the Northshore systems. I should have thrown your name in too Ginger, when I said about BJ, nothing but positive things to say about working with Ginger.

Keith Sheffie stated, as long as we have good staff.

John Williams replied, you do, very conscientious, like I say you have some of the good guys on this staff. We have always felt like you have taken the deficiencies to heart and moved to make improvements, meaningful improvements.

Frank Naquin commented, that he thinks some of the new design work they just did, is going to help a lot with the chemistry, the it was before was rough for them to mix their chemicals, once you get that right, it will help the distribution more. I don't know if you have a line replacements program, if you have that old cast iron out there you replace so much every year, that helps

President Dugas stated, I think what Frank is referencing is how we are replumbing and we are not going straight from our high service pumps in distribution system, we are going to go back to our ground storage tanks and then go out.

BJ Francis stated that was the first thing, and the second thing was replacing lines that were old with a lot of tubercle.

John Williams stated, I will just throw out St. Bernard again, that was ground zero and they have made a lot of improvements and got water quality and distribution system up. One thing they did was a major line replacement. They had these 1920 lines full of tubercle scaled up, double line like Ginger was talking about and you can't flush them they are habitually bad qualities, so they pulled them all out.

Frank Naquin stated that he will be willing to bet that the APWW have replaced lines and you still have some of that old line in there and you might have one or two customers still feeding off of it and that is probably killing you. If you have two lines side by side that is just water storage, it is like putting water in a five-gallon bucket, you let it sit in your yard long enough, it gets nasty.

Jeremy Pipsair asked do we have a count of that, where we have an idea of what can be changed over time.

BJ Francis replied, we do.

Rickey Mollere stated that is on the long-range planning.

President Dugas stated that is one of those things you always push out and we do new water lines and you don't want to spend the money to take the redundant line out, but this could be causing you big time.

John Williams stated that was my point at the beginning, the progression of this, addressing this problem is to do what is easiest to do. Flushing has been the first go to, easy, spot flushing in particular, which is really easy, but not that affected.

Frank Naquin stated that if they don't come up some better technology, you got to raise your rates way up to pay for the flushing, everybody will go bankrupt. Some body will think of something to sort of fix this problem, right now you have to do what you have to do because most of my plants say they can't operate.

President Dugas stated hopefully the residuals don't keep getting bumped up.

John Williams replied, we hope not.

Charles Brown asked the 0.2 or 0.3 whatever it was all the years was sufficient, did this amoeba come up these last few years and we just didn't know it.

John Williams stated that the amoeba has been with us, it is ubiquitous in the environment, if you have been swimming in a pond, stream or lake more than likely you came into contact with it. For water systems, the issue here is chloramine systems. Chloramine is total chlorine it is not free chlorine, the way chloramine is produced, you take ammonia and chlorine and they are combined together to form chloramine. The reason why you want chloramine, is two reasons. The first reason is it doesn't produce those regulated disinfection by products that you get with free chlorine (carcinogens), it doesn't have those and the other thing is it lasts a lot longer. So, it goes out and lot longer if the conditions in the pipes are good. Because it has ammonia in it, when it comes in contact with something, it does its job and releases ammonia or if it is old or old water it releases ammonia, retires just like we do, it splits up. That ammonia is a food source for bacteria, nitrifies, so does nitrification cycles start where the bacteria that use the ammonia and produce a biofilm and there is other ammonia that feeds off the byproduct of those bacteria, produce nitrites and nitrates it runs the cycle, that's what's tanking normally for chlorine system when its bad out in distribution system out in the extremities. That's what is hard to get out and that is what you are trying to improve.

Frank Naquin stated, to ensure it nitrification, and even if there is a nitrification, old pipes, scaly pipes old water would have still depleted chlorine.

Jeremy Pipsair stated so it sounds like flushing is the best.

John Williams replied, flushing is the best. Flushing is a temporary solution, you will never solve your nitrification problem, you will just get over it every year. You will get over the hump, it is bad in the summers, then everything will die down, your residuals will come up in the winter and then next year you will be flushing again. That's what flushing does for you. That's what a lot of the solutions do for you if you use just that solution. So, a chlorine system it's difficult, it takes a lot of management especially out of the distribution system.

President Dugas stated so this whole idea of nitrification in a chloramine system, you will have some level of nitrification, you just have to control it.

John Williams stated it is like legionella, practically every building has legionella, when the conditions are right then you amplify, and you concentrate and you get a whole bunch of it. The bottom line is yes, if you are a chloramine system, because the amoeba is ubiquitous in the environment, it has plenty of opportunity to get in when you do pipe repair, if you don't disinfect properly and the conditions are right. It will get into your pipes, it will use the bacteria that's there especially if it is nitrification occurring because it is looking for food id doesn't after brains, it's looking for bacteria, if that bacteria is there and there is a film it's going to grow and it going to get amplified. As rare as contracting this amoeba is the thing that always sticks with me is St. Bernard got it twice in three years. Where they got it was old pipe with heavy nitrification. That's one of the down side of being a chloramine system and that's where the management comes in with all of the tricks that I am talking about to keep your residuals up, get your residuals up you don't have that.

John Williams stated when you are designing the distribution systems you are taking into account, usage and there is a balancing act of having the water not be too old. I keep going back to St. Bernard, because that is where it all started and we have lots of experience with them, but one of the problems they had was the system was designed out for 65,000 people and when Katrina hit it dropped down to 15,000. Then over a period of a few years it crawled back up to 45,000 but the lost a big portion of their usage, plus they had a lot of breaks, so it all of these things

compounded to create the conditions that were amplifying the amoeba. So, water age is extremely important. You want fresh water.

John Williams reported that nitrification would be the big green monster that causes your chlorine residuals to tank and really cause a lot of flushing and labor to overcome. But there are still other issues than just tank, chlorine, dirty pipe and age.

President Dugas thanked the DHH employees, John Williams, Frank Naquin and Alicia Martinez for the time spent with water district at the board meeting, for everything they have done with us and stated that he was sure that BJ would be reaching out to them for their continued support.

John Williams replied, anytime, that's what we are here for.

President Dugas commended the APWW staff for what they have been able to accomplish, the board heard a lot of very positive things, keep up the good work, we have had a lot of conversations with DHH and we still have areas to improve. We still have to keep trying to raise the bar, we are meeting the standards but maybe it could do better. So, applaud the staff and look forward our success moving forward.

Glen Comeaux stated I agree with that, thank you'll for what you'll have done, we appreciate it, I don't know where some of this stuff is coming from, because I am out in my area every day, I very seldom hear a complaint about the water quality. You may get a stray customer every now and then, everything we heard from DHH doesn't mean we don't need to be diligent to keep on top of this, but we appreciate everything you'll have done.

Jeremy stated, you just said, when I first started, I had a lot of complaints, but when I educated myself to be able to answer some of the complaints, they understood, I didn't understand to be able to tell them, but when I was able to understand, they understood. I do believe that one way we could improve is educating the public. Getting out there and letting them know.

The board discussed the Third-Party Consultant to survey the water system. The board came up with some discussion at the Police Jury.

President Dugas stated we have two systems, distribution and the plant and it may take two different consultants to make two different reports. We need to understand on what type of answers we are looking for and to generate a list of companies that can provide this service for us, request from them a Request for Proposal (RFP) have them reference what their resume looks like what their credentials are and then select someone to give us the Third-party feedback we are looking for. It was interesting to note that DHH stated they can help support us on some of these things, we ultimately, definitely need to be reaching out to them. Ultimately, they are the ones that will be signing off on our water quality because no matter who says what on our water quality if we don't meet the standard of DHH, EPA, DEQ, then that is not good no matter who says different. We are looking to see if it is the distribution of our water or the treatment. I am looking at the staff as experts to tell us what their thought process on it.

The board discussed thoroughly the Third-party consultant and decided that they would fund the cost to bring in a Third-Party firm to look at the operations of the APWW. The board agreed to define a statement of work for what we are looking to do. The APWW staff will contact the Assumption Parish Police Jury to make sure when we execute this statement of work we will address the questions or concerns of the APPJ. Therefore, the staff supervisors will meet internally and then refer to the board the information required to obtain the RFP to petition a firm to address the issues of concern of everyone involved.

Jamie asked that a motion be made to authorize the staff to put together a statement of work to allow a third-party consultant to come in and address the issues at hand along with consulting with the APPJ to get input on their concerns.

On a motion by Jamie and seconded by Vincent unanimously carried to approve hiring a Third-Party Consultant to be funded by the APWW to review the operations of the APWW.

BJ Francis asked to discuss the new State Agreed Upon Standards Policies mandated by Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

On a motion by Jeremy and seconded by Glen and unanimously carried the board adopted the administrative polices mandated by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor for the Agreed Upon Standards.

On a motion by Scott and seconded by Vincent and unanimously carried authorize the board President, Bryan Dugas to sign the contract annual audit engagement letter with Waguespack Gallagher and Barbera. LLC.

Jeremy Pipsair reported on the engineering committee meeting. He asked that the minutes of the committee meetings be approved, but stated that the engineering committee meeting minutes will be approved in the committee meeting from this point on.

On a motion by Jeremy Pipsair, seconded by Keith Sheffie and unanimously carried to approve the committee meeting minutes of June 26, 2017.

Joseph Savoie reported that the bond project is complete from the construction stand point. Some punch list items are still being completed but should be done in about two weeks. He also stated that the lab and plant controls for the third floor have been transferred to another contractor.

Joseph Savoie stated that the contractor submitted a final invoice and retainage payment on July 24, 2017, however, we did not have time to fully process the invoice. I will meet with the contractor and discuss the time frame on completion of the punch list items and I will send my recommendation to the administration for the payment.

Jeremy Pipsair asked BJ if he would notify the board when the recommendation was rendered from Joseph Savoie to call a special meeting for approval.

ADA Cody Martin stated that if the contractor completed his work within ten days then there would not be a need for a special meeting, it could all be approved at next month's board meeting.

Joseph Savoie stated that C J Savoie engineering has just finished their review and were in the process of drafting a written response to the contractor on what's outstanding. Joseph stated that prior to the meeting they did not have time to expedite

Jeff Lemoine with Pintail asked about the retainage funds that were granted substantial completion back in May, they have already been given so many days after and filed, those funds should not be allowed to be held.

ADA Cody Martin stated that under the contract, substantial completion has nothing to do with release of retainage. The release for retainage dealt with final payment application and following that process.

President Dugas asked is there any way legally that based on the punch list and Pintail response that we can authorize the disbursement of funds based on the recommendations from engineering that the punch list is completed. That way it does not have to come back before the board.

Joseph Savoie replied that there is a matter of a final change order that was just recently worked on with the contractor that has to come before the board for approval. He is also billing that on this last invoice and that change order has not been approved by the board so I cannot recommend payment of that invoice.

ADA Cody Martin asked Joseph to give the board the amounts of the second payout without the retainage and get the board to approve that payment upon Joseph's recommendation.

Joseph Savoie stated that the amount of the final payment prior to the retainage is \$41,546.13 which includes a final change order in the amount of \$14,352.47. That change order was on the list and we withheld it because there were credits to be applied. The change order could not be approved for payment because it has not been brought to the board prior to this month's meeting.

Jeremy Pipsair reported that on the Raw water intake, the soil test had been completed, they are waiting on the reports and once we get those reports we will bring them before the board to discuss our path forward.

Jeremy Pipsair received a report from Roy Waggenspack of Owen and White on the Paincourtville Booster Station. Mr. Waggenspack stated that he has received by email on July 24, 2017 the shop drawings on all the electrical controls for the new booster station, he also stated the booster pumps have arrived and they are at the contractor's shop. The contractor is in the 49th day of his contract. Mr. Waggenspack stated that he did not have plans as to when the contractor was going to break ground or start field work to start construction.

Joseph Savoie reported that the amount to be paid Pintail prior to retainage and the change order is \$27, 911.28.

On a motion of by Wayne Arboneaux, seconded by Jeremy Pipsair and unanimously carried giving BJ Francis authorization, pending the recommendation from engineering to pay the invoice amount of \$27, 911.28 to Pintail contractor.

On a motion from Scott Sternfels, seconded by Vincent Nelson and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2017 financial committee meeting.

Scott Sternfels stated the financial committee recommended payment of all invoices presented at the financial committee meeting of July 24, 2017. The recommendation was seconded by Wayne and unanimously carried to pay all invoices.

Lucille Guillot presented the Monthly Financial Report for June 26, 2017 (11 Month-91.67%). Total Revenues were 93.57 % and Total Expenses were 84.61%.

On a motion by Glen Comeaux, seconded by Wayne Arboneaux and unanimously carried to adopt the Budget for 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

Rickey Mollere presented the distribution report. He reported that there were some issues with hydrants in the Paincourtville area that were identified by the new Fire Chief Rudy Prejean and they have been addressed. Rickey also reported there was an issue with a hydrant at the end of Hwy 1012 that has also been addressed.

Ginger Rushing presented the plant updated. The Bayou L'Ourse chlorine booster station has been put into service and this should help reduce flushing in that area. We are currently awaiting replacement equipment for the one at Bayou Valerie so in the meantime it is down. We think a power issue may have fried the CL17 and the station cannot be used without it. New drive for unit 2 new agitator motor has been installed along with the new valves down below. We now need to get power and air to them along with the signal wire to SCADA and we will then have it running as designed. The bore into plant 4 clear well has been completed by Pintail. Bacteriological tests have been brought to DHH state lab and passed. The plant is back in service. Both old generator sheds roofs have been replaced. Eustis Engineering drilled a 4" bore 100' down across the street for study for the raw water intake work. Power/Generator issues Saturday with bad weather. Working with Bayou Electric who contacted Cummins to resolve. Cummins came out and will send their report to Bayou Electric. The new section of the phosphate (corrosion inhibitor) line has been installed and connected by Pintail.

On a motion by Jeremy Pipsair, seconded by Wayne Arboneaux and unanimously carried to add to the agenda a request from Jeff Lemoine of Pintail.

Jeff Lemoine of Pintail requested a clarification of his retainage payment. According per Mr. Lemoine the board voted in April to approve substantial completion and the papers were filed and cleared by the parish on July 6th in time for Joseph, he wants to see what can be done to expedite this payment. The lien release was given to Joseph's office from the courthouse and there are no other papers required. The 45-day lien period has been expired per Mr. Lemoine.

On a motion by Jim Boudreaux, seconded by Jeremy Pipsair and unanimously carried to authorize BJ Francis to pay the final retainage to Pintail pending approval from engineering and all other requirements of the contract.

On a motion from Keith Sheffie, seconded by Glen Comeaux and unanimously carried to adjourn the regular board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

Vincent Nelson, Secretary

Bryan Dugas, President