


MINUTES
 Regular Meeting
 Laguna Madre Water District
 Board of Directors
 Wednesday, February 5, 2020
 5:33 PM – 6:17 PM
 Board Room

1	<p><u>QUORUM</u></p> <p>PRESENT: Chairman, Scott Friedman Vice-Chairman, Herb Houston Secretary, Alex Avalos Director, Jason Starkey Director, Adam Lalonde</p>  <p>ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: General Manager, Carlos J. Galvan, Jr. Director of Operations, Robert Gomez District Engineer, Charles Ortiz Purchasing Agent, Enrique Samaniego Director of Finance, Eddie Salazar Attorney, Brian Hansen</p> <p>Motion moved by J. STARKEY, seconded by H. HOUSTON, to start the meeting at 5:33 PM.</p> <p><i>Agenda items presented as follows: 1,2,3,4,6,5,7,8,9,11,10,12,13,14,15,16</i></p>	
2	<p><u>INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</u></p> <p>The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was said earlier at the 4:30 PM Workshop by C. Galvan</p>	
3	<p><u>INVITATION TO THE AUDIENCE FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS</u></p> <p>COMMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No response from the audience • No reaction from Staff or Board of Directors 	
4	<p><u>CONSIDER AND DISCUSS FOR POSSIBLE APPROVAL THE MINUTES OF THE WORKSHOP MEETING AND THE REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 22, 2020. (C. GALVAN) ♦</u></p> <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board approved the Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented • The Board approved the Regular Meeting Minutes as presented <p>Moved by A. AVALOS, seconded by J. STARKEY.</p> <p>Move to approve.</p>	<p>MOTION CARRIED</p>
5	<p><u>GENERAL MANAGER'S</u></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>TEXAS WATER 2020 CONFERENCE</u> • <u>LETTER FROM PORT ISABEL-SAN BENITO NAVIGATION DISTRICT</u> • <u>SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP ON OPEN MEETING/DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES</u> <p>REPORT:</p> <p><u>TEXAS WATER 2020 CONFERENCE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder to the Board to register for Conference • The deadline is March 9, 2020, to register. Registration on-site is pricier <p><u>LETTER FROM PORT ISABEL-SAN BENITO NAVIGATION DISTRICT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter from the Navigation District is regarding a request to Cameron County of putting the by-pass road from Port Road to Highway 48 for immediate needs for the area. The Navigation District is requesting the Water District and the City of Port Isabel to consider doing the same in supporting the new road. • C. Galvan will produce a letter of support. <p><u>SCHEDULE A WORKSHOP ON OPEN MEETINGS/DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is required for the Board to have Workshop on Open Meetings & Director Responsibilities and Duties • The Board agreed to have the Workshop Meeting on February 26, 2020, at 4:30 PM and following is the regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 PM 	<p>GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT</p>
6	<p><u>PRESENTATION ON TCEQ AUTHORIZING THE SUPERIOR DESIGNATION IN VIEW OF THE HIGH STANDARDS OF WATER SERVICE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE RESIDENTS OF LAGUNA MADRE WATER DISTRICT, GIVEN BY GRANT ACCESS</u></p> <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victor and Alicia Baldovinos from Grant Access gave the presentation • Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) annually inspects on preparation, installation, and maintenance. TCEQ has authorized the superior designation of high standards of water service made available to the residents of the Laguna Madre Water District. • According to the State records in 2019 only approximately 10% of the community water systems in Texas achieved a superior rating • To earn this designation, a System must meet and maintain high-level standards that are required of all Public Water Systems. These standards include excellent efforts in water quality, treatment, protecting public health, ensuring reliable operations, water supply for the systems customers, compliance, with regulatory requirements, and environmental stewardship • TCEQ granted the permission to install standard highway markers on recognized highways leading into the area served by the District. 	

7	<p><u>PRESENTATION OF LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM THE BOND COMMITTEE TO PROPOSE MAY 2, 2020 TAX BOND ELECTION BOND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT</u> ♣</p> <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nadine Smith, Vice Chair for the Bond Planning Committee, presented the Letter of Recommendation from the Bond Committee. • N. Smith noted upon thorough examination by the Bond Committee in conjunction with the District Staff and Engineering Firm Freese and Nichols, several deficits of great concern found in the current system. • The Bond Committee found sufficient cause for and thus recommends to approve the Tax Bond Project for the upcoming election for May 2, 2020 	DISCUSSION ONLY
8	<p><u>DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE APPROVAL OF AN ENGINEER'S REPORT DETAILING THE PROJECTS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE PROPOSED MAY 2, 2020, BOND ELECTION.</u> ♣</p> <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included in the Board Packet is a Summary Report. It is the final, signed, and sealed. Along are all the supplemental reports that provide the detail used to complete the summary. The cost and the description match the recommendation letter from the Bond Committee • The cost for Water Plant 1 - \$22,290,000 • The cost for Elevated Storage Tank Improvements - \$3,542,000 • The cost for Water Distribution System Improvements - \$1,688,000 • The total Costs - \$27,620,000 • The Board approved the Engineer's Report <p>Moved by H. HOUSTON, seconded by J. STARKEY.</p> <p>Move to approve.</p>	MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
9	<p><u>DISCUSS AND APPROVE AN ORDER CALLING A MAY 2, 2020, BOND ELECTION FOR THE LAGUNA MADRE WATER DISTRICT AND MAKING PROVISIONS FOR CONDUCTING SUCH ELECTION AND OTHER PROVISIONS INCIDENTAL AND RELATED THERETO, WITH A BOARD OF DIRECTORS ROLLCALL</u> ♣</p> <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Directors Rollcall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HERB HOUSTON, JR. – YES ○ ADAM LALONDE – YES ○ SCOTT FRIEDMAN – YES ○ JASON STARKEY – YES ○ ALEX AVALOS – YES <p>Moved by H. HOUSTON, seconded by A. AVALOS.</p>	MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

	Motion to approve an order calling a May 2, 2020 bond election for the Laguna Madre Water District in the amount of \$ 27,620,000 an approving other matter related thereto	
10	<p><u>DISCUSSION ON UTILITY EASEMENTS IN SOUTH PADRE ISLAND</u></p> <p>REPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Galvan noted the District is having issues with property owners taking over the easements in South Padre Island • The pictures displayed were samples of a few easements that haven been taken over by the property owners, a discussion ensued • The District's concern in the case of water breaks in an area with the easements that are covered by swimming pools, gates, and landscapes. It's also challenging for the District to get into the location with the District's large equipment (backhoe, excavator) because there are no allies in South Padre Island. • The permits by the City of South Padre Island discloses that the property owners are responsible for any damages caused by a utility company working in the area • Possible suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Get with City of South Padre's legal department to have access to the Property Owner ○ Possibly develop a contract with the City of South Padre Island or Resolution ✓ Discuss with the City Manager the current issue that is pending with the Contractor and future cases ✓ For General Manager to contact Randy Smith and call a meeting with the Building Inspector, to start and resolve, and go forward, and how to deal with the previous 	DISCUSSION ONLY
11	<p><u>DISTRICT ENGINEER'S REPORT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>WATER PLANT 1 CLARIFIER AND ADDITION OF CHLORINE DIOXIDE</u> <p>REPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C. Ortiz noted the large clarifier is at a point that needs to be a complete reconstruction • Will determine after May 2, 2020, Bond Election on how to proceed 	DISTRICT ENGINEER'S REPORT
12	<p><u>CONSIDER AND REMOVE FROM THE TABLE THE FOLLOWING ITEM TABLED AT THE REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 22, 2020:</u></p> <p><u>CONSIDER AND DISCUSS FOR POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RE-PLAT OF LOT 2, RAUL FLORES SUBDIVISION, INCLUDING THE RELOCATION OF UTILITY EASEMENT AND EXISTING WATERLINE, GRAVITY SEWER, AND FORCE MAIN.</u></p> <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board agreed to remove the item from the table for discussion <p>Moved by A. LALONDE, seconded by J. STARKEY.</p>	MOTION CARRIED

	Move to remove from the table.	
13	<p><u>CONSIDER AND DISCUSS FOR POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RE-PLAT OF LOT 2, RAUL FLORES SUBDIVISION, INCLUDING THE RELOCATION OF UTILITY EASEMENT AND EXISTING WATERLINE, GRAVITY SEWER, AND FORCE MAIN. (C. ORTIZ) ♦</u></p> <p>DISCUSSION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The re- plat got approved S. Friedman and H. Houston abstained <p>It is moved by A. LALONDE, seconded by J. STARKEY.</p> <p>Move to approve.</p>	MOTION CARRIED
14	<p><u>EXECUTIVE SESSION PERMITTED BY THE OPEN MEETING ACT, V. T. C. A., GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 551.001 ET. SEQ., UNDER SECTION 551.071, CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY:</u></p> <p><u>UPDATE ON LEGAL MATTERS CONCERNING RATEPAYER'S APPEAL OF THE RAW WATER RATE</u></p> <p>J. STARKEY made a motion for the BOARD to go into the executive session at 6:09 PM, seconded by A. AVALOS.</p> <p>A. LALONDE D withdrew himself before the Board entered into Executive Session, and departed the meeting, a quorum maintained.</p> <p>J. STARKEY made a motion for the BOARD to get out of the executive session at 6:16 PM, seconded by A. AVALOS.</p>	<p>MOTION CARRIED IN SESSION @ 6:09 PM</p> <p>MOTION CARRIED OUT OF SESSION @ 6:16 PM</p>
15	<p><u>CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS, IF NECESSARY.</u></p> <p><u>UPDATE ON LEGAL MATTERS CONCERNING RATEPAYERS APPEAL OF THE RAW WATER RATE</u></p> <p>MOTION: To proceed as directed</p> <p>Moved by H. HOUSTON, seconded by J. STARKEY.</p>	<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION RESULTS: PROCEED AS DIRECTED</p>
16	<p><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></p> <p>There being no further business the CHAIRMAN adjourned the meeting at 6:17 PM</p> <p>Moved by A. AVALOS, seconded by J. STARKEY.</p>	<p>MEETING ADJOURNED @ 6:17 PM</p>


ALEX AVALOS, SECRETARY


SCOTT D. FRIEDMAN, CHAIRMAN




MINUTES APPROVED THIS 26th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020.