

Pendleton Water Association
Minutes of Executive Board Meeting
by telephone
September 14, 2025

I. Call to Order

The Special Board meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Board President Charln Stewart. Board directors in attendance on a phone conference call were Charln Stewart, Gloria Thompson, Carl Jeanise, Jerry Burnaman and Bub Sepulvado. Also present were Treasurer Tina Barrett and Secretary Tony Laska. Proof of quorum was confirmed.

2. Final Action to remove property of Tony Farrell from PWA plant site

Over the years of his employment by PWA, Tony Farrell has accumulated a number of pieces of heavy equipment and other property on the grounds of the PWA plant. While he has removed some of it, a registered letter was sent to him more than a month ago allowing 30 days to remove whatever he wishes to keep. He was sent other messages, emails and calls but most of the material remains on site. This meeting has been called to decide final action so we can move on without this burden.

The law requires that a former employee be granted 10 to 14 days to remove personal property from their previous work site. As of September 15, Mr. Farrell has had a month and a week's time since the initial notification.

PWA's options include selling equipment in which case any proceeds would be the property of Tony Farrell. A preferable option is to encourage people to remove items at their own cost for transportation and under their own liability. As people set foot on the property they will be required to sign a hold harmless agreement absolving PWA of any liability for any occurrence of loss or injury on site while they were there.

A motion was made by Gloria Thompson, seconded by Jerry Burnaman that the final day for Tony Farrell to remove his property is September 15, after which PWA will begin a disposal process that will allow people to visit the site during working hours, sign a waiver of liability and remove items at their own expense. Yeas 5, Nays 0.

3. Legal Proceedings Regarding Suspected Embezzlement

The current investigation into an apparent misappropriation of at least \$100,000 in public funds has been under way for a month. Charln Stewart has requested Board approval to follow up with the Sheriff (Aaron Mitchell) and Sabine Parish D.A. (Don Burket) to determine their position and proceed accordingly.

PWA Board members have uncovered substantial incriminating materials that have been turned over to investigators. Some examples were discussed. Board member Jerry Burnaman stated that if there was indication of wrongdoing then we should move forward with the investigation. The membership deserved an effort to recover the loss of their money. Board members in the past were unable to confirm that this was going on previously because all the paperwork and check-writing was being done by plant staff and records were accumulating in the office. Efforts over the years to reign in this process proved ineffectual.

The following motion was made by Gloria Thompson, seconded by Charln Stewart and passed 5-0.

MOTION: That The PWA President was authorized to meet with the Sheriff and District Attorney to determine how they intended to proceed. In the event they did not find sufficient cause to file charges, Charln Stewart was authorized to refer this case to the state and federal agencies for review.

4. Adjournment

Charln Stewart thanked the Board members for interrupting their weekend to work for the PWA membership. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 5:30 PM.