

**CEDAR KEY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 309 / 510 THIRD STREET
CEDAR KEY, FL 32625**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Board of Commissioners
February 14, 2022**

Board Members Present: Joe Hand, Stephen Rosenthal, Leslie Sturmer, Tabitha Lauer, Dottie Haldeman.

Others Present: Chad Wisdom, James McCain, John McPherson, Mandy Offerle, Frank Offerle, Jim Wortham, Phil Prescott, Mac Cox, Heath Davis, Sue Colson, Stephanie May, Brenda Wise.

1. Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Stephen Rosenthal, Chair.
2. Pledge and Prayer.
3. Adoption of Agenda. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to adopt the agenda as presented. **Second** by Tabitha Lauer. Passed by a vote of 5-0.
4. Approval of Minutes. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 10, 2022, as presented. **Second** by Tabitha Lauer. Passed by a vote of 5-0.
5. Financial Reports. Budget, Balance Sheet, Checkbook Activity, and Employee Leave reports were presented for review. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to accept the financial reports as presented. **Second** by Tabitha Lauer. Stephen Rosenthal noted that the balance sheet was missing; Chad Wisdom said he would provide it by email. Rosenthal also noted that Line 640.03 was at 200%; Wisdom explained that this was due to the need for a new pump that was purchased. Dottie Haldeman noted that the sick and annual leave report needed to be updated. Haldeman also asked about the customers who are behind on payment and Wisdom confirmed that notices would be going out. Sue Colson asked if wastewater is also cut off when the water is; Wisdom answered that it is not. Leslie Sturmer asked about line 510.04 and whether it was high because insurance payments get paid up front; Wisdom confirmed that this is the case. Sturmer also asked that the water tower maintenance contract be reviewed at the next meeting. Passed by a vote of 5-0.
6. Bill Adjustment Request. **Motion** by Tabitha Lauer to deny the bill adjustment request by Ken Edmunds because there had been a previous request over the past 3 years. **Second** by Leslie Sturmer. Passed by a vote of 5-0.

7. General Manager Report.

a. *Water Plant.*

The GM stated that staff continues to look at the cost of modernizing the existing water treatment plant by replacing the most vulnerable components. Will be looking into updating the Miex system and having District staff do the necessary work to upgrade the lime softening system. The GM stated the goal is to get another 5 to 6 years of use out of the plant while other projects are moving ahead. He said staff continues to monitor SRWMD ground water levels which have been falling recently.

The GM reported that he had attended a meeting of the Suwannee Suwannee River Water Management District governing board which expressed support for the pipeline project. Joe Hand thanked the GM for the excellent job he did at the SRWMD Board meeting. Leslie Sturmer asked whether the Board had taken any action; the GM reported that the Board directed its staff to begin work on a feasibility study of the project. Sue Colson noted that SRWMD had allocated \$148,000 for the study which should be completed within about ten months. She also praised Chad for the good job he did at the SRWMD Board meeting. Leslie Sturmer stated that she had talked with Hugh Thomas, Executive Director of the SRWMD, and he was very positive about the funding opportunities for the project. Sue Colson stated that SRWMD should want to also incorporate wastewater re-use as a component of the project.

The GM reported that testing for DBPs was now switching to either yearly or tri-annually, and that the \$4,000 fine under the consent order had been paid.

b. *Wastewater System.*

The GM reported that the District's funding request to the Florida Legislature has been accepted and submitted as HB 9155 and SB 1586, and that the request had cleared the House committee and is going to the Senate committee.

The GM reported that the District's request to the City for Covid 19 funds for wastewater repairs had been approved by the City, and that the District was moving ahead with repairs. Stephen Rosenthal expressed thanks to the City Commissioners who were in attendance, and the GM read a letter of thanks to City for approval by the Board, which was granted.

The GM reported that CROM corporation was preparing the orders for components and materials for the aeration basin repair.

c. *Covid-19.* The GM reported that there were no Covid issues over the past month.

d. *Election.* The GM reported that preparations for the election were underway for the three contested District governing board seats. John McPherson asked the Board to approve the same canvassing board as approved by the City, i.e., John Meeks, Matt Brooks, and Chris Cowart, with Lily Rooks and Tammy Boyle as alternates. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to approve the canvassing board as presented. **Second** by Tabitha Lauer. Passed by a vote of 5-0.

8. Attorney Report. The attorney had nothing further to report.
9. Commissioner Comments.

Dottie Haldeman suggested that pay vouchers for the past month be brought to the meeting for review. Chad Wisdom agreed to start doing this.

Leslie Sturmer asked what the next step was in the pipeline. Chad Wisdom stated that we would just wait for the feasibility report and there was discussion as to what that study might entail, e.g., cost, right of way, wetlands, road crossings. Heath Davis suggested there needed to be a determination of build-out in Cedar Key so that the pipeline is not smaller than needed.

Dottie Haldeman asked about whether the District would be paying Bronson for water. A discussion ensued as to whether the District would have its own well in Bronson, or would it be purchasing water from the Bronson system. It was agreed that the answer to that is unknown at this time and would probably be covered by the feasibility study.


10. Public Input.

Mandy Offerle asked if letters should be sent to our state legislators in support of the District's legislative request. Chad Wisdom said yes. She also asked if separate City and District ballots would be received for mail-in voting. Chad Wisdom said yes.

James McCain recommended that the District undertake a survey of customers to get a good picture of what complaints there may be about water quality. The purpose would be to ensure that the new plant and/or pipeline addresses these concerns. The Board agreed that it was a good idea and asked the general manager to look into it and bring it back for Board approval.

Sue Colson stated that the District should go big in addressing its water issues, and should be clear about all Cedar Key concerns in the feasibility study.

11. Adjournment: There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m.


Stephen B. Rosenthal, Chairperson


Leslie Sturmer, Commissioner &
Secretary of the Board

Date: 3/14/22