

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

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Board of Commissioners
February 10, 2020**

Board Members Present: Joe Hand, Stephen Rosenthal, Dottie Haldeman, Chris Reynolds (by telephone), and Leslie Sturmer.

Others Present: John McPherson, Mack Cox, Steven Priessman, Diana Priessman, Michael Johns, Camille Whiddon, Mandy Offerle, Frank Offerle.

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 with the addition of two bill adjustment requests and the moving of the Steven Priessman item to the top of the agenda. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 5-0.
4. Steven Priessman: Internet Service Improvement.

Mr. Priessman presented the following information:

- A video showing various people and businesses in Cedar Key expressing frustration with current internet service and expressing the desire that there be improvement and additional options.
- His own research showing that 95% of Florida has better internet options than Cedar Key, and that the statewide the average internet speed is 64.7 Mbps, while in Cedar Key it is 3.5 Mbps. This puts Cedar Key at an economic disadvantage due to the importance of internet to tourists and the aquaculture industry.
- Highspeed broadband can be delivered wirelessly by a local company called WiFiber (formerly SVIC).
- WiFiber is willing to provide a test of its internet services, but would first need permission to attached facilities to the water tower.

Michael Johns with WiFiber presented the following information:

- Discussed the 20-year history of SVIC/WiFiber in the local area.
- Stated that larger companies are not willing to come into small market areas like Cedar Key, and 5G cell service is not on the horizon for this area.
- WiFiber aims to keep prices low and steady which it has done over its history in the area.
- Wireless service provision is the way of the future for internet.

Camille Whiddon with WiFiber presented the following information:

- The fiber internet cable is now at Otter Creek, and efforts will be made in the future to bring it closer to Cedar Key.
- Internet services would still be provided wirelessly to customers.

Michael Johns with WiFiber presented the following additional information:

- Explained more about how the internet signal would get to Cedar Key given current locations of the fiber cable.
- Described what would need to go on the railing of the water tower, i.e., 6 antennas for sending wifi to customers, and one round dish for receiving the signal from Chiefland.
- Described what equipment would need to be installed by a customer, i.e., a receiving antenna.
- There will be no interference with cell antennas or radios.

There was general discussion by the Board, including about whether a request for proposals would be needed in order to allow an internet provider to go on the tower. Mr. Priessman and the WiFiber representatives stated their opinion that WiFiber is the sole source of the this service in the area and could provided evidence of that. The Board agreed to hear a proposal from WiFiber for running a test of its services in Cedar Key using the water tower for mounting the equipment.

5. Public Input. Public input was requested but none was provided.
6. Approval of Minutes. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2020. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 5-0.
7. Financial Reports. Budget, Balance Sheet, Checkbook Activity, Past Due Accounts, and Employee Leave reports were presented for review. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to accept the financial reports as presented. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 5-0.
8. Bill Adjustment Requests.
 - Maria Yates for an adjustment from \$401.95 to \$239.26 due to a mouse eating through a pipe under the sink. The leaked water did not go through the wastewater system.
 - Ted Coconis for an adjustment from \$4,981.14 to \$2,633.96 due to a broken exterior pipe.

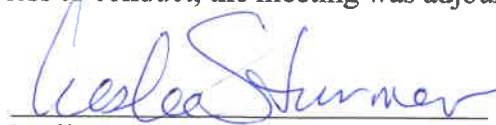
Motion by Dottie Haldeman to approve the requests by Maria Yates and Ted Coconis. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 5-0.

9. General Manager Report.
 - a. *Water Plant.* The GM reported that pretty good results were obtained on the two-stage ion exchange test in terms of DBP potential numbers, and that staff is working with Tim Norman on how to proceed. He also reported that the annual average for quarterly disinfectant byproducts was over the limit for THMs and so a public notice will be going out soon during the second week of February. He noted that new quarterly samples were taken on February 4.
 - b. *Downtown Building Painting and Repairs.* The GM advised the Board that the repainting of the front railing by District staff is underway.
 - c. *Cell Service.* The GM presented to the Board a preliminary proposal from Verizon setting forth proposed rental rates, antennae attachments, and site plan. There was discussion about the actual need for fencing with barbed wire around the leased ground

area and direction to the GM that he discuss options with Verizon. Otherwise, there was consensus of the Board that the proposal was satisfactory subject to further research by the GM on rent comparables, clarification of the role of the City as underlying owner of the land, and final lease and plan documents.

- d. *Water Meters.* The GM reported that the communications portion of the radio meter system has been replaced and upgraded and is working well so that a successful reading of the meters took place on February 4 for the January billing.
 - e. *Sludge Truck/Vacuum Trailer:* The GM reported that The new vacuum trailer was delivered on Tuesday February 4, and training was provided to staff. He also reported that due to adequate cash balances, the District paid for the trailer in cash rather than financing it over 12 months.
 - f. *Website:* The GM reported that the District's new ADA accessible website is up and running at the same address: ckwater.org.
 - g. *Election:* The GM reminded the Board of the upcoming election for Seats 1, 3, and 5, and the qualifying period from March 16 to March 20.
 - h. *Request for Vacation Cash-in:* The GM conveyed a request by Alicia Johns to cash in 30 hours of vacation, out of 34 available, to cover a family medical expense. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to approve the request. **Second** by Leslie Sturmer. Passed by a vote of 5-0.
 - i. *General Manager Application:* The GM informed the Board that Bill Pittman, who has both his wastewater and water operator licenses, and also 30 years of experience in the field, had expressed interest in the advertised general manager position. The Board agreed that talks with Mr. Pittman should continue.
10. Commissioner Comments: None.
11. Public Input: Public input was requested but none was provided.
12. Adjournment: There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.


Stephen B. Rosenthal, Chairperson


Leslie Sturmer, Commissioner &
Secretary of the Board

Date: 3/11/2020