

**St. Lucie West Services District
Workshop Minutes
February 6, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.
450 SW Utility Drive
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986**

(Please note: This is not verbatim. A CD recording of the Workshop is available on file.)

Board Members Present

Vincent D'Amico, Chairman
Gregg Ney, Vice Chairman
Wayne Smith, Secretary
Everett Child, Supervisor

Staff Present

Dennis Pickle, District Manager, St. Lucie West Services District ("SLWSD")
Bill Hayden, Public Works Director/Assistant District Manager, SLWSD
Maddie Maldonado, Office Manager, SLWSD
Josh Miller, Assistant Utilities Director, SLWSD
Jason Pierman, District Treasurer, Special District Services, Inc. ("SDS")

Guests Present (Sign-In Sheet Attached)

A. Call to Order

Chairman D'Amico called the Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Chairman D'Amico welcomed Supervisor Child back following his recent absence.

It was noted that all 4 Supervisors were present.

D. Consider Appointment of a New Board Member to Seat #5

Mr. Pickle explained the notice process and indicated that one candidate had withdrawn from consideration. Mr. Pickle noted that Tony Stachewicz was ill and would not be attending the meeting. Mr. Pickle also noted that Terri Wyder had not received the e-mail notifying of the time. Mr. Pickle then asked that candidates to step out of the room while each candidate was given the opportunity to answer questions of the Board.

J.E. "Jack" Doughney III was the first candidate to appear before the Board. He indicated that he had previously been a St. Lucie West Services District Board Member back in 2000 and had run against Mr. Altwein in the 2004 election. Mr. Doughney recapped his experience with special districts and the transition process of St. Lucie West from the developer to the public.

Supervisor Child asked if Mr. Doughney anticipated, if he were to be appointed to the vacant seat, any conflict with his serving as Deputy City Manager for the City of Palm Beach Gardens. Mr. Doughney indicated that he had already received approval to take the time off to attend St. Lucie West Services District meetings and that he had also received approval from the Palm Beach Gardens Attorney.

Vice Chairman Ney asked Mr. Doughney what he believed is the biggest challenge for the District. Mr. Doughney replied that he believed the biggest challenge for the District is water and its proper use, reuse, conservation and technology. Vice Chairman Ney then asked if it was possible to stop street flooding to which Mr. Doughney replied that street flooding will always occur after a storm event because the District is upstream. He indicated that the District is only as good as those downstream from us.

Secretary Smith asked Mr. Doughney what he believed to be the Board's role. Mr. Doughney indicated that the Board sets policy, but should not interfere with the day to day workings of the District. Secretary Smith asked what Mr. Doughney believed to be his weakness to which Mr. Doughney replied that he talks too much.

The Board thanked Mr. Doughney, sent him out of the room and Dominick Graci came before the Board. Mr. Graci indicated that this was his third attempt to become a District Board Member. He briefly went over his qualifications.

Vice Chairman Ney asked Mr. Graci what he believes is the District's biggest challenge. Mr. Graci responded that he believes the biggest challenge of the District is to listen to residents about how to spend the District's money. Mr. Graci indicated that he would like to see more education, especially with the HOAs. He noted that the District needs to impart knowledge in order to keep costs down.

Vice Chairman Ney asked Mr. Graci if he believed there was a way to stop street flooding to which Mr. Graci recapped the street flooding in the Cascades, in which he helped find a resolution.

Secretary Smith asked Mr. Graci what "PAC" was, as indicated on his resume. Mr. Graci advised that it stood for Project Analysis Council and that they would meet with the Board to create bid documents and a scope of work for various projects. Secretary Smith then asked Mr. Graci what he believed was his biggest weakness to which he replied that he gets angry quickly and has to learn to get the facts and not jump too fast. He also noted that his current weaknesses are the fact that he is getting old and he smokes.

The Board thanked Mr. Graci, sent him out of the room and Gregory Kovach came before the Board. Mr. Kovach described the class he went through with the City and what he had learned. He indicated that he currently serves as Treasurer of Magnolia Lakes and saved the community \$80,000 last year.

Secretary Smith asked Mr. Kovach if he had an understanding of how a Board works to which he responded that he was a quick learner and has sit in on some meetings and it intrigued him.

Mr. Kovach was asked what his biggest strength was. He indicated that he had worked with a union, management and workers, working with personnel. Mr. Kovach was then asked what his biggest weakness was to which he noted that he did not like being confined to an office.

Vice Chairman Ney asked Mr. Kovach what he believed was the District's biggest challenge. Mr. Kovach indicated that he had heard complaints about water levels in the District and that he wonders how everything will tie together once developments go in west of I-95.

Mr. Kovach was then asked if he believed there was a way to stop street flooding to which he replied that he had heard it was an issue years ago, but that the Magnolia Lakes maintenance staff has done a good job keeping the water down.

The Board thanked Mr. Kovach, sent him out of the room and Viorel Mocuta came before the Board. He noted that he had worked for the Mets for 56 years.

Supervisor Child advised Mr. Mocuta to "run" for election to a seat on the District Board, not to only file, as he had previously done.

Vice Chairman Ney asked what Mr. Mocuta believed to be the District's biggest challenge. Mr. Mocuta indicated that he believed the Board was doing a great job and that he would not run against anyone.

Secretary Smith referred to Mr. Mocuta's e-mail to Mr. Pickle of January 14, 2017, wherein he states, "...putting in their friends or relatives..." Secretary Smith asked him what he meant by that statement. Mr. Mocuta indicated that the open seat should go to the next highest vote getter and that it should be an open election, not for specific seats.

The Board thanked Mr. Mocuta for his time and Mr. Mocuta then left the room.

With all the candidates that were present outside of the meeting room, the Board discussed the 2 candidates that were not present at today's Workshop. It was decided that if those 2 candidates attended tomorrow's Regular Board Meeting that they would be given the same opportunity to make a presentation to the Board.

Vice Chairman Ney noted that Domenick Graci was the only candidate who had shown interest in the District's business matters over the past several years.

The Board then decided to hold off on any further discussions until tomorrow, in case the other 2 candidates showed up.

E. Approval of Minutes

1. January 9, 2017, Workshop

2. January 10, 2017, Regular Board Meeting

The minutes were presented and the Board was asked if they had any revisions and/or corrections.

Secretary Smith referred to Page 2 of the January 9, 2017, Workshop Minutes, under Item DE-1. He asked if the word “walking” was correct. The term was clarified and it was suggested that the statement be changed to reflect, “...presenting walk-on items...”

There were no further revisions and/or corrections to either set of minutes.

F. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

G. District Attorney

DA 1 – Consider Approval of Interlocal Agreement between the City of Port St. Lucie and St. Lucie Services District Respecting Stormwater Utility Fees for the St. Lucie West Services District Utility Administrative Site

Mr. Pickle presented the item, indicating that the District had not been paying stormwater fees to the City and that case law states that they cannot be collected via non-ad valorem assessments. They would be paid through an agreement and total \$30,987.86 since 2011.

Vice Chairman Ney asked if the new administrative building would require an increase in the fees to which Mr. Pickle indicated it will.

Mr. Pickle explained that the District had stopped paying in fiscal year 2012 and has been trying to get it resolved since that time.

There was no further discussion on this matter.

H. District Engineer

DE 1 – Approval of Work Authorization No. 4A-66-1702-SU-MOD between SLWSD and Benderson Development Company, LLC

Mr. Pickle presented Work Authorization No. 4A-66-1702-SU-MOD for the expansion of an existing Phase 2, one-story, retail building on the Town Center shopping center site. Approval of the work authorization was recommended with the noted 2 conditions.

Vice Chairman Ney asked about work on California. Mr. Pickle and Josh Miller indicated that the City was reducing the size of the median and discovered an irrigation line.

There was no further discussion on this item.

**I. District Manager
Action Items**

DM 1 – Consider Approval for the Replacement of the Main Irrigation Pump Station Project SW069 from Infrastructure Solution Services (ISS) Proposal No. 17-01

Mr. Pickle indicated that this proposal was for the final design and permitting of the project and included final design, permitting, bidding and construction administrative services.

Josh Miller indicated that it is their hope that this project will be completed within the next 2 years.

Secretary Smith asked how the billing works with their tasks. Mr. Pickle indicated that ISS bills the District on how much they complete each month, not to exceed \$98,000.

Mr. Pickle noted that the project will probably run closer to \$1 Million rather than the \$700,000 previously anticipated.

There was no further discussion on this item.

DM 2 – Other Items/Updates

Mr. Pickle had no further updates.

J. Consent Agenda

Mr. Pickle presented Consent Agenda items CA 1 through CA 7.

CA 1 - Monthly Report on Public Works Department

CA 2 - Monthly Report on Utilities Operations

CA 3 - Monthly Report on Capital Improvement Projects

CA 4 - Monthly Report on Billing and Customer Service

CA 5 - Financial Statements for December, 2016

CA 6 - Consider Approval to Transfer Funds for the R&R Account Requisitions

CA 7 - Surplus Items

There was no discussion regarding Consent Agenda items CA 1 through CA 7.

K. Supervisor Requests

The Board, again, thanked the candidates for their presentations and interest in the Board vacancy.

L. Adjournment

There being no further items to be addressed, the Workshop was adjourned at 10:48 a.m. There were no objections.

Workshop Minutes Signature Page


Chairman/Vice Chairman


Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Date Approved 03/07/17