

St. Lucie West Services District
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2014, 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

Harvey Cutler, Chairman
Everett Child, Vice Chairman
Charles B. Altwein, Secretary
Vincent D'Amico, Supervisor
Sal Mancuso, 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
Jason Pierman, District Treasurer, Special District Services, Inc. ("SDS")
Laura Archer, Recording Secretary, SDS

Guests Present (Sign-In Sheet Attached)

A. Call to Order

Chairman Cutler called the Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Ms. Archer took roll, noting that all 5 Supervisors were present.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. January 6, 2014, Workshop
2. January 7, 2014, Regular Board Meeting

A **motion** was made by Secretary Altwein, seconded by Supervisor D'Amico approving the minutes of the January 6, 2014, Workshop, as presented, and the January 7, 2014, Regular Board Meeting, as amended. Upon being put to a vote, the **motion** carried 5 to 0.

E. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

**F. District Attorney
DA 1 – Status Report**

Mr. Harrell had no updates at this time.

**G. District Engineer
DE 1 – Consider Approval of Work Authorization No. 3B-29-1401-R
between SLWSD and Lake Forest Pointe at St. Lucie West Homeowners'
Association, Inc.**

Mr. Lawson presented the item indicating that the HOA was requesting to add a second fountain. He recommended approval.

A **motion** was made by Secretary Altwein, seconded by Supervisor D'Amico approving Work Authorization No. 3B-29-1401-R between SLWSD and Lake Forest Pointe at St. Lucie West Homeowners' Association, Inc.

Under discussion, Supervisor Mancuso asked if anyone was present from that association to speak for or against the matter. There was no one present from that association.

Secretary Altwein's **motion** was reiterated, seconded by Supervisor D'Amico approving Work Authorization No. 3B-29-1401-R between SLWSD and Lake Forest Pointe at St. Lucie West Homeowners' Association, Inc., as presented. Upon being put to a vote, the **motion** carried 5 to 0.

**DE 2 – Approval of Work Authorization No. 5-09-1401-R between SLWSD
and James Hill**

Mr. Lawson presented the item indicating that the application was for the installation of an underground invisible fence within the lake bank of Water Management Tract No. 2 and he recommended approval.

Discussion ensued regarding the liability of the District and it was suggested that the Work Authorization language be changed to include the language outlined in the District's Policies and Procedures.

Chairman Cutler asked Mr. Harrell's opinion to which he responded that approval was merely authorizing the installation; there is no assumption of liability by allowing them to install it.

Secretary Altwein noted that he did not understand why the homeowner wanted to include to the water's edge; he noted his desire to stay away from this situation.

Chairman Cutler expressed his reservations and likened the situation to that of the gas company seeking approval to install a line on District property wherein Supervisor Mancuso was not in agreement. Chairman Cutler asked if the HOA had approved the installation to which Mr. Lawson indicated he did not know and suggested putting the vote off until the following month when the applicant could appear before the Board to explain his side. He also noted that we can request a letter of approval from the HOA as well. Secretary Altwein noted that the HOA can approve/disapprove installation on their property, not District property. Mr. Lawson agreed that the authorization is for the resident to install the invisible fence on District property, not his property.

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Child, seconded by Supervisor D'Amico approving Work Authorization No. 5-09-1401-R between SLWSD and James Hill.

Under discussion, Secretary Altwein noted that he was troubled with this frivolous request because the fence has already been installed and the homeowner is now seeking approval of the application. It was noted that the \$100 application fee had not yet been paid as well.

Vice Chairman Child's **motion** was reiterated, seconded by Supervisor D'Amico approving Work Authorization No. 5-09-1401-R between SLWSD and James Hill, as presented. Upon being put to a vote, the **motion failed** on a vote of 1 to 4 with only Vice Chairman Child in favor.

Chairman Cutler advised Mr. Lawson that the applicant is welcome to appear before the Board and should bring a letter of approval from his HOA for the installation of the invisible fence to which Mr. Lawson indicated he would advise Mr. Hill to see what he would like to do. Chairman Cutler also requested that Mr. Hill obtain a letter from the Humane Society or ASPCA confirming that invisible fences are safe.

Mr. Lawson then gave an update on the Upland Preserve change to open space and indicated there was no need for additional preserve land.

H. Consent Agenda

CA 1 - Monthly Report on Public Works Operations

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, 2013

CA 6 - Consider Approval to Transfer Funds for the R&R Account, the WCF Account and the WWCF Account Requisitions for Fiscal Year 2013/2014

Mr. Pickle presented Consent Agenda Items CA 1 through CA 6 and recommended approval.

A **motion** was made by Supervisor D'Amico, seconded by Secretary Altwein approving Consent Agenda Items CA – 1 through CA – 6, as presented. Upon being put to a vote, the **motion** carried 5 to 0.

**I. District Manager
Action Items**

DM 1 - Consider Approval of SW075 Change Order #1 for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion Project

Mr. Pickle presented the item and distributed to the Board a revised Change Order #1. Mr. Pickle indicated that Baskerville-Donovan, Inc. and District Staff had negotiated the original contract from Wharton Smith, Inc. to provide acceptable scope reductions and final project costs that were within the budget for this project. He noted that the project had previously been approved for \$10,830,500 and that the revised Change Order #1 reduced that amount by \$652,316.03 bringing the total cost down to \$10,178,183.97, which amount includes owner direct purchases of project equipment and materials totaling \$3,863,678.72. Approval of Change Order #1 would also authorize the District Manager to make further deductive change orders to the Wharton Smith contract, as equipment and materials are removed from direct purchase by the District as owner, so that the total of the amounts paid to Wharton Smith under the project contract and for direct purchases of project equipment and materials does not exceed \$10,178,183.97. Approval of Change Order #1 endorses the following recommendations:

(a) Accept Wharton-Smith, Inc. (deductive) Change Order No. 1 for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion Project in the amount of \$652,316.03, bringing the total project cost to \$10,178,183.97, including owner direct purchases of project equipment and materials totaling \$3,863,678.72;

(b) Authorize the District Manager to make owner direct purchases of project equipment and materials totaling \$3,863,678.72 from vendors identified by Wharton Smith; and

(c) Authorize the District Manager to make further deductive change orders to the Wharton Smith contract, as project equipment and materials are removed for direct purchase by the District as owner, so that the total of amounts paid (i) to Wharton

Smith under the project contract and (ii) for direct purchases of project equipment and materials does not exceed \$10,178,183.97.

A question arose as to what items had been removed to which Mr. Pickle assured the Board that none of the reductions would compromise the project.

A **motion** was made by Secretary Altwein, seconded by Supervisor D'Amico approving SW075 Change Order #1 for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion Project from the original amount of \$10,830,500 to \$10,178,183.97, which results in a savings of \$652,316.03, subject to recommendations (a), (b) and (c), as outlined above. Upon being put to a vote, the **motion** carried 5 to 0.

DM 2 - Approval for Work Authorization No. SLWSD/ISI/2014-001 Integration Services, Inc. SCADA conversion and new programming for the WWTF Expansion Project

Mr. Pickle presented the item noting that this was for the SCADA software to support the new WWTF Expansion Project. He recommended approval.

A **motion** was made by Supervisor D'Amico, seconded by Secretary Altwein approving Work Authorization No. SLWSD/ISI/2014-01 Integration Services, Inc. SCADA conversion and new programming for the WWTF Expansion Project for the total price of \$185,834.

Under discussion, Chairman Cutler asked if the amount included training to which Mr. Pickle replied that it did.

Supervisor D'Amico's **motion** was reiterated, seconded by Secretary Altwein approving Work Authorization No. SLWSD/ISI/2014-01 Integration Services, Inc. SCADA conversion and new programming for the WWTF Expansion Project for the total price of \$185,834. The Available Project Budget is \$885,538.03; This Project is \$185,834; leaving an Available Balance of \$699,704.03. Upon being put to a vote, the **motion** carried 5 to 0.

DM 2 – Approval for Work Authorization No. SLWSD/ISI/2014-002 Integration Services, Inc. PLC equipment and instrumentation related to the WWTF Expansion Project

Mr. Pickle presented the item indicating that this Work Authorization was for the hardware for the WWTF Expansion Project and recommended approval.

A **motion** was made by Secretary Altwein, seconded by Supervisor D'Amico approving Work Authorization No. SLWSD/ISI/2014-02 Integration Services, Inc. PLC equipment and instrumentation related to the WWTF Expansion Project for the total price of \$199,815, as presented.

Under discussion, Chairman Cutler asked when we anticipate completion of the project. Mr. Pickle indicated that we anticipate completion 15 months after the Notice to Proceed is issued, which should be issued this week, which would put a completion date in May of 2015. Chairman Cutler then asked how the budget is being adhered to, to which Mr. Pickle noted that we were doing well. Chairman Cutler praised the Staff and Board for an extraordinary job on this project and recognizing the savings before the expansion was necessary and by getting the bonds issued and securing construction costs.

Secretary Altwein's **motion** was reiterated, seconded by Supervisor D'Amico approving Work Authorization No. SLWSD/ISI/2014-02 Integration Services, Inc. PLC equipment and instrumentation related to the WWTF Expansion Project for the total price of \$199,815. Available Project Budget is \$669,704.03; This Project is \$199,815; leaving an Available Balance of \$469,889.03. Upon being put to a vote, the **motion** carried 5 to 0.

J. Supervisor Requests

Supervisor D'Amico expressed his belief that an excellent job has been done on this expansion project.

Supervisor Mancuso referred to the Taxpayers of SLW meeting and indicated he was tired of the public being under the assumption that the fees of SLW are too high. He asked if Mr. Pickle could prepare something to show the comparison of fees. Mr. Pickle indicated that at yesterday's Workshop it was decided that he would make a presentation at next month's meeting comparing the rates of the City versus that of the District.

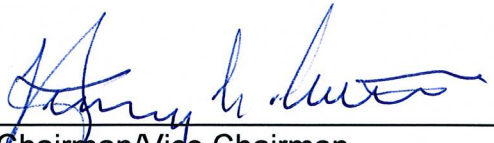
Vice Chairman Child referred to the application for the installation of an invisible fence, noting that the owner made the application and that the Board had turned it down. He asked if the applicant was still liable for the \$100 application fee. Mr. Lawson indicated that it was the Board's decision, but it was his belief that he should have paid the fee when he submitted the application for consideration. Chairman Cutler indicated that the applicant has the opportunity to make a presentation to the Board at next month's meeting.

Secretary Altwein indicated he was troubled with the taxpayer group rumors and believes that the newspapers should do an expose series based on the actual facts, thereby quashing the rumors. Chairman Cutler then asked *Your Voice* Staff Writer Nicole Rodriguez to the podium and asked her if she felt an obligation to research facts prior to publication to which she replied she did. She also indicated that she believed her writing makes clear that comments are opinions; but that she does contact government agencies to verify facts.

K. Adjournment

There being no further matters to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m. There were no objections.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes Signature Page



Chairman/Vice Chairman



Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Date Approved 3-4-14