

**St. Lucie West Services District
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 5, 2013, 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 Board Meeting is available on file.)

Board Members Present

Harvey Cutler, Chairman
Everett Child, Vice Chairman
Charles Altwein, Secretary
Vincent D'Amico, Supervisor
Sal Mancuso, Supervisor

Staff Present

Dennis Pickle, District Manager, St. Lucie West Services District ("SLWSD")
Maddie Maldonado, Office Manager, SLWSD
Dan Harrell, District Counsel, Gonano & Harrell
Bob Lawson, District Engineer, ARCADIS-US, Inc.
Jason Pierman, Assistant 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 Regular Board Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

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

Chairman Cutler went directly to the Public Comment portion of the meeting, indicating that Mr. Frank Gaunce, a resident of Kings Isle, had signed up to speak. Mr. Gaunce introduced himself, noting that he was a retired professional engineer in the electro chemical industry. He indicated that he was registered in Canada, the United States and the State of California. Mr. Gaunce brought up the topic of the article in the *St. Lucie News Tribune* of January 26, 2013, where the question was raised - Is Port St. Lucie water the cause of pipe leaks? Mr. Gaunce indicated that he was prepared to disclose the cause and remedy for the situation, noting that he could say without fear of contradiction that Port St. Lucie water is not causing copper

pipe leaks. It is his belief that the cause of the leaks stems from the practice of utilizing plastic pipe for distribution mains, which has become the norm in the past 25 years, mostly occurring in newer developments. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding possible remedies to this situation. After Mr. Gaunce's comments, Chairman Cutler thanked him and indicated his satisfaction with that fact that the problem does not relate to the quality of water put out by the District. Chairman Cutler noted that the District is meeting the responsibility of providing good quality water, but that there remains a problem in the community. He indicated that while, legally, it is not the responsibility of the Board to solve the problem, as a Board, we have no problem helping the community, but how far do we go and how much money do we spend as a District. Chairman Cutler further stated that resolving the problem would go far beyond the District's budgetary limits. Chairman Cutler, once again, thanked Mr. Gaunce for his comments. Mr. Gaunce indicated that he brought this item to the attention of the Board as a professional and felt it was his responsibility to bring a solution to the attention of the public and felt that bringing it to the St. Lucie West Services District Board would be the easiest and most obvious group to bring this to their attention. Mr. Gaunce then thanked the Board for allowing him to bring it to the Board's attention.

There was no further public comment.

D. Approval of Minutes

- 1. January 7, 2013, Workshop**
- 2. January 8, 2013, Regular Board Meeting**

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Child, seconded by Secretary Altwein to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2013, Workshop, as amended at yesterday's Workshop, and the January 8, 2013, Regular Board Meeting, as presented. Upon being put to a vote, the motion carried 5 to 0.

E. Public Comment

This item was covered prior to the approval of the minutes.

F. District Attorney

DA 1 - Status Report

Mr. Harrell had no items to report at this time.

G. District Engineer

DE 1 - Status Report

Mr. Lawson indicated that the gate project was almost complete and that currently the final calibration was being done. He further noted that 4 additional projects were awaiting permits.

That concluded Mr. Lawson's status report.

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, 2012

CA 6 - Consider Approval to Transfer Funds for the R&R Account, the WWCF Account and the WMB Fund Bond Requisitions

A **motion** was made by Vice Chairman Child, seconded by Secretary Altwein to approve 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 - Request to Advertise for a Public Hearing to Approve Amendments to (1) Employee Job Descriptions and (2) Chapter A-I

Mr. Pickle presented the item, indicating that it was a Request to Advertise on March 1, 2013, for a Public Hearing to Approve Amendments to (1) Employee Job Descriptions (2) Chapter A-1 and (3) Chapter A-III. Mr. Pickle indicated that Chapter A-III was added at yesterday's Workshop Meeting and relates to a proposed amendment to change the Office Manager to be included as a "high ranking employee."

A **motion** was made by Secretary Altwein, seconded by Supervisor D'Amico approving the advertising for a Public Hearing on April 2, 2013, to Consider the Adoption of Amendments to District Rules: (1) Employee Job Descriptions; (2) Chapter A-1; and (3) Chapter A-III, as presented.

Under discussion, Chairman Cutler indicated that Mrs. Maldonado does a great deal more than what her Office Manager title implies and wondered if there was a more appropriate title and would such a change be included in this Public Hearing. Mr. Harrell noted that the Board would have to indicate the change to Mrs. Maldonado's title and that now is the time to do so in order to properly advertise it to the public. Discussion ensued regarding possible titles and it was decided that "Director of Office Administration" would be a better description of Mrs. Maldonado's position.

Supervisor Mancuso made a **motion** to change the Officer Manager's position be changed to Director of Office Administration.

Mr. Pickle noted that there was already a motion and a second on the table and indicated that it would be appropriate to amend that motion first and act on that motion first, before we proceed or we can add it ourselves and accept the motion and second to advertise for the Public Hearing.

A **motion** was made by Secretary Altwein, seconded by Supervisor D'Amico approving the advertising for a Public Hearing for Tuesday, April 2, 2013, to Consider the Adoption of Amendments to District Rules regarding Employee Job Descriptions, Chapter A-1 and Chapter A-III, as well as the change of Mrs. Maldonado's title from Office Manager to Director of Office Administration. Upon being put to a vote, the **motion** carried 5 to 0.

DM 4 - Other Items/Updates

Mr. Pickle stated, as discussed at yesterday's Workshop Meeting regarding the article in the *St. Lucie News-Tribune* related to corrosion issues in the St. Lucie West Services District that the District had received several phone calls concerning the issue and collected data from each caller. Mr. Pickle noted that he had provided to each Board Member at yesterday's Workshop a copy of the Baskerville-Donovan report dated September 12, 2012, regarding the Water System Water Quality and Stability Evaluation. He brought to everyone's attention the Conclusions and Recommendations section wherein it stated that the St. Lucie West Services District water is not considered corrosive and meets industry standards for stabilized drinking water. Mr. Pickle also referred to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection correspondence of January 31, 2013, regarding the Compliance Inspection conducted at the St. Lucie West Water System. Mr. Pickle noted that the compliance inspection found no significant deficiencies were noted during the inspection.

Mr. Pickle indicated that Baskerville-Donovan suggested that the District keep track of any issues with pipes, noting the description of the issue; the property history; type of pipe; hot or cold water; vertical or horizontal; how close to soldered pipe; does the home have a water treatment system; and were any samples taken.

Mr. Pickle indicated that Mr. Gaunce was conservative in his description of his professional history, indicating that he had also worked for the California Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Pickle noted that he would like to speak with Mr. Gaunce further about possibly educating the public of his theory on the cause and his possible remedies.

Discussion ensued about potential ways of notifying the public of the issue and possible solutions. It was noted that sending notification to customers should be done in a cautious manner, especially if suggesting remedies due to liability.

Chairman Cutler indicated that he believed the matter had been discussed thoroughly and that the cause is not the water the District puts out, as determined through professional engineering reports and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He further noted that if we could help the public by relaying information, we will be careful, but will do so.

Mr. Pickle had no further items to update.

J. Supervisors' Requests

Supervisor D'Amico had no requests.

Supervisor Mancuso referred to his discussion on Chapter 190.012(4)(d) and whether the District should have an elected advisor similar to the procedure established by the City of Port St. Lucie regarding sectioning out the City. He indicated that each Councilman knows the area in which he represents. He indicated that he did not know what Supervisor is responsible for monitoring a certain section. Supervisor Mancuso further stated that when the developer established the District that it specifically states that the St. Lucie West Services District procedures would follow along the rules of the City of Port St. Lucie and that the District has to comply with the ordinances of the City.

Supervisor Mancuso made a **motion** that Supervisors be elected and appointed to office in the same manner as the City of Port St. Lucie assigns their Council Members.

Chairman Cutler asked for Mr. Harrell's comment. Mr. Harrell noted that although the election of District Supervisors is governed by Chapter 190, there is no provision for residential areas. The individual is elected at large. Supervisor Mancuso indicated that Mr. Harrell was correct and stated that he is trying to establish a method.

Chairman Cutler noted that Supervisor Mancuso could make a motion, but the motion cannot be discussed until someone seconds the motion.

Supervisor Mancuso's **motion** died for lack of a second.

Supervisor Mancuso had no further requests.

Vice Chairman Child stated that he believes we've done a good job discussing/evaluating the pipe issue and thanked Mr. Gaunce for his presentation. He indicated that the District would continue to monitor the situation and notify the public.

Secretary Altwein thanked Mr. Gaunce for his comments.

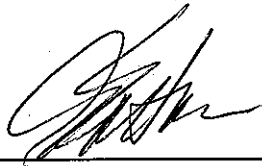
Chairman Cutler had no requests.

K. Adjournment

There being no further items to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m. on a **motion** made by Secretary Altwein, seconded by Supervisor D'Amico. There were no objections.

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Chairman/Vice Chairman


Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Date Approved 03-05-13