

**St. Lucie West Services District**  
**Workshop Minutes**  
**October 7, 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 Workshop is available on file.)

**Board Members Present**

Harvey Cutler, Chairman  
Everett Child, Vice Chairman  
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, 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 Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Roll Call**

Ms. Archer took roll, noting that all Supervisors were present with the exception of Secretary Charles B. Altwein.

**D. Approval of Minutes**

- 1. September 9, 2013, Workshop**
- 2. September 10, 2013, Regular Board Meeting**

Chairman Cutler asked the Board if they had any changes or corrections to the minutes presented.

There being none, Chairman Cutler moved on to the next item on the agenda.

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

Mr. Pickle indicated that he did not anticipate any updates from Mr. Harrell.

**F. District Engineer  
DE 1 – Status Report**

Mr. Pickle noted that he was hopeful that Mr. Lawson would be bringing reports on the storm water enhancements that the District has been looking at between Lake Forest and Country Club. He believes that Mr. Lawson has come up with some determinations that for a little over \$500,000 the District can get the water out of the streets approximately 18 hours quicker and the levels can be kept lower in several of the lakes inside Lake Forest Pointe during the actual event. This would alleviate the necessity for a pumping station, as previously estimated to cost \$1.2 Million. This alternative would take 7 acres of wetlands at the eastern side of Lake Forest and enhancing it by 2 to 2 ½ feet and the District would therefore, not be required to provide an upland pine preserve mitigation with the City other than approximately ¼ of an acre which he believes the City requires the minimum of a half-acre to one acre of property the District would impact. Mr. Pickle also indicated that discussions had taken place on putting in a storm water structure between the Triangle Lake which is next to Country Club and Cashmere and tie that Triangle Lake into Lake Forest Point's lake, which would allow the District to divert water during large storm events out through Lake Forest Point and into the northern section of Lake Forest and would go out the 3B structure. Mr. Pickle surmised that taking into consideration the 2 projects presented would get water out of the streets significantly quicker. Mr. Pickle indicated that Mr. Lawson would present 4 or 5 different options, their estimated costs and the benefits of each at tomorrow's meeting, which would hopefully allow the Board to make a determination as to which route to take. Mr. Pickle also indicated that the District had the funds in order to move forward with this project, thanks to the HMGP grant.

Vice Chairman Child asked if the alternatives presented meant that the pumping station was now off the table to which Mr. Pickle indicated that the plan was to show that the pumping station is not worth the funds.

There was no further discussion regarding this item.

**G. 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 August, 2013**

**CA 6 - Consider Approval to Transfer Funds for the R&R Account, the WCF Account and the WWCF Account Requisitions**

Mr. Pickle presented Consent Agenda Items CA 1 through CA 6.

Supervisor D'Amico referred to CA – 5, specifically Page 46 of the meeting booklet, indicating that he believed that the numbers were confusing. Mr. Pierman noted that he would inquire of Michael McElligott in his office to get a clarification for tomorrow's meeting. Mr. Pickle noted that the numbers were probably related to the Water Management Bond which is the storm water gates projects, but that an answer would be provided at tomorrow's meeting.

There was no further discussion regarding Consent Agenda items CA 1 through CA 6.

Before moving on to the District Manager Action Items, Mr. Pickle referred to a Certificate of Resolution (2013) which he had previously provided to the Board Members. Mr. Pickle indicated that this resolution was relative to the Section 125 Premium Only Plan for the Plan Year Ending September 30, 2014, noting it was applicable to those employees who contributed to their life, dental or health insurance and that the employees do not pay taxes on their portion of the premium.

Mr. Pickle then advised Board Members had several questions relating to Obamacare (Affordable Care Act) and noted that the District's insurance agent, Mary Leighton, might be in attendance tomorrow to explain the effects of premiums in the future; however, she may be called for jury duty in which case she will come to the November meeting.

There was no further discussion regarding Certificate of Resolution (2013)

**H. District Manager  
Action Items**

**DM 1 - Consider Agreement for Asset Purchase and Partition Agreement with NRTC LLC**

Mr. Pickle presented the item indicating that the Agreement would transfer ownership and management of the radio frequency for the SCADA system for a \$1 consideration. Mr. Pickle indicated that the District's attorney had reviewed the agreement and that approval was recommended, as presented.

Chairman Cuter asked about the liability to which Mr. Pickle indicated that the District would maintain the license and monitor the renewal term, explaining that it was just a formality.

There was no further discussion regarding Item DM-1.

## **DM 2 - Consider First Amendment to Utility SCADA System Service Agreement**

Mr. Pickle presented the item noting that the amendment extends the current contract for an additional three years and all contract conditions remain the same through September 30, 2016. Mr. Pickle indicated that they had looked at piggy-backing this contract, but if it had been done, the rates would have gone up.

There were no questions regarding Item DM-2.

## **DM 3 – Consider Annual Renewal for Auditor Engagement**

Mr. Pierman presented the item indicating that the Board had selected Grau & Associates as District Auditors in January, 2011, for a one year contract with an optional two years of renewal. Mr. Pierman noted that that renewal ran through the Fiscal Year 2011/2012 audit and that now, the State recommends engaging auditors in contracts with renewal options for five years. He stated that the agreement amends the original agreement with Grau & Associates and extends it for two additional years, through the Fiscal Year 2013/2014. Mr. Pierman also noted that the agreement reflects the same terms with no fee increase for the next two years. He further noted that after this contract it would be necessary to put out an RFP for auditor services.

Chairman Cutler asked Mr. Pierman how he views the SLW audits since Special District Services manages so many districts. Mr. Pierman indicated that it was his belief that the District gets good value from Grau and that we have a good working relationship with them. He also noted that Grau was assisting in working through the fixed asset issue.

There was no further discussion regarding item DM – 3.

Chairman Cutler then brought up his interest in SLW joining the Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD). Mr. Pierman indicated he believed the annual membership dues would run approximately \$2,500. Chairman Cutler asked Mr. Pierman his opinion of the organization to which Mr. Pierman indicated that he believed it was a good organization which holds meetings throughout the State, heads to Tallahassee for lobbying efforts and holds an annual conference. Chairman Cutler asked that information regarding the organization be presented to the Board for the November meeting. Mr. Pierman acknowledged that the information would be gathered for the November Board Meeting.

Supervisor Mancuso indicated that he had attended the FASD annual conference in 2002 in Daytona Beach, at his own expense, and indicated that he was impressed with the meetings held during that time and found the topics very interesting.

## **DM 4 - Other Items/Updates**

Mr. Pickle had no further updates.

## **I. Supervisor Requests**

Chairman Cutler then referenced the recent issues surrounding the Indian River Lagoon's water quality and asked Mr. Pickle if there could be a possible connection to fertilizers dumped into the waterways. He also asked Mr. Pickle to look into the District's policies and regulations regarding the use of fertilizers and if the District has been enforcing these regulations and if the HOAs are following them. His reasoning for asking Mr. Pickle to look into the matter was because all water flows into the lagoon and if the District can help by enforcing the regulations, maybe it will help. Mr. Pickle indicated that the District has always been proactive on this matter and noted that Mr. Hayden had made a presentation to the Presidents' Council about a year ago, educating those present of the Total Maximum Discharge Limits (TMDL) of the EPA for the State of Florida. He further indicated that we now test all water leaving the gates, which has caused added expense. Mr. Hayden noted that since the turnaround for new HOA members is approximately every 3 to 4 years, it might be time to educate the new members of the Presidents' Council.

Supervisor Mancuso then asked about the status of the inmate exotic plant removal program to which Mr. Hayden indicated that the inmates are on District property removing exotics near I-95. Supervisor Mancuso asked if the inmates would stay out of the residential areas of the District to which Mr. Hayden indicated they would.

Vice Chairman Child asked if the rainy season had any effects on fertilizers flowing into lakes to which Mr. Hayden indicated that it does affect the lakes. He further indicated that there is an approximate 20 to 25% increase in the amount of fertilizers flowing into the lakes during rainy season.

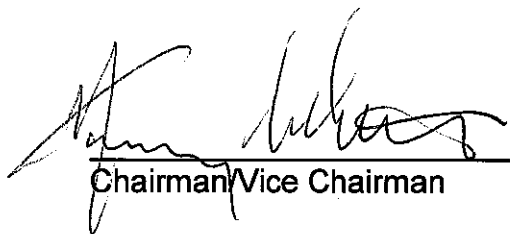
Mr. Gregg Ney, a District resident, noted that within his community 1/3 of the property is common area. He indicated that it might be worthwhile to provide educational materials to homeowners to which Mr. Hayden indicated that each HOA has the pertinent material, but that he would be happy to schedule a meeting in which he could educate homeowners.

Mr. Ney then asked about the extra water the District receives during storm events and if we make the storm water enhancements discussed earlier and the water is removed quicker, will it cause any trouble with the City and how they handle our flow. Could the City restrict our flow? Mr. Hayden indicated that the City can handle whatever we send them and noted that we might have to wait for them to lower their levels first, but they should be able to handle what we send to them. Mr. Pickle reminded Mr. Ney that the District has a permit that allows us to send the City the water.

## **J. Adjournment**

There being no further items to be addressed, the Workshop was adjourned at 9:47 a.m. There were no objections.

Workshop Minutes Signature Page

  
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Chairman/Vice Chairman

  
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Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Date Approved 11/05/13