

St. Lucie West Services District
Public Hearing & Regular Board Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

(Please note: These minutes are not verbatim. A CD recording of the Public Hearing & Regular Board Meeting is available on file.)

Board Members Present

John Doughney – Chairman – in-person
Dominick Graci – Vice Chairman – in-person
Gregg Ney – Secretary – in-person
Viorel Mocuta – Supervisor – in-person
Diane Haseltine- Supervisor – in-person

Staff Present

Bill Hayden, District Manager, St. Lucie West Services District ("SLWSD") – in-person
Josh Miller, Utilities Director/Assistant District Manager, SLWSD – in-person
Maddie Maldonado, Director of Office Administration – in-person
Gerard Rouse, Assistant Public Works Director, SLWSD – in-person
Thomas Bayer, Assistant Utilities Director, SLWSD – in-person
Ruth Holmes, District Counsel, Torcivia, Donlon, Goddeau & Ansay, P.A. – in-person
Fairborz Zanganehl, District Engineer, Infrastructure Solution Services. – in-person
Jason Pierman, Secretary/Treasurer, Special District Services, Inc. ("SDS") – via phone
Laura Archer, Recording Secretary, SDS – in-person

Guests Present (Sign-In Sheet Attached)

A. Call to Order

Chairman Doughney called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

It was noted that all 5 Supervisors were in attendance.

D. Approval of Minutes

- 1. August 28, 2023, Workshop**
- 2. August 29, 2023, Public Hearings & Regular Board Meeting**
- 3. September 18, 2023, Special Board Meeting**

The minutes of the August 28, 2023, Workshop, the August 29, 2023, Public Hearings & Regular Board Meeting and the September 18, 2023, Special Board Meeting were presented for consideration.

A **MOTION** was made by Secretary Ney, seconded by Vice Chairman Graci and unanimously passed approving the minutes of the August 28, 2023, Workshop, as amended at yesterday's Workshop Meeting, the minutes of the August 29, 2023, Public Hearings & Regular Board Meeting, as presented; and the September 18, 2023, Special Board Meeting, also as amended at yesterday's Workshop Meeting.

The Regular Board Meeting was then recessed and the Public Hearing was opened.

E. Public Hearing

1. Proof of Publication

Proof of Publication was presented which indicated that notification of the Public Hearing had been published on the *St. Lucie News Tribune* on September 1, 2023, and September 8, 2023, as legally required.

2. Roll Call

It was noted that all 5 Supervisors were present.

3. Receive Public Comment Regarding Amending Chapter III of the Rules of the St. Lucie West Services District Relating to Water, Wastewater and Irrigation Water System Regulations, Rates, Fees, Charges and Operating Policies for the Utility Services; Revising Schedules A and D to Provide for Annual Rate Adjustments; Providing an Effective Date

There was no public comment regarding Amending Chapter III of the Rules of the St. Lucie West Services District Relating to Water, Wastewater and Irrigation Water System Regulations, Rates, Fees, Charges and Operating Policies for the Utility Services; Revising Schedules A and D to Provide for Annual Rate Adjustments; Providing an Effective Date.

- **PH 1 – Consider Resolution No. 2023-09 – Amending Chapter III of the Rules of the St. Lucie West Services District Relating to Water, Wastewater and Irrigation Water System Regulations, Rates, Fees, Charges and Operating Policies for the Utility Services; Revising Schedules A and D to Provide for Annual Rate Adjustments; Providing an Effective Date**

Resolution No. 2023-09 was presented, entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09

A RESOLUTION AMENDING CHAPTER III OF THE RULES OF THE ST. LUCIE WEST SERVICES DISTRICT RELATING TO WATER, WASTEWATER, AND IRRIGATION WATER SYSTEM REGULATIONS, RATES, FEES, CHARGES, AND OPERATING POLICIES FOR UTILITY SERVICES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Revised versions of Schedules A and D were provided. It was also noted that the rate consultant had recommended a 5% increase.

A **MOTION** was made by Vice Chairman Graci, seconded by Supervisor Haseltine and passed unanimously adopting Resolution No. 2023-19, amending Schedules A and D.

4. Close Public Hearing 1

The Public Hearing was then closed and the Regular Board Meeting was reconvened.

F. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

**G. District Attorney
DA 1 – Status Report/Updates**

Ms. Holmes was asked to provide a status report of items she worked on this past month.

Ms. Holmes advised that she had participated in rewriting a software agreement to include language regarding public records and the newly required E-Verify process.

Ms. Holmes also advised that she was working with Josh Miller to have the ability to potentially transfer ERCs. Such as the case if one customer is under capacity and is adjoining with another customer who is over capacity. Discussion ensued regarding the ERC contract being between the customer and the utility and it is up to the policy of the utility if they would allow that to happen. Ms. Holmes noted that it could mean having to amend Chapter III. Discussion ensued.

Donna Rhoden from the City of Port St. Lucie arrived at the meeting.

**H. District Engineer
DE 1 – Monthly Projects Update**

Mr. Zanganeh indicated that all his updates were included in the report presented in the meeting booklet.

Secretary Ney asked Mr. Hayden if, after his retirement, he would consider a consulting contract, such as the one Mr. Pickle worked under for a short period of time. Mr. Hayden indicated that he would.

**I. District Manager
Action Items**

DM 1 – Consider Auditor Engagement Letter for Fiscal Years 2023 & 2024

Mr. Hayden presented the item, recommending approval.

A **MOTION** was made by Vice Chairman Graci, seconded by Supervisor Haseltine and passed unanimously approving the Auditor Engagement Letter with Grau & Associates for the Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024, as presented.

DM 3 – Consider Piggyback Agreement with Odyssey Manufacturing

Mr. Hayden presented the item and recommended approval.

A **MOTION** was made by Secretary Ney, seconded by Vice Chairman Graci and passed unanimously approving a piggyback agreement with Odyssey Manufacturing for delivery of liquid sodium hypochlorite at the cost of \$1.50 per gallon, as presented.

J. Consent Agenda

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 August, 2023

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

A **MOTION** was made by Vice Chairman Graci, seconded by Supervisor Haseltine approving Consent Agenda items CA 1 through CA 6, as presented. Upon being put to a vote, the **MOTION** carried unanimously.

K. Supervisor Requests

Supervisor Haseltine has nothing further.

Supervisor Mocuta had nothing further.

Secretary Ney opined that climate change was real, referencing New York City being inundated with water and the Mississippi River experiencing saltwater intrusions.

Vice Chairman Graci agreed with Secretary Ney's observations on climate change.

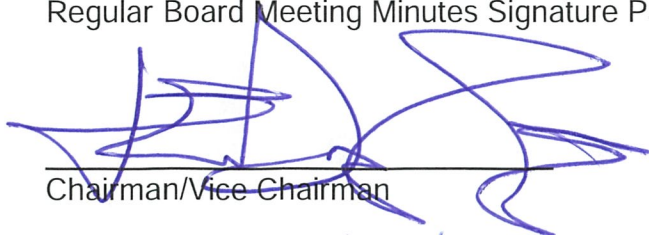
He also thanked Mr. Hayden for providing a copy of the District Manager contract, indicating that it looked good.

Chairman Doughney commended Vice Chairman Graci and his commitment to ensuring that the Presidents' Council continue its tenure benefiting the community by organizing their meetings for the past year.

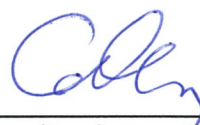
L. Adjournment

There being no further items to be addressed, the Regular Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:21 a.m. by Chairman Doughney. There were no objections.

Regular Board Meeting Minutes Signature Page



Chairman/Vice Chairman



Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Date Approved

11/07/23