

**CEDAR KEY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 309 / 510 THIRD STREET
CEDAR KEY, FL 32625**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Board of Commissioners
September 13, 2021**

Board Members Present: Dottie Haldeman, Joe Hand, Stephen Rosenthal, Leslie Sturmer, Tabitha Lauer.

Others Present: Chad Wisdom, John McPherson, Mandy Offerle, Frank Offerle, Clay Childers, Jan Childers, Jim Wortham.

1. Meeting called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Stephen Rosenthal, Chair.
2. Pledge and Prayer.
3. Adoption of Agenda. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to adopt the agenda as presented. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 5-0.
4. Resolution No: 2021-05.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CEDAR KEY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT;
ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF AD VALOREM TAXES FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2021-2022; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

The resolution was read in full by John McPherson, Attorney. There was general discussion by the Board and a request for public input. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to adopt Resolution 2021-05 as presented. **Second** by Leslie Sturmer. Passed by a vote of 5-0 at 5:10 p.m.

5. Resolution No: 2021-06.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CEDAR KEY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT; ADOPTING
THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022; AND ESTABLISHING AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.

The resolution was read in full by John McPherson, Attorney. There was general discussion by the Board and a request for public input. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to adopt Resolution 2021-05 as presented. **Second** by Leslie Sturmer. Dottie Haldeman asked about whether the 3% increase in salaries was reflected in the other payroll costs. Chad Wisdom stated that they are, and that the payroll costs seem much higher this year because the general manager payroll costs have been moved to this part of the budget. Passed by a vote of 5-0 at 5:17 p.m.

6. Public Input. Public input was requested but none was provided.

7. Approval of Minutes. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of August 9, 2021, as presented. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 5-0.
8. Financial Reports. Budget, Balance Sheet, Checkbook Activity, and Employee Leave reports were presented for review. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to accept the financial reports as presented. **Second** by Leslie Sturmer. Passed by a vote of 5-0.
9. Resolution 2021-03 on Second Reading:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CEDAR KEY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT CHANGING THE FEES CHARGED FOR INITIAL WATER AND WASTEWATER HOOKUPS; PROVIDING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion by Tabitha Lauer to adopt Resolution 2021-03 on second reading as presented. **Second** By Dottie Haldeman. Passed by a vote of 5-0.

10. Resolution 2021-04 on First Reading:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CEDAR KEY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT AMENDING RATES FOR WATER AND SEWER CHARGES; PROVIDING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CODIFIER; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Motion by Dottie Haldeman to adopt Resolution 2021-04 on first reading as presented. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 5-0.

11. General Manager Report.

a. Water Plant.

The GM reported that the District has finished the Actina pilot study, but that the results were disappointing and that there would need to be more analysis of the study before deciding to include this process in the new plant. Joe Hand stated that he had reviewed the report and that Actina had done a good job of softening the water, but not so well at removing TOC. The GM stated that he would send out the Actina report. The GM reported that they were currently getting 3 months out of the GAC, and that cheaper sources of carbon were being explored. Leslie Sturmer asked about the consent order and the GM reported that we were still under it and as such would be required to test quarterly for DBPs until there was an annual average for TTHMs of under 60.

The GM reported that he had met with representative of the cities of Cedar Key, Bronson, Chiefland, and Otter Creek about the possibility of using a well field in Bronson or Chiefland and piping the water to Cedar Key. He reported that the response was positive from all parties and that discussions will continue.

Joe Hand asked where the money would come from for a pipeline. The GM responded that there were a number of possible sources and he is looking into all of them. There was general discussion about the different possibilities for funding in light of specific issues addressed, for example creating greater resilience against sea level rise. Clay Childers suggested the District may need a grant writer. The GM agreed that someone with water

experience may be needed, and John McPherson noted that Mittauer and Associates has functioned as the District's grant writer in the past. Dottie Haldeman raised the question whether we were talking about treated or raw water from Chiefland or Bronson, and the GM responded that it would most likely be raw water that needed very little treatment once it arrived in Cedar Key.

b. Wastewater System.

The GM reported that the District has paid CROM for the initial phase of concrete repair work at the WWTP, which included special coatings to provide for a long-lasting repair. He stated that the lift station refurbishment has been looked at by two separate contractors and that one bid was received at \$59,000 per lift station, and that they are waiting on the second to know where the District stands on that project. The GM stated that he had met with the City of Cedar Key and SERCAP representatives about the possibility of CDBG funding for lift station refurbishment. Dottie Haldeman asked if the lift station work could be done in phases, and the GM answered that this was likely to be the case. The GM stated that there was a possibility of a \$500,000 grant becoming available early next year. Leslie Sturmer asked when the wastewater collection system had been installed and the GM reported that it was in the 1980s.

c. Cell Service. The GM reported that Verizon has started construction on the ground facilities on the water tower site, and that a late September completion date is expected.

d. Covid-19. The GM reported that the District office door has been locked with customers requested to pay outside or call with questions. He also reported that there has been exposure to the virus by employees, but that not all employees were vaccinated even though he had strongly requested that they all do so. Dottie Haldeman suggested that there should be an incentive to encourage all to get vaccinated and asked what that might entail. Tabitha Lauer suggested that perhaps if an employee was vaccinated and got sick with Covid, the employee would not need to use sick leave for the time off. Joe Hand asked the attorney if there were any legal issues with this, and the attorney replied that he thought not so as long as no one was denied use of accrued sick leave for an illness. **Motion** by Tabitha Lauer to implement a policy whereby a vaccinated employee who thereafter contracted Covid would not be required to use accrued sick leave in order to be paid for the sick time off. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 5-0. The Board directed the GM to continue following mask-wearing and separation protocols at the District office.

e. 2021-2022 Budget and TRIM.

The GM reminded the Board that the final budget hearing was on September 27th at 5:01 p.m.

f. Discussion with Consultant from Los Angeles.

The GM reported that he, Joe Hand, and James McCain had a one-hour consultation with the president of the Los Angeles consulting firm of Water Quality and Treatment

Solutions. The consultant listened to the drinking water issues that the District had and suggested that the District hire a good water quality consulting firm to design the water treatment plant. There was general agreement that the GM should continue exploring options for outside drinking water expertise.

Leslie Sturmer asked if all prior pilot tests and results could be compiled and the GM stated that this would be done and provided to all Board members. Sturmer stated that these all needed to be reviewed by a drinking water expert.

Stephen Rosenthal said he had heard of a small coastal town in Texas that had similar problems as the District, and had made a mistake in choice of disinfectants leading to problems with pathogens in the water.

12. Commissioner Comments. None.
13. Public Input. Public input was requested but none was provided.
14. Adjournment: There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.



Stephen B. Rosenthal, Chairperson



Leslie Sturmer, Commissioner &
Secretary of the Board

Date: 9/27/2021