

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

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Board of Commissioners  
April 11, 2022**

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

Other Presents: Chad Wisdom, John McPherson, Alicia Johns, Mandy Offerle, Sue Colson, Jan Childers, Clay Childers, Mac Cox, Heath Davis, Nancy Sera, James Wortham.

1. Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Stephen Rosenthal, Chair.
2. Pledge and Prayer.
3. Swearing in of New Commissioners – Dottie Haldeman, Leslie Sturmer, and Joe Hand.
4. Adoption of Agenda. **Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to adopt the agenda as presented. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote 5-0.
5. Election of Chair and Secretary. **Motion** by Leslie Sturmer to nominate by Dottie Haldeman as the new Chair. **Motion** by Stephen Rosenthal to nominate himself as Chair. A discussion as to how to proceed since we had two chair nominees, it was decided that a vote was needed. The Board voted with a 4-1 vote for Dottie Haldeman. Stephen then made a **Motion** for Dottie Haldeman to become the Chair by consent. **Motion** Dottie Haldeman to make Leslie Sturmer the Secretary. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 5-0.
6. Approval of Minutes. **Motion** by Tabitha Lauer to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on March 14, 2022. **Second** by Stephen Rosenthal. Passed by a vote of 5-0.
7. Financial Reports. Balance Sheet, Budget Report, Checkbook Activity, Past Due Accounts Report, Employee Leave reports were presented for review. **Motion** made by Leslie Sturmer to accept the financial reports as presented. **Second** by Joe Hand. Leslie ask about account 350 on the Profit Loss Report if the American Rescue Act funds were applied to that account and Chad replied with a yes. Leslie was also concerned with not having a line item for those funds in the budget. John told the Board that he would have to investigate further into what needed to be done to amend the budget since we were adding funds instead of moving funds and present that information at the next board meeting. Passed by a vote 5-0.

8. Bill Adjustment Request. **Motion** by Tabitha Lauer to accept the bill adjustment request for Hal Hodges. **Second** by Stephen Rosenthal. Chad explained that Hal had been having some work done in his yard and the workers had hooked his well line that he uses for irrigation into his home water line which caused his water bill to be high. Passed by a vote 5-0.

Leslie ask Alicia about the Faraway Inn account on the past due report. Alicia responded by letting her and the Board know that she has reached out to the new owner to let him know that she needed new ACH account information because what she has is either the wrong information given by the new owner or she has written it down wrong.

9. General Manager Report.

- a. *Water Plant.*

The GM let the Board know that we are continuing to look at modernizing the Water Plant. He stated that Stephen had signed the new task report that had been rewrote by Chad and a lady from DEP to use the last of the \$67,000 of the previous grant to update the MIEX. Chad has received notice of approval so he has moved forward with ordering two new totes of resin, three new pumps, and a compressor with those funds that will all be reimbursed and the MIEX will be fully refurbished.

Chad told the Board about the SRWA meeting on April 4, 2022. He explained that the meeting was basically them repeating the same as when he and James went to their Board meeting. Chad also expressed his apologies for not inviting any of the Board members, but he thought it was only an informational meeting. Chad, John, and Board discussed what needed to be done if and when this happened again if Board members were to be notified and wanted to attend what needed to be done so that none of the Sunshine Laws were broken. Leslie ask that the Board be notified for future meetings so that if Board members wanted to attend the meetings, we had plenty of time to post the information. Chad gave a brief overview of the meeting from the minutes of the meeting that was sent to him. Joe ask if there would be an official sit-down meeting about the pipeline.

Chad informed the Board that we are now yearly on the TTHM's testing.

- b. *Wastewater System*

The House Bill 9155 and Senate Bill 1586 has passed and is waiting on the Governor's signature.

Chad reported that CROM is onsite and ahead of schedule.

c. *COVID-19.*

Sue Colson ask why there has not been any testing done in a few weeks. Chad replied that we have had no employee COVID cases, but that COVID samples were still being taken to UF.

d. *Election.*

Chad congratulated all of the re-elected Board members on their re-election.

Chad let the Board know that he would be leaving due to family illness issues. Leslie proposed to start advertising for a new General Manager.

10. Attorney Report.

John reported on the applicants for legal counsel. John told the Board that they could go forth with interviewing candidates for the position. He also told the Board that they did not have to interview all they could rank the candidates by qualifications and ask the top ranked candidate to come a give a presentation. Joe ask John if he thought our location from candidates would be a problem. John stated that for some it might be a problem, but he also stated that he has traveled for Local Government meetings. Joe ask if John would be making a recommendation and he said that with location and background one candidate did stand out to him but he did not give the name of candidate. Stephen ask if they could have a committee to interview candidates and report back to the Board. John replied that they could do that but it would have to be a public meeting and need to be advertised for each, so there would be no advantage to doing it that way. Tabitha was concerned with the quickness in which the Board was moving with interviewing Legal Counsel. Leslie proposed the Board invite Carole Barice. Leslie was very impressed with her qualifications. Dottie and Joe agreed with Leslie. Dottie made a point to state that more applications could come in and that the Board was not hiring anyone at this time. Carole's availability to come to a meeting was discussed due to her availability dates. Joe ask about salary and John said that they would not be considered an employee so they would not be under a salary, but the Board could start with what he is being paid under his contract as a starting point. Chad ask the Board for a date for Special Meeting to invite the candidate. Tabitha again voiced her opinion on the quickness of the interview process for Legal Council and did not want to mislead the candidate in thinking she would be hired after interview. John advised Board to make sure that the candidate knows that this is just an information gathering interview and not a hire interview it would be a good idea to start the process. **Motion** made by Stephen Rosenthal to invite Carole Barice for an interview. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 5-0.

## 11. Commissioner Comments.

Leslie told the Board about an email from Tom Ankerson from the Conservation Clinic with the Law School at UF and has done a lot of work for the City of Cedar Key, and he sent her information on the Resiliency Legislation for Sea Level Rise has a substantial funding program and that independent Special Districts like ours are not included in that funding and he had his students do a policy paper and it ended in this session with the Legislation being modified to include Special Districts. Leslie stated that it could possibly be another funding source in the future.

Joe was concerned that we have been trying to find a way to treat our water and now we are focusing on the possibility of a pipeline and would like to know where we go from here as far as looking for funding and is a bit concerned where to go from here on out. Dottie stated that without having the results of the feasibility study we do not really know which way to go as far as the pipeline. Sue Colson stated her opinion that going forward at least one of the Board members should be creating a rapport with the other cities or groups like the SRWMD that will be helped with the pipeline. Clay Childers agreed with Sue Colson and he wanted to know which would be best for our community without losing control of our Water District. Mr. Childers also wanted to know what was being done and what was going to be done to our current Water Plant while we are waiting on the study for the pipeline. James Wortham commented on having a common goal with getting good water quality to not only our community but to the surrounding communities as well, would look very good to the people giving out the grants and funding. Sue Colson stated that there are other groups that would love to be a part of fight for the pipeline as it would benefit them too. Chad brought up the reason he was for the pipeline was because after our jar and chemistry test the results were that we did not have to treat the water other than chlorine injection at the point of entry and it would benefit the whole Waccasassa area. Sue also wanted to know who was going to be an Ambassador for the Water District going forward. Dottie said she would be willing to be and Ambassador for the District going forward. Leslie stated that all of the Board members would like to be involved as well.

Dottie thanked the community for allowing her to be a part of the Board for another two years.

Leslie ask Chad if we had the Mittauer feasibility study for the new water plant, and he replied with a yes.

Dottie ask Sue if she could give her some of the contacts, she has that she might need to reach out too.

Mandy Offerle suggested that each Commissioner adopt a mayor or group to reach out to and keep in contact with.

12. Public Input.

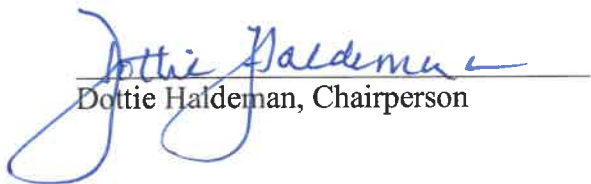
Congratulations was given to the Board Members who were re-elected.

Discussion on a new build application for a property that had a sewer connection already on the property. The connection was already there because when the city was redoing the roads in the City it made sense to go ahead and put in the lateral connection so that when some one bought the property the road would not have to be torn up to put in the sewer connection. **Motion** by Tabitha Lauer to have customer pay the sewer connection fee. **Second** by Dottie Haldeman. Passed with a vote of 4-1.

Joe wanted to make sure that the reason we are charging the \$2500 is because of the labor materials it costs to install the sewer lateral. Stephen wanted to know when the lateral was put in? Heath stated that the reason for going ahead with putting in the lateral was to keep from tearing up the new roads. Stephen stated that he did not think it was fair to charge the person for work that had already been done. Tabitha stated that we needed to keep with the policy of charging the sewer connection fee of \$2500 to all new home builders.

Mandy Offerle ask about the survey the office sent to all customers asking for comments on water quality. Dottie provided Mandy with copies of the surveys the District has received so far. Chad replied by saying that we have received good and bad comments.

13. Adjournment: There being no more business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

  
Dottie Haldeman, Chairperson

  
Leslie Sturmer, Commissioner &  
Secretary of the Board