

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

**Minutes of Special Meeting  
Board of Commissioners  
January 27, 2021**

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

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

1. Meeting called to order at 6:00 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 4-0.
4. Consideration of application of Chad Wisdom for position of general manager.
  - John McPherson reviewed the history of his tenure as general manager and the circumstances under which he went from being the attorney for the District, to also being the general manager, i.e., the untimely passing away of the previous general manager. He expressed the opinion that for the future of the District, the general manager should be someone with their operator licenses which he does not have, but which Mr. Wisdom would be willing to get. He briefly noted Mr. Wisdom's background, and went over the two references he had checked who gave very positive reviews of Mr. Wisdom's performance at his last two jobs. He then went over the changes that could be made to the budget for this fiscal year that would allow the hiring of a full-time general manager at the requested annual salary level of \$70,000, pro-rated for the remainder of this fiscal year.
  - Mr. Wisdom spoke about his past experience and his strong desire to live in Cedar Key and take on the position of general manager. He stated that he had had his water and wastewater operator licenses from the State of Missouri, and that he was anxious to get both licenses in Florida.
  - James McCain expressed his support for the hiring of Mr. Wisdom.
  - Mandy Offerle asked for clarification about Mr. Wisdom's professional career which Mr. Wisdom provided.
  - Jim Wortham expressed the opinion that someone with Mr. Wisdom's background would be helpful as the District moved ahead with building a new water treatment plant.
  - Clay Childers expressed support for the hiring of Mr. Wisdom.
  - The members of the Board engaged in a back and forth with the general manager and Mr. Wisdom about his qualifications and the impact on the District's budget and rates.

**Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to hire Chad Wisdom as General Manager to start on February 1, 2021, at the requested starting salary of \$70,000, with standard benefits. **Second** by Leslie Sturmer. There was discussion as to whether an employment contract was needed, and the general manager was asked to bring back a draft contract at the next meeting. Passed by a vote of 4-0.

**Motion** by Dottie Haldeman to pay John McPherson at his usual manager/attorney contract rate for the month of February while he works with Mr. Wisdom on the transition, and to retain John McPherson thereafter as the attorney for the District at his original monthly legal services rate. **Second** by Leslie Sturmer. Passed by a vote of 4-0.

5. Public Input. There were expressions of appreciation to James McCain and his crew for the excellent work they have done and continue to do for the District and community.
6. Commissioner Comments: Commissioner Haldeman asked about the Covid wastewater testing and the general manager stated that the sampling and testing is continuing on a weekly basis and that he would send the latest report from UF to the Commissioners.
7. General Update: The general manager reported to the Board that about two weeks ago the water system had started experiencing serious losses of water indicating a leak in the system. He described the difficulty in finding the leak, but that with diligence and hard work James and his crew had finally found a broken pipe at the end of west Eastpoint Drive. He stated that this leak had delayed the start of the second round of GAC test, but that such test was initiated on January 25 and was going well so far. He noted that the quarterly DBP notice was going out on January 29, and that the next quarterly DBP testing would take place during the first week of February.
8. Adjournment: There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

  
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Stephen B. Rosenthal, Chairperson

  
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Leslie Sturmer, Commissioner &  
Secretary of the Board

Date: 3/8/21