

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

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Board of Commissioners  
July 12, 2021**

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

Others Present: Chad Wisdom, John McPherson, James McCain, Mandy Offerle, Clay Childers, Jan Childers.

1. Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Stephen Rosenthal, Chair.
2. Pledge and Prayer.
3. Adoption of Agenda. **Motion** by Joe Hand to adopt the agenda as presented. **Second** by Leslie Sturmer. Passed by a vote of 4-0.
4. Approval of Minutes. **Motion** by Tabitha Lauer to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of June 14, 2021, as presented. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 4-0.
5. Financial Reports. Budget, Balance Sheet, Checkbook Activity, and Employee Leave reports were presented for review. **Motion** by Tabitha Lauer to accept the financial reports as presented. **Second** by Leslie Sturmer. Passed by a vote of 4-0.
6. Public Input.
  - James McCain asked about late bills and whether there were write-offs of unpaid bills. The General Manager reported that there have been no write-offs over the past few years, but there are some customers that habitually pay late. There was discussion about the procedures to be followed when bills are not paid on time, and the Board's attorney explained that there was a procedure in the resolutions that is required to be followed under judicial due process decisions.
  - James McCain stated that there need to by pay raise incentives for Gabe Doty to encourage him to get his water and wastewater licenses.
  - Mandy Offerle asked for an update on the Verizon cell phone antennas on the water tower. The General Manager reported that construction of the ground facilities was under way.
7. Bill Adjustment: David and Rachel McCumbers, and Ken Edmunds, for adjustments to sewer charges. **Motion** by Leslie Sturmer to approve both bill adjustment requests as meeting the requirements for an adjustment. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 4-0.

8. Commissioner Comments: Tabitha Lauer asked about applications for new service and why they were not being submitted to the City for review as required by the District's resolutions. John McPherson explained that he thought the practice had been dropped when there were not longer any capacity issues regarding water and wastewater so long as the City did not substantially change the land use density in the City. After discussion, it was concluded that the District should go back to checking with the City about the allowable use on a property before an application for water or wastewater services is approved by the District. Staff was also reminded to come back with revised connection fees to better reflect actual costs.

9. General Manager Report.

*a. Water Plant.*

The GM reported that the District has finished the Actina pilot study and are moving forward with planning with Mittauer on the new water plant. He noted that due to the age of the plant, the District is seeing higher costs on maintaining our current water treatment plant, and that an additional pilot study proposed by Mittauer has been started to prove a new replacement of part of our system that can be done while we continue to run.

The GM reported that he had been approached by Heath Davis and Sue Colson about taking another look at the option of purchasing water from Chiefland and piping here via Otter Creek, servicing both communities. He reported that Davis and Colson have been in contact with Suwanee River Water Management District and have been given the impression that, even though it was rejected previously, there would be a more receptive audience this time around. The GM expressed the opinion that this idea should be least investigated before the District moves ahead with a 12 million dollar new plant. He said he would meet with the Mayors of the towns involved and start this discussion, if the board is willing to indulge this option.

Chair Rosenthal expressed strong opposition to the idea of city commissioners talking to staff first about issues like getting water from Chiefland. He said that it had taken such a long time to get to where we could build a new water plant, and it was frustrating to have new and very expensive ideas pop up at the last minute. He stated that such issues should be brought to the Board first. There was general discussion about the proper procedure for interested parties to bring ideas forward for consideration by the District.

Clay Childers noted that if raw water were brought from Chiefland, there would still need to be a new treatment plant in Cedar Key. Joe Hand stated that he felt that the cost of treatment would be much less if the raw water from Chiefland was better than what we get from local wells. James McCain and the GM stated that they would be visiting the Chiefland plant to see if getting treated water could be an option.

**Motion** by Tabitha Lauer to direct staff to look into the possibility of bringing water from Chiefland for use in Cedar Key. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 4-0.

Chair Rosenthal asked about how the payroll increases were determined; the GM explained how he arrived at the numbers.

**Motion** by Leslie Sturmer to adopt keep the millage rate the same, i.e., 1.2 mils, for purpose of the TRIM notice, and to approve the following meeting times and dates: 5:01 p.m., September 13, 2021, for the Tentative Budget Hearing; and 5:01 p.m., September 27, 2021, for the Final Budget Hearing. **Second** by Joe Hand. Passed by a vote of 4-0.

10. Commissioner Comments.


Tabitha Lauer reported that she spend the day with James McCain and was impressed by his knowledge of the system and ability to keep it running properly. She also asked if staff was going to conferences to keep up with latest developments. James state that he would check into going to the FRWA conference which is the best for the District. There was also discussion about working with legislators to get support for the District's needs, and the GM stated that he would make contact with our local legislators.

Joe Hand asked about preparing for Elsa and any impacts the storm had. The GM reported that staff worked very hard to get ready, and decided to keep the water on because no evacuation was ordered. He reported flooding of the main lift station but was handled by a slow draw-down and treatment.

11. Public Input. Public input was requested, but none was provided.

12. Adjournment: There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen B. Rosenthal, Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Sturmer, Commissioner &  
Secretary of the Board

Date: 9/27/2021