

St. Lucie West Services District

Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.

Sunlight Community Church

477 S.W. Cashmere Boulevard, Port St. Lucie, Florida 34986

(Please note: This is not verbatim, a CD recording of the board meeting is available on file)

Board Members Present

Charles B. Altwein, Chairman

Everett Child, Vice-Chairman

Sal Mancuso, Supervisor

Harvey Cutler, Supervisor

George Hyde, Supervisor

Staff Present

John Imperato, District Manager, St. Lucie West Services District ("SLWSD")

Dan Harrell, District Attorney, Law Office of Gonano & Harrell

Bob Lawson, District Engineer, ARCADIS G&M

Bill Hayden, Public Works Director/ Assistant District Manager, SLWSD

Dennis Pickle, Utility Director/Assistant District Manager, SLWSD

Maddie Maldonado, Administrative Assistant, SLWSD

Guests Present

(See Sign-In Sheet Attached)

I - Call to Order

II - Pledge of Allegiance

III - Invocation

IV - Roll Call

V - Public Hearing

Public Hearing for Levying a Non Ad Valorem (Special) Assessment

Chairman Altwein opened the public hearing for comments.

Rosemary Collin addressed the Board and requested clarification on the "Cascades only" noted in the advertisement, and asked if the assessment is for the Cascades only or for all of St. Lucie West. John Imperato stated that for those who live in the Cascades, they pay a bond for infrastructure that was built in that community. In some communities the builder included this amount in the cost to build the home; however, the Cascades builder chose to add it as a non ad valorem tax.

Diane Goldberg addressed the Board and commented on all the good work and efforts that John Imperato and staff performed during the storm, as well as the District's plans for improvement. She also stated that she agrees with any increases to better help the community. Mr. Imperato thanked

Ms. Goldberg for her comments and noted that Mr. Hayden did a superb job. Mr. Imperato thanked all District staff. Chairman Altwein agreed with Mr. Imperato's comments.

Adoption of Resolution 2008-06 to Levy a Non Ad Valorem Assessment for Water Management Bonds, Operations and Maintenance costs, and the Series 1998 Capital Improvement Revenue Bonds (Cascades project) within the St. Lucie West Services District for the period of October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009

Hearing no other comments, the Chairman closed the public hearing and called for a motion on Resolution 2008-06.

Supervisor Cutler motioned to adopt Resolution 2008-06. Supervisor Hyde seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Public Hearing to Consider Adoption of Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget

Chairman Altwein opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

Adoption of Resolution 2008-08, of the St. Lucie West Services District Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2009 for the District; providing authority for the District Manager to expend funds on behalf of the District; providing for applicability and effective date

Chairman Altwein called for a motion on Resolution 2008-08. Supervisor Cutler commented that there has been a tremendous amount of work and effort put in by staff and the Board on the budget.

Supervisor Cutler motioned to adopt Resolution 2008-08. Vice-Chairman Child seconded the motion. Supervisor Mancuso commented that he is baffled as to why the operating Water & Sewer Fund and General Fund for FY 09 is less than FY 08; also the budget does not included wages for personnel and the Special Counsel fees are extremely high. Supervisor Mancuso suggested that at a later time the District may want to go back into the budget to make adjustments. Mr. Imperato stated that there is a salary allocation and it's pretty much the same as last year due to the elimination of the Office Manager position and a full time position going from full time to part time. In regards to the Special Counsel, Mr. Imperato stated that the Teamsters have the opportunity to contest the election and staff funded this such that if the Teamsters still exist this fiscal year it will be funded. Supervisor Mancuso commented that the Board has not received any correspondence from the Special Counsel regarding what is going on, which he sees as a management problem. Chairman Altwein stated that the management problems were with prior management not current management. Supervisor Cutler stated that he is delighted at the labor relations that are taking place at the District now, under Mr. Imperato. Vice-Chairman Child was concerned as to why Section 2g regarding the authorization of the District Manager and District Treasurer to expend funds is included in the resolution. Mr. Harrell commented that this resolution does not change the policy on expending District's funds. **Approved 5-0.**

VI - Public Comments

Mary Ellen McGarry commented that the most important asset of any company is the employees and congratulated Mr. Imperato, Mr. Hayden and Mr. Pickle and some of the Board members for putting together the management team. In regards to the flooding of Tropical Storm Fay, Ms. McGarry commented that it was a minor inconvenience for the residents; however the phone calls made by the District, as well as the efforts of the District were appreciated. Ms. McGarry also

commented that the meetings the District hold with the Homeowners Associations are effective to prevent the flooding in the future.

Sue Snyder addressed the Board and commented that she agrees with comments made by Ms. Goldberg and Ms. McGarry.

Lyle Finn addressed the Board and thanked Mr. Imperato and staff for their hard work during Tropical Storm Fay. Mr. Finn stated that during that time he thinks that some things surfaced and is aware that Mr. Imperato will be leading a meeting this afternoon. Mr. Finn asked Mr. Imperato what he hopes to accomplish at the meeting. Discussion ensued; Mr. Imperato explained the draining process during flooding situations and proposals he will be making at the engineers meeting today. Mr. Imperato stated that at the meeting he will be discussing what can be done to drain the I-95 corridor either north or south and what can be done for the District to have more capacity and better flow.

VII - District Attorney

Mr. Harrell stated that he has no items; however must leave the meeting early today and requested that the District Manager's items that require his presence be addressed. The Board agreed.

Mr. Imperato commented that included in the agenda is information regarding the utility easements and tree removal. Mr. Imperato noted that it is for information purposes only and requested for the Board to review the document as there will be a public hearing in the future, and requested any questions or concerns be forwarded to him to provide to Mr. Harrell. Discussion ensued. Mr. Harrell commented that the Homeowner and the District have co-existing rights on the easements that can not interfere with each other.

Approval to advertise for a public hearing to amend Chapter III of the Rules of St. Lucie West Services District related to its Water and Wastewater Connection Fees and charges

Mr. Pickle stated that this item was submitted to the Board a month ago for review and comments. Mr. Pickle noted that a few adjustments and revisions were made per Rob Ori and CPH Engineers. Mr. Pickle requested the Board's approval to hold a public hearing to adopt an amendment to the District's Rules of Chapter 3 at the October 21st meeting.

Vice-Chairman Child motioned to approve set and advertise for a public hearing on October 21, 2008 to amend Chapter III of the Rules of St. Lucie West Services District related to its Water and Wastewater Connection Fees and charges. Supervisor Cutler seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

VIII - District Engineer

IX - District Manager

Approval of the Environmental Impairment Liability Insurance

Mr. Imperato stated that this item was brought to the Board at the last meeting. Mr. Imperato stated that Mr. Hayden and Mr. Pickle reviewed this item for more cost effective coverage.

Mr. Pickle stated that the changes made to the coverage was from \$5 million and \$10 million coverage to \$4 million and \$2 million coverage, as the higher was set up for much larger organizations. Mr. Pickle noted that the additional changes are that the coverage includes terrorism coverage per the Board's request and there is a 5-year term versus a 3-year term which came out

to 12% less than what it was three years ago. Mr. Pickle noted that the company is an A-rated firm and the policy covers all the lift stations as well as 100 miles of gravity sewer pipe.

Vice-Chairman Child motioned to approve the renewal of the Environmental Impairment Liability Insurance. Supervisor Mancuso seconded the motion. Discussion ensued on the policy coverage. **Approved 5-0.**

Approval of Work Authorization No. SLWSD-ICI-0803 Lift Station SCADA/Telemetry Construction Management and Software Services; Project No. SW006

Mr. Pickle stated that this is a project for the lift station SCADA System, the radio telemetry installation at the 54 lift stations for ICI to do the graphics. Mr. Pickle stated that bids were received for the installation of the radio telemetry at a future meeting. Mr. Pickle noted that a not-to-exceed amount was included as there are some unknowns.

Supervisor Mancuso motioned to approve Work Authorization No. SLWSD-ICI-0803. Vice-Chairman Child seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Chairman Altwein called a recess at 10:26 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:37 a.m.

Mr. Imperato addressed the Board and announced Jeremy Aston, reporter from the PSL News and complemented him for doing a very fair and effective job on reporting the flood from Tropical Storm Fay.

Approval of August 2008 billing for District Manager

Mr. Imperato presented the invoice for District Management Services for the month of August 2008. Mr. Imperato commented that it is the largest bill he has submitted, due to long hours spent during the storm.

Supervisor Mancuso motioned to approve the District Manager's invoice for August 2008. Supervisor Hyde seconded the motion. Supervisor Mancuso stated for the record that he has reason to believe that the District owes Mr. Imperato \$500 and advised that he would provide further information to Mr. Imperato if he would like. Supervisor Mancuso commented that he appreciates the work that Mr. Imperato has done and noted that he was the first to approve the District Manager's bill when he first submitted. Supervisor Cutler commented that the Board is grateful for the job that Mr. Imperato has done and does not think that the employees would have voted the Union out if it wasn't for the good environment he has created as far as employee relations is concerned. Supervisor Cutler stated that the District would save approximately \$60,000 without the Union and that would have not happened without Mr. Imperato. **Approved 5-0.**

Other Items/Updates

Mr. Imperato stated that he has discussed the idea of providing laptops to the Board Supervisors to offset approximately \$7500 in printing cost. Mr. Imperato asked the Board if they had any objections to this. Chairman Altwein stated that he would agree. There were no objections from the Board. Mr. Imperato stated that there would be some rules, such as no access to the internet due to viruses; it would be District property and not to be used for personal business. Mr. Imperato stated that he would like to start this at the time the new Board member starts after November.

Mr. Imperato distributed to the board a proposed performance evaluation sheet for District Employees for their review and advised that he will be providing the sheet to the Labor Counsel for their review.

Mr. Imperato noted that he has included for information purposes the meeting minutes from the City of Port St. Lucie Special Meeting on August 25th regarding the flooding that occurred from Tropical Storm Fay.

Mr. Imperato stated that he included information on the Hydro4000, which is the device that was discussed with Sherriff Mascara. Mr. Imperato stated that in the Sherriff's manners of use, the Hydro4000 had no benefits. Mr. Imperato commented that he saw a documentary report on the process of taking water and converting water through electrolysis; however, it was a little unpractical; but he continues to look into process improvements for the District.

Mr. Imperato stated that on the back of the most recent utility bills there is a request for anyone who did not receive a phone call regarding Tropical Storm Fay, to contact the District and update their phone number. Mr. Imperato stated that the District contacted approximately 75% of the community advising them what to do during a hurricane. The District didn't have the correct phone numbers in the database for the remaining 25% of the community. Mr. Imperato stated that the District continues to work on communications with the community; noting that staff is communicating to residents to clear any bushes from the water meters so that there is access to read them.

Deleted: Mr. Imperato reported that there was flooding on Cashmere Boulevard; it appears that there was a flow from a storm drain on Cashmere into a manhole cover and another that went to Lake Forest. Mr. Imperato showed the Board a picture of a seal that was placed, which is a practice so that flood water would go away.¶

Mr. Imperato stated that Lake Forest has an Emergency Readiness Community and noted that the district has been in communications also via email with the Homeowners Associations email distribution list. Discussion ensued. Ms. Snyder stated that a communication was sent out and the Cascades HOA did not distribute the information, as the President didn't think that the responsibility lied with the HOA as it should be the responsibility of the District to advise their customers. Ms. Snyder stated that Mr. Imperato had a meeting with the Cascades last night and believes that the HOAs should understand that it's their responsibility to ensure communication with the residents. Mr. Imperato stated that he can encourage but not mandate the HOAs communications with the residents. Mr. Imperato stated that there is a need for an emergency means for communications and he will reiterate the importance of this; however it is something that the HOA would opt to do.

X - Supervisors' Requests

Vice-Chairman Child stated that he is all for the laptop computers; however asked what is done about any subsequent Supervisors are not computer literate and do not wish to become computer literate and also will the information continue to be available to the public. Mr. Imperato stated that the public would still receive the information as they are currently. Mr. Imperato stated that for the Supervisors the agenda would be very simple and not be a challenge for any Supervisor. Mr. Imperato stated that he believes it would be no more than a 15-minute training session if needed and believes it's a worth while to move forward with technology.

Vice-Chairman Child requested an update regarding the Country Club Estates matter with the homeowner and asked if there was any response from the homeowner's attorney. Mr. Imperato stated that there has been no further response. Ms. Rottinghaus agreed with Mr. Imperato. Mr. Lawson commented that he believes Mr. Harrell stated during a staff meeting that he will be following up with a phone call to the attorney regarding this matter.

XI - Minutes

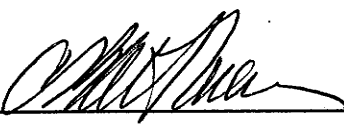
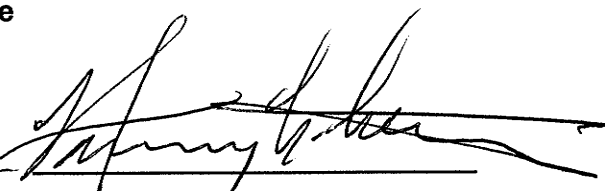
Approval of the Minutes of the August 19, 2008 Regular Meeting

Vice-Chairman Child motioned to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2008 regular meeting as amended. Supervisor Cutler seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

XII - Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chairman Altwein adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Meeting Minutes Signature Page

	
_____ Chairman / Vice-Chairman	_____ Secretary / Assistant Secretary

Date Approved 9/23/08

St. Lucie West Services District

Guest Sign - In Sheet

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

****PLEASE PRINT****

Name & Company

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Phone

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10.	Steve Cahn Lake -		
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