

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
ENGLEWOOD WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
201 SELMA AVENUE
MARCH 5, 2015 @ 8:30 A.M.**

Board of Supervisors:

Steven Samuels, Chair
Eric Fogo, Vice-Chair
Sydney B. Crampton
Phyllis Wright
Taylor Meals

Staff:

Michael J. Ray, Administrator
Robert Berntsson, District Counsel
Pat Zoeller P.E., Technical/Operations Support Manager
Sonia R. Zoeller, Finance Director
Roger K. Quick, Water Operations Manager
Teresa L. Herzog, Board Secretary

1. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a roll call to establish a quorum.
2. ANNOUNCEMENTS – None
3. SERVICE AWARDS – with thanks and gratitude for such long time employees, Chair Samuels presented the following awards: Utility Billing Clerk Ruthann Gray with a 10 year award, Water Plant Operator B licensed Mike Wise with a 30 year award, GIS Technician Carlos Core and Water Plant Lead Operator Tim Garland both with 25 year awards.
4. PUBLIC INPUT
 1. Egan Tancre – 6031 Osprey Road, Mr. Tancre began by stating his concerns, among them were; law 204439 not being followed, public meeting rules not being followed, EWD turning from a non-profit to a maximizing revenue, sewers going in with no environmental study and public hearing rules not being followed. He added that he regrets the loss of freedom of choice, then defined the word utility. He felt that if the attitude of the board can't be changed, then the only thing that remains is to look for a new board. He then described his experience with obtaining water service from EWD and the process Sarasota County uses to collect taxes. He continued by saying that there is not enough money at this time to hire a lawyer but after the damages are done, it is possible to get a civil law grand jury to sue for damages being done by human law. He concluded by stating the sewer technology used by EWD stinks and referenced a survey done by the Civic Association.
 2. Margaret Diefonderfer - 391 Porpoise Road, Ms. Diefonderfer who is not in the V9-C area, but is a member of the government affairs committee for the South Venice Civic Association detailed a survey taken to the people who live in the affected area. Of the 400+ (corrected by Mr. Tancre to be 375) property owners, 136 people were reached. Of the 136 responses received, 8 were in favor, 9 were undecided and 119 opposed the project. In conclusion she asked the Board to reconsider the sewer project that is mostly opposed and a substantial cost to the home owners.
 3. Mary Balint - 6041 Diana Road, Ms. Balint expressed her anger and questioned EWD's rights to own their homes through force taxes, liens and debt. She asked how home owners in Japanese Gardens were able to get out of it, described the demographics of her neighborhood and the state of the economy. She added that when water was provided in her area, she recalled nothing was mentioned about sewers. In conclusion she stated her opposition to the project.
 4. Agnes Rodgers 5950 Diana Road, Ms. Rodgers addressed two issues. Her disclosure statement from 2002 revealed nothing about sewers, only septic, she was unaware of this potential project and its cost. Additionally she asked if a study had been done to prove sewers are necessary at this time.
 5. Kathy Bolam- 131 Flamingo Road, Ms. Bolam who is not in the V9-C area, but is on the board of the South Venice Civic Association and is part of the governmental affairs committee, stated that most people in

the area were unaware of the proposed project and were not asked if they wanted sewers, they were told they were coming and were going to have to pay for them adding that it hasn't been proven that sewers are a necessity. She asked that the Board, elected by the people, represent the people, rather than use the Enabling Act of 2004 to proceed with the sewerage project. She distributed a document that detailed the population in the 34293 zip code and suggested that the project be delayed for five years.

5. CONSENT SECTION – Chair Samuels called for removal of either and/or both items on the consent agenda. Hearing no objections, he called for a motion.

Mr. Fogo moved, “to approve,” seconded by Ms. Crampton.

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting dated February 5, 2015
- b. Attorney's Invoice dated February 17, 2015

15-03-05 CS A
15-03-05 CS B

Unanimous

6. ACTION ITEM

a. Stonegate Bank Signature Cards – Mr. Ray stated that new signature cards are necessary since Florida Shores Bank became Stonegate Bank and also there was a need to remove/add signers due to retirement.

Mr. Fogo moved, “to approve agenda item 6a as presented for Stonegate Bank,” second by Mr. Meals.

Unanimous

15-03-05 A

Full motion read: to make the following revisions to the Operating, Medical Reimbursement, and Pension Checking Accounts:

<u>Operating Account</u>	<u>Medical Reimbursement Account</u>	<u>Pension Account</u>
Remove: Susan Franklin	Remove: Susan Franklin	Remove: Susan Franklin
Jarl Linden	Jarl Linden	Jarl Linden
Sonia Zoeller	Steve Samuels	Steve Samuels
Taylor Meals (declined)	Taylor Meals (declined)	Taylor Meals (declined)
Keep: Mike Ray	Keep: Mike Ray	Keep: Mike Ray
Steve Samuels	Sonia Zoeller	Sonia Zoeller
Add: Cynthia Draine	Add: Cynthia Draine	Add: Cynthia Draine
Roger Quick	Roger Quick	Roger Quick
Patrick Zoeller		
Phyllis Wright		
Sydney Crampton		
Eric Fogo		

b. Administrator's Review - Chair Samuels opened the discussion and requested each board member read their review. Each read their statement with positive remarks for Mr. Ray and had the following recommendations; Mr. Meals suggested, a 4 to 5 percent increase, Ms. Crampton suggested to support the recommendation by the chairman and the rest of the board, Mr. Fogo suggested an increase in compensation be strongly considered, Ms. Wright suggested a pay increase determined by the board, and Chair Samuels suggested a \$4,500 increase.

Short discussion ensued, with a motion made.

Mr. Fogo moved, “to give Mr. Ray a \$4,500 pay increase for a job well done,” seconded by Ms. Wright.

Unanimous

15-03-05 B

Mr. Ray thanked the board for their comments, support and also commended staff for jobs well done.

7. DISCUSSION ITEM

a. Credit Card Processing Fees – over the phone with a customer service representative. Ms. Zoeller began the discussion by outlining the number of calls (608 a week) and the average amount of time for each call (15 minutes) to take over the phone credit card payments. A \$3.95 per transaction fee was suggested as a way to reduce the amount of time customer service representatives spend taking credit card payments over the phone. Additionally it may encourage customers to use other options such as bank draft, on-line bill pay, mailed payments and hand delivered payments. If this fee is considered, a public hearing would be required. Also, there are a few housekeeping items in the Customer Rules and Regulations that could be taken care of at that time. Mr. Ray added that there is software available for a much higher cost to add a 5th option for customers to pay their bills.

Board discussion ensued to include how customers would be informed of the processing fee, why people use over the phone credit card payment option, the fees charged to the District for taking credit cards, (it was suggested that a 3% fee for taking credit cards as a form of payment be charged to off-set the cost to the District), and the potential of additional customers making hand delivered payments. Board decision was to table the item until a future meeting.

8. ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – Michael J. Ray

1. DISTRIBUTION FOREMAN – Wayne Kershanick

- a. Crews have been replacing old services.
- b. A walk-thru at Boca Royale was conducted resulting in a minor punch list, which has been addressed.
- c. Park Forest passed their pressure test and are awaiting bac t’s before a walk-thru is scheduled.
- d. New meters installation, valve and hydrant maintenance are ongoing.

a. WATER OPERATIONS MANAGER – Roger R. Quick

- 1. Production is averaging 2.9 MGD.
- 2. Staff has been working with Kevin Dorsey on the injection well annual report, which has been submitted electronically to DEP, no issues are expected.
- 3. The MIT test will be performed next week for 2 days, no issues are expected.
- 4. Staff has also been preparing to take the U.C.M.R. 3 samples, this is the 3rd leg of this sampling that we are doing for EPA it’s testing for V.O.C.s, hormones and viruses.
- 5. We had an EPA Risk Management Plan inspection, it went well, with a few good suggestions made on how to do some things more efficiently. No write ups were issued.

b. TECHNICAL/OPERATIONS SUPPORT MANAGER – Pat Zoeller, P.E. Mr. Zoeller verbally updated his written report.

- 1. Winchester South Project – Because a signal pole will be required, Zep Construction will be relocating our watermain.
- 2. Villages of Manasota Beach – a meeting has been scheduled later this morning with BMG, our attorney and staff to review the agreement and required attachments.
- 3. Japanese Gardens – once the sewer system is installed in the V9-C area, they will have access to hook-up and do away with their package plant. Contact was attempted with no return phone call at this time.
- 4. EWD Warehouse – the surveying is complete; scrub jay and gopher turtle surveys are necessary to proceed.
- 5. V9-C Vacuum Sewer - several calls from people in the area both for and against the project. Surveying is 90% complete, we’ve been working with one area that is a gated community to coordinate access for surveying.

c. FINANCE DIRECTOR – Sonia R. Zoeller

1. A new state statute went into effect for plan pensions and there are 3 retirees that are part of the previous defined benefit pension plan. Before we could get the actuary report, our investment broker was required to prepare a very thick report. The report has been completed, submitted and received by the actuary to be included in the report, this is what has held up our audit.

2. The monthly reports and investment report are both included in the board packet. Both the revenues and expenditures are a little over budget. Expenditures are over because of yearlong encumbrances, but they will come down as the budget year proceeds.

Mr. Ray concluded the Administrator's report.

9. ATTORNEY'S REPORT – Robert Berntsson

1. Lemon Bay Estates Association – correspondences have been received and replied to. It was Attorney Berntsson's recommendation to do nothing more until a decision to proceed with the sewer project is made. He then referenced Florida Statute and read the portion of the Enabling Act that gives the District the authority to enter public and private property to perform surveys.

10. OLD BUSINESS - None

11. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

12. NEW BUSINESS - None

13. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – The entire Board congratulated Mr. Ray for another good year.

14. ADJOURN@ 9:44 a.m.



Eric Fogo, Vice-Chair

/tlh