

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
of the South Indian River Water Control District  
Held on February 15, 2024**

The regular meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District was held on February 15, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the District Work Center, 15600 Jupiter Farms Road, Jupiter, Florida, and via Zoom video conferencing. Present in person were Supervisors Michael Howard, Tom Powell, John Jones, and Susan Kennedy. Also present in person were Mike Dillon, manager of operations; Charles Haas, treasurer; Karen Brandon, engineer; Donna DeNinno, public information; and Jane Woodard, secretary. Attorney Seth Behn and Supervisor John Meyer were present via Zoom video conferencing, as was one landowner.

Mr. Howard called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was given.

Ms. Kennedy made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Jones seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard opened the floor to landowner discussion. The landowners had no issues to discuss at this time.

Ms. DeNinno presented the public information report. The draft of the revised Policies and Procedures Manual was presented to the Board for final review. Mr. Meyer thanked Ms. DeNinno for her work on the Manual. **Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the revised Manual. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.** The Manual will be uploaded to the District's website.

Ms. DeNinno reported that all vendors and exhibitors have been secured for Family Day. Mr. Dillon suggested a Sheriff's deputy should be present for patrol during the event and the Board agreed. Mr. Dillon will contact the Sheriff's office.

Mr. Haas presented the treasurer's report. He noted that the District has just received a proposal regarding the cell tower. A full report will follow.

Mr. Dillon presented the manager of operations' report. He noted the District's road material contractor had to raise prices and they also informed the District we will need to find a hauler. Mr. Dillon delegated this matter to Mr. Dustin Fazio to handle. Mr. Fazio contacted other vendors and negotiated the purchase of shell rock from another company at the same price currently being paid; the company will also be hauling the shell rock.

Mr. Dillon reported the Work Center building is being painted and this will be completed by Friday. He is also getting quotes for the micro overlay on Rocky Pines Road. The bid opening for Haynie Lane and the "pink roads" is scheduled for March 6th.

Mr. Howard presented Mr. Arie Raz with a Certificate of Achievement for 25 years of service to the District. Ms. DeNinno presented photos of Mr. Raz at work in the District over the past 25 years

Ms. Brandon presented the engineer's report. Two high bids were received for the Canal C project. Ms. Brandon met with the low bidder, Rio-Bak, to discuss ways to bring the costs down by having the

District perform some of the work. Rio-Bak offered to perform one-third of the work. Another meeting is scheduled to discuss the best way to proceed.

Ms. Brandon reported that bids were requested for the 20th Plan of Improvements. Five contractors have already responded. Survey work for the Palm Beach Country Estates drainage study has been pushed back to the end of February. Bids are due March 7th for the paving of Haynie Lane and the “pink roads”.

Ms. Brandon reported on the site meeting with Busch Wildlife Sanctuary and the South Florida Water Management District staff. They walked the area and discussed different options. Busch will run calculations and propose a solution to the South Florida Water Management District and South Indian River Water Control District.

Ms. Kennedy inquired about how often the water quality monitoring results will be reported to the Board. Ms. Brandon thought it was every six months but Mr. Howard thought it was quarterly. Ms. Brandon will check on this.

Mr. Behn presented the attorney’s report. He discussed the County Commissioner’s proposed ban concerning commercial vehicle parking in residential neighborhoods. This issue will be voted on one more time before the final decision is made. He confirmed that the District’s letter, as discussed last month, was delivered to the Commission.

Mr. Behn also discussed details for the online ethics training for Board members. The deadline to complete the training is December 31st. He also noted that a Bill regarding term limits is still being discussed by the legislature.

Mr. Howard called for discussion of the director’s job requirements and search criteria. The Board agreed with what was presented. The listing will be posted by Monday and put on the District’s website as well as the posting board on the Florida Association of Special Districts’ website. Timelines were discussed and the Board agreed with a seven-week deadline for applications. They also agreed virtual interviews by the Board members is acceptable. The Board will meet after each member has conducted their individual interviews with the candidates. This will likely be at the June Board meeting. The timing of the budget meeting was also discussed. Mr. Haas noted the deadline to adopt the budget is the end of August.

Mr. Dillon reported he is looking at a new John Deere grader for \$305,000. This does not include a trade-in allowance. He will keep the Board updated.

Mr. Gitkin, landowner, thanked the Board and staff for their actions with the County Commission on behalf of the landowners.

Mr. Howard reported that a landowner in Coquina Water Control District, west of Okeechobee, asked if his Board could assess the work we do and learn the best practices. Mr. Howard noted this is a compliment to our staff and thanked them for the work they do.

Several landowners commented the new director should be someone who knows the area and the needs of the community. They asked the Board to take this into consideration when making a decision.

There was no further business to come before the Board at this time. Ms. Kennedy made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Powell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ADJOURNED.