



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT
HELD AT THE DELRAY BEACH OFFICE ON
July 12, 2023 AT 8:30 A.M.**

Board Members Present:

John I. Whitworth, III James M. Alderman
Jeffrey Phipps, Sr.

Board Member Present On the Phone:

Stephen Bedner Carrie P. Hill

1. Call to Order

Sr. Vice President James Alderman called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Whitworth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Agenda Revisions – Tommy Strowd, Executive Director

There were no agenda revisions.

4. Abstentions by Board Members from Items on the Agenda

There were no abstentions by board members.

5. General Public Comment (limited to 5 minutes)

There was no general public comment.

6. Approval of minutes, check register and financial statement for the previous month

A motion was made by Supervisor Whitworth to approve the minutes, check register and financial statement for the previous month, seconded by Supervisor Phipps and approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION

7. Denial of variance request by Life Covenant Church, Inc to permit a parallel guardrail installation within the L-3 Canal right-of-way. Location: Southeast corner of Belvedere Road and Jog Road; north side of the L-3 Canal right-of-way (Project #RW-23-0219) – Shawn Mitchell, Permit Coordinator

Mr. Mitchell informed the board that the item was being revisited from the previous meeting in June 2023. He stated that staff is recommending denial of the variance request. He introduced Mr. Jimmy Richie, WGI's Project Engineer, who presented several alternative design plan options for guardrail installation within the District's right-of-way. A copy of the presentations are attached hereto as part of the meeting record.

Vice President Hill inquired regarding the County's requirement for the guardrail. Mr. Richie confirmed that the County defined the L-3 Canal as a hazard that required a guardrail.

District Counsel Mark Perry shared his dissatisfaction with the County's interpretation of the canal hazard. Mr. Strowd stated he did not believe it met the County's requirements of being a hazard that required a guardrail. He explained that there were alternatives for placement of the guardrail outside of the District's right-of-way but there were increased costs associated with relocating utilities for placement within the road right-of-way.

Pastor Josh Dougan from Life Church spoke on behalf of the church and requested the Board's consideration to approve the variance. He specifically addressed the hardship of the delay in completing the project.

Staff recommended denial of the request for placement of a parallel guardrail within the north right-of-way of the L-3 Canal.

A motion was made by Supervisor Whitworth to approve staff recommendation, seconded by Supervisor Phipps and approved unanimously.

8. Approval to piggyback South Florida Water Management District herbicide contracts for the term ending June 30, 2024 (Project #16-8816L.10) – Megan Hoffman, Vegetation Management Section Leader

Ms. Hoffman stated pursuant to Ch.189.053 F.S., Special Districts may procure commodities from purchasing agreements with other government's bids. She highlighted significant similarities between the aquatic vegetation management programs of South Florida Water Management District(SFWMD) and the Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD). One notable advantage is the lower costs associated with herbicides, which can lead to considerable savings. Additionally, Ms. Hoffman

pointed out that the LWDD can streamline its operations by piggybacking onto the existing contract of the SFWMD by avoiding the time-consuming bidding process.

Ms. Hoffman provided a chart demonstrating the Bid Comparison from the year 2022 to the current year 2023. She stated that an additive used by LWDD, called Lovert, was not included in the herbicide contract of SFWMD. She requested that Lovert be purchased from its sole manufacturer, Brewer International.

Staff recommended approval to piggyback on SFWMD's Aquatic Herbicide Chemical Contracts, and approval to purchase Lovert from Brewer International as a sole source provider.

A motion was made by Supervisor Whitworth to approve staff recommendation to piggyback onto SFWMD's Aquatic Herbicide Contracts, seconded by Supervisor Phipps and approved unanimously.

A second motion was made by Supervisor Whitworth to approve staff recommendation to purchase Lovert from Brewer International as a sole source provider, seconded by Supervisor Phipps and approved unanimously.

9. Approval to extend contract with Grau & Associates for Annual Auditing Services – Karen Hoyt, Director of Finance & Administration

Ms. Hoyt stated the five-year contract with Grau & Associates has reached its term. She stated the contract included a provision to renew each year after the contract expiration date. To continue receiving auditing services, Ms. Hoyt proposed entering into a one-year agreement with Grau & Associates for auditing services for the year ended September 30, 2023.

Staff recommended approval to enter into a one-year agreement with Grau & Associates for auditing services for the year ended September 30, 2023.

A motion was made by Supervisor Whitworth to approve staff recommendation, seconded by Supervisor Phipps and approved unanimously.

10. Approval of Fiscal Year 2023-24 Preliminary Operating Budget and authorization to advertise – Karen Hoyt, Director of Finance & Administration

Ms. Hoyt provided an overview of the preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2024 and stated the final budget will be presented for board approval at the August Board meeting. She stated the balanced budget being presented is \$16,914,000. She stated there were a few modifications compared to the proposed budget presented at the June 2023 board meeting. One of the modifications is related to non-ad valorem assessments. The District received an increased number of parcels totaling 932, resulting in a \$44,000 increase in non-ad valorem assessments.

Another change is the removal of the electric charging stations, resulting in a reduction of \$65,000 in the budget.

Ms. Hoyt also mentioned that there are some remaining budget uncertainties, including health insurance, property and casualty insurance, fuel, and any water supply initiative projects.

Staff recommended approval of FY24 Preliminary Operating Budget totaling \$16,914,000 with a non-ad valorem assessment rate of \$49.50 and authorization to advertise notice of the proposed budget and public hearing on August 8, 2023.

A motion was made by Supervisor Phipps to approve staff recommendation, seconded by Supervisor Whitworth and approved unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

11. Executive Director's Report

Mr. LasCasas stated that staff are preparing for hurricane season. He shared that Control Structure 9 work is on schedule; they are finishing sitework fencing and awaiting a permanent electric meter.

Ms. Walker announced that staff recently hosted its 8th Annual Community Flood Control Workshop. She expressed her satisfaction with the good turnout and emphasized that the event was a worthwhile effort. Furthermore, she extended her gratitude to Rosemary Rayman for her planning efforts.

Ms. Walker stated that following the June board meeting, staff reviewed the right-of-way boundaries for the Raffa residence and included authorization in the encroachment permit for the two palm trees in the back of the property to remain, consistent with the permitted hedge.

Ms. Walker stated CS/HB 199 passed this legislative session requiring annual ethics training for all special district board members and elected officers. The Florida Association of Special Districts is expected to offer online training and board members will be notified of availability in the future.

12. District Counsel's Report

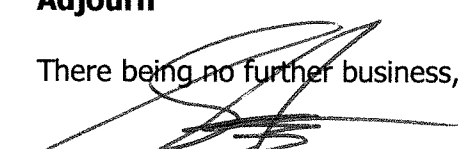
No additional items to report.

13. Board Reports & Comment

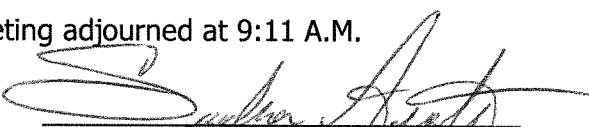
Sr. Vice President Alderman congratulated staff on the successful Community Flood Control Workshop hosted for property managers.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 A.M.



President – Stephen Bedner



Recording Secretary – Sandra Acosta