

**Linden County Water District
Regular Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2019**

Directors Present: President Paul Brennan, Director Myron Blanton and Director Elaine Reed

Board Secretary Barbara Kascht, General Manager John Villierme and District Engineer Matt Ospital were also in attendance

Directors Absent: Vice President David Fletcher and Director Lawrence Knapp

Public Comment: None

Agenda Items:

1. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Connection Fees.** The owner of the two brick homes on the corner of Front Street and Ione wants to split the lot and needs to separate their shared sewer connection. After some research, Barbara Kascht found that an additional connection fee for the property had been paid in 1969. District Legal Counsel Dean Ruiz provided a review of District connection fees and inspection fee policies. He advises that if the District receives a connection fee, it should be calendared and if not implemented, be refunded within one year's time. Elaine Reed moved to have Dean Ruiz revise Resolution 07-01 per notes in his memo, seconded by Myron Blanton. **AYES: 3 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2** Motion carried.
- b. New Aerator.** General Manager John Villierme obtained a quote of \$10,054.16 from Fluence in Minnesota, who is the manufacturer of the Tornado aerator. Myron Blanton moved to approve the purchase of the aerator as described by John Villierme, seconded by Elaine Reed. **AYES: 3 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2** Motion carried.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Solar Project.** District Engineer Matt Ospital reported that the permit is still at the County. An extension to September 18, 2019 had previously been granted. Angler Electric has already billed the District for parts purchased for the sub-panel. Matt Ospital will call Frank Neto with NC Solar. Director Elaine Reed asked Barbara Kascht to check with the Better Business Bureau and State Contractor's Licensing Board. After some discussion, it was suggested to give Frank Neto until August 23, 2019 to provide answers on when he will get revisions back to the county. Matt Ospital will also consult District Legal Counsel Dean Ruiz regarding process to cancel the contract. The Board tentatively planned a special meeting for September 12, 2019 if issue is not resolved. Myron Blanton moved to approve giving Frank Neto until August 23rd to provide a response, seconded by Elaine Reed. **AYES: 3 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2** Motion carried
- b. Water – Sewer Replacement Projects.** District Engineer Matt Ospital advised that the 21" blacktop in front of Orlando's was approved to be replaced with 7" over 24" of base rock instead of match existing. A geo-tech firm was hired, as the District is responsible for compaction testing per the contract. All of the water main line on Highway 26 is in and several leaks were discovered. Meeting with San Joaquin County on Wednesday to walk sewer projects.

President Paul Brennan reported he met with F&M Bank regarding a loan for the water storage tank. The revised engineer's estimated cost is \$1.2 million. Director Myron Blanton mentioned the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), which might have programs to provide low interest loans. Ryan Streeter will make a presentation to the Board at the September meeting.

President Brennan also mentioned that on July 24, 2019, the Governor signed SB200 that has to do with creating a safe drinking water fund. District Legal Counsel reviewed and advised the District may be eligible for funds, even though Linden is not a disadvantaged community, which could be used to rehabilitate Wells #3 and/or #4. General Manager John Villierme will give Matt Ospital Title 22 test results for Well #4. Villierme is also working on the ISO for Linden-Peters Fire Department. Barbara Kascht has initially signed up on the FAAST website.

General Manager John Villierme reported there had been another leak on Ione. The Board might want to consider replacing several services at a time to save money and prevent future problems.

- c. **Sustainable Groundwater Management.** General Manager John Villierme advised the SGMA meeting had been cancelled.
- d. **Entry Level Position.** On July 26, 2019, the job opening was posted on the District website, Indeed.com, Craigslist and local bulletin boards. The August 9th application deadline was extended to August 15th. There were 74 responses received through Indeed. Fifteen District applications were received and reviewed by John Villierme and Joe Chaves, with nine qualified applicants for interview. Director Myron Blanton volunteered to be involved with the interview process. Applicants to submit a DMV printout at the interview. The Board considered the pay scale of \$12.00 to \$14.60. It was noted that minimum wage increases to \$13.00 as of January 1, 2020. Elaine Reed moved to set the entry-level position wage at the base of \$12.00, seconded by Myron Blanton. **AYES: 3 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2** Motion carried.
- e. **Water Usage.** July water usage was reviewed. Director Elaine Reed spoke to a neighbor about water waste.

3. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

The letter from Mary Elizabeth with the Sierra Club was discussed. Suggestions regarding SGMA information on the District website have already been addressed. President Paul Brennan asked Barbara Kascht to also make the District's previous SGMA meeting presentations available on the website. Myron Blanton moved to approve the consent calendar as follows:

- a. July 18, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Warrant Listing
- c. Financial Reports
- d. Operations Report
- e. Compliance Log
- f. Correspondence

seconded by Elaine Reed. **AYES: 3 NOES: 0 ABSTAIN: 0 ABSENT: 2** Motion carried.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.