

MINUTES

BARRON WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING

July 29, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Barron Water Control District was called to order at 9:52 A.M. on Wednesday July 29, 2020, by Pat McKenna, Vice Chairman.

Those present at the meeting were:

Mark Colbert - Board Member & Chairman
Pat McKenna – Board Member & Vice-Chairman
Ron Tritt – Board Member & Treasurer
Judi Kennington-Korf - General Manager
Maria Taylor – Secretary
George Leicht – District Field Supervisor
Craig Taraszki -District Attorney, (via Conference Call)
Tommy Perry – Johnson-Prewitt & Associates
Dwayne House – Landowner
Other Attendees – See attached list (Via Conference Call)

The meeting opened with prayer led by Chairman Colbert followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Colbert announced this is a public meeting. It is also an unprecedented and uncertain time for everyone. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused us to alter the way we will be conducting today's meeting.

We are doing our best to limit exposure of the novel COVID-19 virus and are committed to using safe distancing practices and other key safety measures while serving the needs of the District. Under Federal and State guidelines, attendance of this meeting is limited. The District is following Governor DeSantis' Executive Orders (20-69 and 20-114) which allows the utilization of communications media technology. While physical participation of this meeting is limited, if anyone listening has a question, comment, or needs additional information, we will do our best to accommodate you during or after the meeting.

To maintain decorum, during the meeting callers may be muted; however, will be unmuted throughout the meeting so those participating by phone may be heard. Comments will be entertained before a vote. We are committed to ensuring the District taxpayers will continue to receive the highest quality service available and appreciate everyone's patience and understanding.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Verification of proper meeting notice
- b. Verification of quorum
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes May 20, 2020
- d. Approval of Local State of Emergency, COVID Resolution 2020-1 (I-R)
- e. Ratify the General Manager's execution of the audit agreement with Tuscan & Company

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert, seconded by Supervisor Tritt and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED AND APPROVED the Consent Agenda was adopted as presented.

Chairman Colbert asked if there was any public comment, there was none.

Open 2020-2021 Proposed General Fund Budget Public Hearing

Chairman Colbert opened the 2020-21 Proposed General Fund Budget Public Hearing

Ms. Kennington-Korf presented the 2020-21 budget. The budget may be modified during the meeting or prior to adoption. This budget includes the capital items listed for 2020-21 which includes a tractor and mower, rebuilding pump A on Super 2 along with a soft start panel (Barron's share of the cost will be 22%); and, a soft start panel for the Barron Farm 2, pump A.

	Basic budget
Budget	\$1,951,302.10
Urban	\$66.98
Irrigation	\$25.59
Drainage	\$ 5.17
Urban Grove	\$33.49

The general fund budget was created with a goal in mind to reduce the tax rate levy assessments while increasing services. This is possible because there have been a number of occurrences that actually added to the cash-carry-forward revenue. For these reasons, the budget is higher; however, the taxes are lower than they have been in over five years. Attached is a new five-year capital plan, including soft start panels when a pump is being rebuilt and the staging of acquiring equipment in multiple-year increments.

Chairman Colbert asked if there was any public comment, there was none.

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert seconded by Supervisor Tritt and unanimously carried, be it resolved and approved the Barron Water Control District rescinds Resolution 2020-2 and adopts Resolution 2020-4, the Tax Rate Assessment Levy as follows:

The tax rate levy for maintenance taxes for the urban area of the District shall be \$66.98 per acre except that land owned by other governmental agency which has been exempted from said levy by prior resolutions adopted by this Board and approved by court order. This tax applies to Hendry County and Glades County.

The tax rate levy for maintenance taxes for the urban grove units shall be \$33.49 per acre. This tax applies to Hendry County and Glades County.

The tax rate levy for maintenance taxes for the irrigated agricultural units shall be \$25.59 per acre. This tax applies to Hendry County and Glades County.

The tax rate levy for maintenance taxes for the drainage agricultural units shall be \$5.17 per acre. This tax applies to Hendry County and Glades County.

Motion passed at 9:57 A.M.

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert, seconded by Supervisor Tritt and unanimously carried, be it resolved and approved the Barron Water Control District adopts the total maintenance budget for the fiscal year October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021 of \$1,951,302.10 which includes \$575,393.10 from the assessment of maintenance taxes after taking into consideration all anticipated revenues from other sources.

Motion passed at 9:59 A.M.

Chairman Colbert announced the Public Hearing closed at 9:59 A.M.

General Manager's Report

Item A. Consideration of disposition of property around Lake Eucalyptus

The District owns approximately 126.36 acres of property in Unit 4 which includes Lake Eucalyptus. The land is bordered on the north by SR-80, on the west by Hendry County BOCC, on the east by Oak Haven residents around the Lake, on the southeast by POA 4, on the south by CHL and Grace Baptist Church.

In consideration of the land use and potential value of the property, during the January 22nd meeting, the Board entertained the possibility of surplus and selling approximately 20 acres +/- that was not needed for drainage maintenance and directed staff to further research the matter. To that end, Barron's attorney, Craig Taraszki, Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns, LLP, provided the following opinion: I reviewed the title work for Tract E, Block 2176, Plat of Port LaBelle Unit 4, as listed on the attached report and did not find any instrument that restricted Barron's authority to lease, convey or transfer real property as referenced below in s. 298.22, FS. However, there are covenants, easements and use restrictions that may impact a successor owner's ability to use the property and Barron may still have operation and maintenance obligations that would survive a lease, conveyance or transfer. If a buyer were interested in the property, they would need to perform their own due diligence to ensure that the property was suitable for its intended use. (Attached is the referenced report.)

This correspondence is intended to seek the Board's level of interest in selling a portion of property afore cited that is not needed for drainage maintenance. Should the Board consider selling the property, a survey and appraisal will be needed.

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert seconded by Supervisor Tritt and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED AND APPROVED the Barron Water Control District will order a survey and title work to determine if there is excess property abutting Lake Eucalyptus that can be legally disposed of.

Item B. Staffing, Potential of sharing the Field Supervisor position with the Port LaBelle CDD

Ms. Kennington-Korf advised the discussion regarding the joint Field Supervisor position for the PLCDD and BWCD is closed. The PLCDD will promote an employee and hire the parttime employee to fulltime.

Chairman Colbert stated discussions were held with the PLCDD and both districts agreed to continue as is with each employing a Field Supervisor. Although having one Field Supervisor would be beneficial, this discussion can be brought back when there are changes in the future to this position. Chairman Colbert advised he is only speaking on BWCD behalf regarding the position.

Item C. FYI

- i. Summary of meeting with Glades and Hendry County Administrators
- ii. Technical difficulties, server and internet (website audit requirement)
- iii. FDOR, Impact of COVID-19 on the Trim Process
- iv. Gerber Grove Water Control District concern over pump repair.

Legal Report:

There are no new items to discuss at this time.

Engineer's Report:

Lake is in good condition for hurricane season; lake level is 13.1 today. SFWMD has questioned the numbers on some of the reports submitted during this fiscal year, our office has responded and will continue to monitor. BMP's has new fertilizer record keeping requirements and we have received the form that is required to be utilized for record keeping.

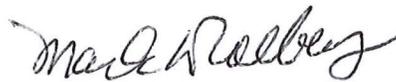
Field Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Leicht gave an update on equipment repair, herbicide treatments being done, 7 inches of rain fall were received this month, Mr. Perry will be conducting a survey in Unit 8 for a project we will be working on.

Other Business

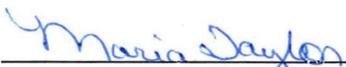
Chairman Colbert asked for public comments, there were none.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.



Mark Colbert, Chairman

ATTEST:



Maria Taylor, Recording Secretary

