

MINUTES

BARRON WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING

February 23, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Barron Water Control District was called to order at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday February 23, 2022, by Mark Colbert, Chairman.

Those present at the meeting were:

Mark Colbert - Board Member & Chairman
Pat McKenna – Board Member & Vice-Chairman
Judi Kennington-Korf - General Manager
Andy Higginbotham-District Accountant
Tommy Perry, District Engineer
Sommer Foster – Johnson-Prewitt & Associates
Dwayne House – Landowner
Craig Taraszki – District Attorney (by phone)
Rusty Hyslope – US Sugar
Ray Palmer - SFWMD

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

Consent Agenda:

- a. Verification of proper meeting notice
- b. Verification of quorum
- c. Approval of Meeting Minutes May 27, 2021
- d. SFWMD invoice for 2021-2022
- e. PRM Safety Credit
- f. PRM Drug-free Workplace Credit
- g. Add BW-109, 2021 Ford Truck
- h. Approve hold harmless form

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert, seconded by Vice Chairman McKenna 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.

General Manager's Report

Item A SFWMD, request to acquire T-Canal in BOMA property

Ms. Kennington-Korf presented the request made by SFWMD to acquire the T Canal in BOMA.

Mr. Perry advised this project is designed to sheet flow waters in a clockwise motion from the pump station using the full project foot print and the finger embankment to control flow to an outlet structure on the north east side an into Barron canal 2 north of our control structure. It will not be feasible to utilize the T-canals for irrigation supply to others or any other purpose by Barron. The district should take care of allowed use of canals 2 and 3 to exclude the recreational use by the general public and others.

Mr. Palmer of the SFWMD addressed the Board and answered questions for the Barron landowners and Board members.

The Board directed the General Manager to seek an independent appraisal of the Barron T-Canal property located within the BOMA property in Glades County. The Board tabled the project at this time.

Item B Audit presentation

Mr. Jeff Tuscan, District auditor provided the 2021 Audit. He stated that he found no material weaknesses and no instances of non-compliance. He explained the necessity of and the process for using a "public funds" account for District monies.

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert, seconded by Vice Chairman McKenna and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED AND APPROVED the District accepts the 2020-21 annual audit.

Item C Adoption of Resolution 2022-1, Budget Amendment for the Audited Fund Balance

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert, seconded by Vice Chairman McKenna and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED AND APPROVED the Board authorizes the adoption of Resolution 2022-1, a budget amendment for the 2021-22 final general fund budget.

Item D Application of permit fees

Ms. Kennington-Korf advised the Board a decision is needed regarding applying fees fairly for a permit application. The fees are used to pay for professional services associated with the permit. Over the years, there have been occasions for which landowners were issued a permit but were not charged a fee while other landowners were charged a fee. So all landowners are treated fairly a decision is needed if an alteration of the fee schedule is to be applied. The C-1, C-2, and C-3 are under the Joint Trust authority, the Board's decision will be shared during the annual JT meeting in April. After board discussion it was agreed a fee would be charged to those that do not own land within the district.

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert, seconded by Vice Chairman McKenna and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED AND APPROVED the District applies permit fees to those that do not own land within the District.

Item E Professional Services Agreements: accounting, actuarial services, ADA compliance, attorney, auditor, engineering, e-mail & website hosting, insurance, MIS-IT

Ms. Kennington-Korf provided the professional services agreements: Accounting, Actuarial Services, ADA Compliance, Attorney, Auditor, Engineering, Email, MIS-IT, PRM Insurance. Ms. Kennington-Korf provided a brief update on all service contract. After discussion the Board approved moving forward with all contracts.

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert, seconded by Supervisor Tritt and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED AND APPROVED the Board authorizes the General Manager to execute the annual contracts for professional services.

Item F Employee Salary Plan

Ms. Kennington-Korf advised in November of 2020, Florida voters approved Amendment 2 which will increase Florida's minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2026. The State's current minimum wage is \$10 per hour. The Federal minimum wage is \$7.25. Hendry County is currently using a minimum wage of \$13.50 per hour for regular entry employees and \$14.50 for PLUS; the City of LaBelle is using a minimum of \$12.50 for entry level positions, and an area citrus grove is using \$16 for newly hired employees. Barron had been unable to fill the entry level position vacated October 25th until today. There was discussion about the importance of longevity and also those with experience when contemplating wages. Qualifications and experience of an individual are sometimes more important to the position than longevity. After discussion the Board authorized the General Manager to modify the current minimum beginning salary of \$14 per hour and adjust wages based upon an employee's KSA, productivity and longevity.

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert, seconded by Vice Chairman McKenna and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED AND APPROVED the Board authorizes the General Manager to modify the current minimum beginning salary of \$14 per hour and have the opportunity to adjust wages based upon an employee's knowledge, skill, ability, productivity and longevity.

Item G Fund Balance Policy 2021-22

The District adopted a Fund Balance Policy in 2011. According to the Policy, a range of 25% - 50% of the actual annual operating costs shall be used to calculate the unassigned fund balance. The fund balance is the net resource of a government and an approximate measure of liquidity, which ensures the fiscal wellbeing of the District by establishing a minimum level at which fund balance is to be maintained. The Board's unassigned fund balance is equal to 28.64% of the net operating budget.

Upon motion duly made by Chairman Colbert, seconded by Vice Chairman McKenna and unanimously carried, it was RESOLVED AND APPROVED the Board adopts the 2021-22 Fund Balance Policy.

Item H Building maintenance, painting needed

The Barron office building is 35 years old and is in need of maintenance. The office building needs to be painted. The frame around the exterior door on the west side of the building (A-3) has rotten wood around it and needs to be reframed. There are other areas – both inside and outside – of the building that need to be repaired. Requesting authorization from the board to seek bids to paint and repair the office building.

Chairman Colbert the board gives the General Manager direction to seek bids for the building maintenance that is required.

Item I FYI

- i. FPL increased fees, the district received notice that fees are increasing for FPL
- ii. Field Trip, February 16, 2022 was successful Chairman Colbert advised it should be done annually.

- iii. Letters to the Legislators in opposition of SB974 and HB985, Sovereign Immunity, and SB1342 and HB829, Civil Actions for Deprivation of Rights, Privileges, or Immunities

Attorney's Annual Report

Attorney Taraszki reported there are no new items at this time.

Engineer's Report:

Mr. Perry will be working on the Capital Improvement report that has to be turned in to both Glades and Hendry county. The counties will review and submit to the State as required.

Field Supervisor's Report:

Field Supervisor Leicht advised as Banyan Village continues to grow; mowing, vegetation cleaning is ongoing, unit 10 and 12 are done working on unit 11. Herbicide treatment will be conducted in April, mowing schedule is ongoing, pumping operations are on schedule, new tractor has been ordered and will surplus 2006 tractor as is, lake level is at 14.7.

Other Business

Chairman Colbert asked if there was any public comment.

Mr. House, Landowner stated the districts mission and reminded the Board there should be no other agenda.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 A.M.


Mark Colbert, Chairman

ATTEST:


Maria Taylor, Recording Secretary

