

**MINUTES OF MEETING
SPRING LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

A public hearing on the proposed FY '25 Budget and Utility Rates and fees was held Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at the District Office, 115 Spring Lake Boulevard, Sebring, Florida. The regular Board meeting immediately followed.

Present were:

Kay Gorham
Butch Copeland
Tim Roland
Phil Gentry
Troy Marsh

Board Chair
Vice Chair
Secretary
Asst. Secretary
Asst. Secretary

Also present were:

Bill Nielander
Joe DeCerbo
Israel Serrano
Diane Angell
Randy Nelson

District Attorney
District Manager
Deputy Manager
District Administrator
Field Superintendent

Residents & Guests

“See Sign in Sheet”

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Kay Gorham called the meeting to order and led the pledge.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Upcoming Meetings/Events

- A. August 14th, 1:00 p.m., Public Meeting on FRDAP Grant, District Office
- B. August 15th, 2:00 p.m., RPAC
- C. August 19th, ECO Water Board of Directors, here @ 11:00 a.m.
- D. August 20th, Primary Election, Community Center
- E. September 2nd, Labor Day, Office closed.

Kay noted that the public meeting on the FRDAP grant, and the FY '25 proposed budget and utility rates and fees were duly noticed in the newspaper.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Hearing – FY '25 Budget

Butch Copeland asked questions about several line items in the budget regarding canal and lot mowing maintenance. He proposed that all lot mowing crew positions be made seasonal and to have appropriate job descriptions.

Joe explained the FRWA Rate study. Staff recommended that all rates and fees stay as they are this fiscal year.

Resident Bob Rider asked if the FRWA Rate study was available on the website. Joe responded yes and provided him with printed copies of the report.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

The Board received copies of the July 10, 2024, Minutes for review. There being no further questions.

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Phil Gentry with all in favor the minutes from July 10, 2024, Board meeting was approved.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of Financials

The Board received copies of the July 2024 Financials for review.

ON MOTION by Tim Roland, seconded by Butch Copeland with all in favor the July 2024 Financials were approved.

Phil Gentry asked questions regarding the wastewater revenue and the Force Main funding. Joe informed Phil that the funds for the force mains were part of the 1.2 million designated from the general fund.

SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Treasurer

A. Updates

The District received a \$5,235 deposit from a county held tax certificate sale.

B. Motion to approve FY '25 proposed Budget.

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Tim Roland with all in favor of approving the FY '25 Budget as presented.

C. Motion to move \$7,725 from Unreserved to Grant Management for Hale Innovations

ON MOTION by Tim Roland, seconded by Phil Gentry with all in favor to move \$7,725 in unreserved funds for FY '24 to grant management for Hale Innovations.

A. Motion to accept Catalyst continuing contract for upcoming projects.

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Troy Marsh with all in favor to accept Catalyst Designs continuing contract for upcoming projects primarily in Parks and Recreation.

B. Resolution 2024-11 Budget Amendment FY 2024 Water Control Plan

A motion was presented to move \$39,000 in operating reserves for preparation of the 10-year Water Control Plan.

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Phil Gentry with all in favor to approved Resolution 2024-11 Budget Amendment FY 2024 Water Control Plan.

SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Manager

A. Updates

There were no questions on the updates sent out by Joe.

B. Resolution 2024-12 Capital Improvement Program Parks and Recreation

ON MOTION by Tim Roland, seconded by Butch Copeland with all in favor to approve Resolution 2024-12 Capital Improvement Program Parks and Recreation.

C. Resolution 2024-13 FRDAP Funding

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Phil Gentry with all in favor to adopt Resolution 2024-13 FRDAP funding.

D. Water Control Plan

Joe updated the Board on the progress of the report. All is on schedule.

EIGHTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Operational Update

A. ECO Park Fence

Israel and Randy reviewed the different options for a fence at the ECO Park. Installation of 1100 feet of fencing would cost approximately \$12,300. The other option was to purchase posts and attach steel cable that we already have in stock. The Board directed staff to purchase posts and use the steel cable.

B. ECO Water timetable

Israel updated the Board on the ECO Water timetable. They will be onsite tomorrow to set the unit and will begin plumbing and electrical work. City Managers and County staff will be coming to look at the system on the 29th to see how this system works. Israel reiterated that the field testing will not affect the operations of the current wastewater system.

C. Sick Day revisions

A lengthy discussion was held on the District’s sick day policy and ways to address issues of misuse, and ways to give employees incentives. The Board directed staff to revise the wording in the District’s current employee handbook that will give the District Manager and Deputy Manager Board directed oversight and authority on compliance of policies. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

NINTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Festival Update

Phil Gentry reported we have 94 total vendor spaces reserved, 8 food trucks, 5 exhibitors, 7 youth activities and games, 3 developers, and 4 for the Farmer’s Market.

TENTH ORDER OF BUSINES

Supervisor Requests

Butch asked if the mowing on Highway 98 could be done in a nicer fashion.

Butch asked if the Ditch behind Brower’s house had been connected to the new pond and was told it is being monitored.

Butch asked staff to look at the policy on Personal Cell Phone Usage when they are updating the employee policies.

Tim asked if we had AED units. Israel said that he has been looking into this and will work with the local Fire EMS and report back to the Board.

ELEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Comments

There being none.

TWELFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Next Meeting

- Wednesday September 11, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.
 - Final Budget Resolutions

THIRTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Motion to Adjourn

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Tim Roland with all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

Kay Gorham, Board Chair

Tim Roland, Secretary