

IMMOKALEE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

1020 Sanitation Road, Immokalee, Fl 34142

Telephone: (239) 658-3630

First Budget Hearing
Wednesday, August 23, 2023
5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Board Members		
Title	Name	Attendance
Chair	Joseph Brister	Present
Vice-Chair	Patricia Anne Goodnight	Present
Secretary	Bonnie Keen	Present
Treasurer	Robert Halman	Present
Commissioner	Magda Ayala	Absent
Commissioner	Jack Johnson, Jr.	Present
Staff Present	Professional Staff Present	Guests Present
Louis Brunetti	Gary Ferrante	Andrea Halman (online)
Sarah Catala	Laura Donaldson (online)	
Misty Smith		
Brian Stewart		

I. Call to Order

Mr. Joseph Brister, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

II. Preliminaries

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
The pledge of allegiance was conducted at the regular Board meeting beforehand.
- b. Roll Call
Ms. Misty Smith, Executive Assistant conducted roll call. A quorum was reached.
- c. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Ms. Goodnight moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Halman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Review of Financial Assumptions and Proposed Budget

Mr. Brian Stewart, Finance Director presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following aspects of the proposed budget:

- a. Current factors – estimated 10% revenue increase, 8% estimated increase in employee health insurance costs, COLA increase, new positions for the Wastewater Collections Department, fuel prices remaining high, chemical prices continue to rise, new accounts added for other legal expenses and masterplan costs that include engineering expenses.
- b. Budget summary and operating revenue were reviewed by percentage and by top 20 customers.
- c. Projected operating revenues were shown.
- d. Operating expenses by department by percentage was shown.
- e. Personnel costs were shown and Ms. Sarah Catala pointed out that during the last rate study, a five-year hiring plan was developed.

- f. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and other capital requests were discussed.
 - i. Ms. Bonnie Keen asked for clarification on the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) car ports and fence costs. It was determined that two items in the CIP, currently separate, would instead be combined. Additionally, Mr. Brister asked about the cost of fluoride. Ms. Catala reported that she would find out the costs and that the District would need to get with the Health Department to discuss the potential removal of fluoride from the treated water we supply.
 - g. Long term debt service was reviewed.
 - h. Several graphs on the cost per gallon analysis were shown.

After the presentation, the floor was opened to the Board to ask any questions. Mr. Jack Johnson inquired about advertising costs budgeted. Ms. Smith clarified that with the new branding, vehicle and lift station decals along with property signage would need to be replaced. She also explained that the costs are projected until quotes are received.

Mr. Brister requested that Mr. Stewart inquire about the purpose of purchasing a new enclosed trailer that was listed under the Water Distribution Department and to let the Board know the response at the next budget hearing.

IV. Public Comment

There were no comments made by the public.

V. Adjournment

The budget hearing adjourned at 6:12 p.m.