

# IMMOKALEE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

1020 Sanitation Road, Immokalee, Fl 34142

Telephone: (239) 658-3630

**Rate Study Public Hearing**  
Wednesday, August 20, 2025  
5:05 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	Present
Commissioner	VACANT	
Commissioner	VACANT	
Staff Present	Professional Staff Present	Guests Present
Louis Brunetti	Gary Ferrante	See sign-in sheet
Sarah Catala	Laura Donaldson (online)	
Misty Smith		

### I. Call to Order

Mr. Joseph Brister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

### II. Preliminaries

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance  
Mr. Brister led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2) Roll Call  
Ms. Misty Smith, Executive Assistant, conducted roll call. A quorum was reached.
- 3) Adoption of Agenda

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

### III. Review of Rate Study Recommendations

Mr. Murray Hamilton of Raftelis was in attendance to provide a presentation to provide the results of the Rate Study.

Mr. Hamilton reported that during the Rate Study Workshop on August 18, 2025, the following Assumptions were discussed:

- 1) A background summary of rates and the ongoing challenges.
- 2) The major capital needs.
- 3) A summary of the existing financial conditions and the major study assumptions such as projected gross revenues, operating expenses based on the amended Fiscal Year 2025 budget, proposed capital funding, capital needs funding from rates, future debt

- assumptions, and projected debt service.
- 4) The minimum rate covenant compliance based on the budget compliance test which was of no concern this year.
  - 5) The working capitals considerations which take into account days of cash reserves – bond rate criteria by Fitch ratings.
  - 6) The proposed maintenance of reserve funds which considered a minimum unrestricted reserve balance of not less than 180 days of revenues less depreciation.
  - 7) A summary of the proposed rate adjustments which highlighted the increases to residential monthly bills, a comparison of residential monthly bills, projected adequacy of proposed rates, projected reserve balances, and projected days of cash.

Mr. Hamilton gave the following Conclusions and Recommendations:

- 1) The District's existing rates are not adequate to meet the projected revenue requirements and estimated debt service coverage commitments over the study period.
  - i. The principal cost drivers include:
    1. Allowances and adjustments for future inflation
    2. Need for new staffing positions
    3. Proposed new debt to finance certain capital projects
    4. Need to maintain working capital to meet the operating needs of the system and to provide a contingency to respond to natural disasters or other unforeseen events.
- 2) The Board should consider adopting a new 3-year rate plan of 5.5% effective on or after October 1, 2025, for FY2026 and for each year thereafter through FY2028, and the study should be updated within two or three years or when actual results and/or planning assumptions may differ significantly from the projections.

No questions were asked.

#### **IV. Adoption of Resolution 2025-09**

Mr. Brister read the resolution aloud.

***Motion: Ms. Goodnight made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-09 Revised Rates For Water And Sewer Services. Mr. Halman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **V. Public Comments**

There was no public in attendance.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The Board hearing adjourned at 5:18 p.m.