

IMMOKALEE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

1020 Sanitation Road, Immokalee, Fl 34142

Telephone: (239) 658-3630

Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Board Members		
Title	Name	Attendance
Chair	Joseph Brister	Present
Vice-Chair	Robert Halman	Present
Secretary	Bonnie Keen	Present
Treasurer	Magda Ayala	Absent
Commissioner	Patricia Anne Goodnight	Present
Commissioner	VACANT	
Commissioner	VACANT	
Staff Present	Professional Staff Present	Guests Present
Jeff Carpenter	Gary Ferrante	See sign-in sheet
Louis Brunetti	Laura Donaldson (online)	
Ofelia Gonzalez		
Sarah Catala		

I. Call to Order

Mr. Joseph Brister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

II. Preliminaries

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Brister led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. Roll Call
Ms. Ofelia Gonzalez, Payroll and Benefits Coordinator, 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.

- d. Public Concerns
There were public concerns.
- e. Staff Good Cause Items
There were no staff good cause items.
- f. Board Concerns
There were no Board concerns.
- g. Old Business
 - i. Presentation by HealthCare Network: Dental Services Update
Dr. Doug Keck, Dental Director and Patty Inks, Dental Operations Director, of

HealthCare Network (HCN) were in attendance to provide an update about the dental services provided to children in Immokalee, funded by the District's donation. Ms. Inks reported that the first donation payment went toward the mobile unit to provide screenings, sealants, and referrals. They were able to support 40-45 dental screenings throughout the six (6) elementary schools in Immokalee. Dr. Doug shared additional information about number of visits to schools and the total cost of dental services.

Mr. Brister, with the support of the Board and subject to the availability of budgeted funds, entertained a motion to donate an additional \$8,000.00 for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Motion: Ms. Goodnight made a motion to approve another \$8,000.00 donation to the HealthCare Network for dental services in Immokalee. Mr. Halman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

- h. New Business
There was no new business.

III. Consent Agenda

- a. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes – *not included*
- b. Fixed Assets, Acquisitions, Disposals – *none to report*
- c. WWTP - New Scum Tank Knife Gate Valve Assembly Proposal
- d. 417540-6 SR29 From N of New Market Rd to SR82 – Utility Relocations

Motion: Mr. Halman made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Keen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Action Agenda

- a. Boston Avenue Extension – Utility Relocation Agreement
Ms. Sarah Catala, Executive Director, provided a recap of the Boston Avenue Extension project. As part of the agreement to pave the private road and dedicate it as a public road, the water line and fire hydrant must be relocated from Boston Avenue to Hancock Street. The agreement outlines the work schedule to ensure that the resident located on Boston Avenue maintains continuous access to water. She recommended approval of the agreement to allow the work to be completed.

Motion: Mr. Halman made a motion to approve the Boston Avenue Extension Utility Relocation Agreement. Ms. Goodnight seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

V. Discussion Agenda

- a. Executive Director's Report
Ms. Catala reported on her visit to Tallahassee for the Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD) Legislative Forum. She also reported that hardship applications have been submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Central Office regarding the SR29 utility relocations. As details evolve on those applications, staff will be sure to update the Board.
- b. Finance Director's Report
Mr. Jeff Carpenter, Finance Director, reported that the District received a repeat audit finding letter from the auditor general. Mr. Carpenter acknowledged the matter and noted that he is actively working with the auditor toward resolution. The audit review process will remain on hold until the issue is resolved. Mr. Carpenter also provided a brief overview of financials. A brief discussion ensued about connection fees.

- c. District Engineer's Report – Weston & Sampson
Mr. Gary Ferrante, District Engineer, reported that a few plan reviews are being scheduled, some that have been dormant. He reported that Master Lift Station C is close to final completion, and lastly, regarding the carports, building permits have not been approved yet.
- d. Project Engineer's Report
Mr. Louis Brunetti, Project Engineer, provided an update on the road paving project, which is possible due to the remaining FDEM grant funds. Regarding the Water Reuse project, bid set plans have been received, and the Invitation to Bid packet has been prepared. He also reported that a purchase order has been issued to conduct arc flash and breaker studies for the water treatment plants. Lastly, he noted that the maintenance building roof replacement has been completed.
- e. District Attorney's Report
Ms. Laura Donaldson, District Attorney, reported that she has been working on the following: issuing demand letters, Radio Fiesta contract, and then provided a brief update on PFAS settlements and wastewater testing.
- f. Executive Assistant's Report
Ms. Misty Smith, Executive Assistant, was not in attendance.

OTHER:

Ms. Goodnight spoke about the recent Immokalee Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Advisory Board meeting, which included the introduction of their new Director and discussion regarding Lake Trafford Road improvements, where concerns were raised about project delays attributed to the District. Ms. Catala recommended providing a future report to the CRA Board outlining the costs associated with utility relocations and explaining the potential impact on customer rates. A discussion ensued.

VI. Other Public Interests

There were no public interests.

VII. Adjournment

The Board meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.