

IMMOKALEE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

1020 Sanitation Road, Immokalee, Fl 34142

Telephone: (239) 658-3630

Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 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)	
Sarah Catala		
Hector Ramos		
Misty Smith		

I. Call to Order

Mr. Joseph Brister, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

II. Preliminaries

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
Mr. Brister led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 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.

- d. Public Concerns
There were public concerns.
- e. Staff Good Cause Items
 - i. Resolution 2026-01 Delegation of Authority for Executive Director
Ms. Sarah Catala, Executive Director, presented Resolution 2026-01 authorizing the Executive Director to execute forms and contracts related to the Florida Commerce Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program. The Resolution authorizes the Executive Director to sign all necessary documents associated with participation in the program.

Motion: Ms. Goodnight made a motion to adopt Resolution 2026-01 Delegation of Authority for the Executive Director. Mr. Halman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- f. Board Concerns
There were no Board concerns.
- g. Old Business
There was no old business.
- h. New Business
There was no new business.

III. Consent Agenda

- a. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes (12/23/2025, 01/21/2026)
- b. Fixed Assets, Acquisitions, Disposals – *none to report*

Motion: Ms. Goodnight made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Keen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Action Agenda

- a. Sanitation Road Gate Replacement
Mr. Louis Brunetti, Project Engineer, reported that the District would like to replace the existing entrance gate on Sanitation Road with a cantilever gate system that will allow access to authorized users through assigning gate codes. He provided a written summary outlining the details of the request and recommended that the Board approve the estimate from Security Fence of SWFL in the amount of \$22,865.00.

Ms. Goodnight inquired whether the gate entrance would continue to be monitored. Ms. Catala confirmed that surveillance cameras are positioned toward the entrance, and additional game cameras are placed throughout Sanitation Road.

Motion: Ms. Goodnight made a motion to approve the Security Fence of SWFL estimate in the amount of \$22,865.00 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract. Mr. Halman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Schwing Bioset Inspection Diagnosis and Repair
Ms. Catala recapped her written summary, which outlined the details of a service quote from Schwing Bioset to diagnose the Bioset system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). She explained that Schwing Bioset no longer maintains an office in Florida, which increases service costs due to technician travel expenses. Ms. Catala recommended that the Board approve the estimate in the amount of \$12,642.00, pending the revisions to the contract terms to ensure compliance with applicable Florida statutory provisions.

Motion: Ms. Goodnight made a motion to approve the Schwing Bioset estimate in the amount of \$12,642.00 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract pending the revisions discussed. Mr. Halman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- c. Pulte Family Charitable Foundation Cost Share Agreement
Ms. Catala reported that the agreement remains under negotiation. The documents have been sent to the Foundation, however, a response has not been received.

V. Discussion Agenda

- a. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Catala reported that she has a meeting scheduled with Collier County staff to discuss the potential of a regional fertilizer operation. She stated that she will report back to the Board should any new information become available. A discussion ensued.

Ms. Catala also reported that the District is finalizing the paving of the well-access roads, as well as the roadway from the administration office to the WWTP.

Ms. Catala reported that District has been selected for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan for the Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project which would include approximately 10% principal forgiveness. She stated that this is newly received information and additional details are forthcoming.

Ms. Catala further reported that staff continue to work with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding the hardship considerations for Dash 5 or Dash 6 funding. A discussion ensued. No formal documentation has been received to date and staff are considering alternative solutions.

b. Finance Director's Report

Mr. Jeff Carpenter, Finance Director, provided a brief report on the District's financials. He also reported that the asset inventory list is currently being reviewed and updated. Mr. Carpenter stated that he is working with Mr. Jeff Tuscan, Auditor, and with department supervisors to clean up the existing list. A response to the letter from the Auditor General is due by the end of April.

c. District Engineer's Report – Weston & Sampson

Mr. Gary Ferrante, District Engineer, reported the following: Master Lift Station C is operational following issues with a control panel, plans for Lift Station P are being updated to be shovel-ready for potential grant funding, and the building permit for carpports is still pending.

Mr. Brister noted that the Immokalee Fire Control District's property adjacent to the Carson Rd. Water Treatment Plant (WTP) may be of interest to the District if the fire station becomes available for sale. Ms. Catala explained that the District is assessing all three WTP's to determine potential consolidation or expansion needs.

d. Project Engineer's Report

Mr. Brunetti reported the following: road paving (as previously discussed by Ms. Catala) has been completed, and the contractor will return later this week to sod the area, he also noted that the Water Reuse Project Invitation to Bid (ITB) documents are currently under review and will be advertised soon, the Airport WTP roof replacements are complete, and lastly, a representative will be onsite next week to conduct a site walk in preparation for the upcoming Arc Flash studies.

e. District Attorney's Report

Ms. Laura Donaldson, District Attorney, reported that the state budgets were recently released. The District's appropriation request is included in the Senate budget for \$650,000.00. She noted that House and Senate leaders are currently negotiating final allocations and additional funding mechanisms may become available through pending legislation. Ms. Donaldson highlighted ongoing activity, including amendments to biosolids legislation and potential direct pay provisions for special districts, which could improve cash flow to the District. Lastly, she reported that she is working with RCMA to secure payment for outstanding invoices.

f. Executive Assistant's Report

Ms. Smith reported on the recent Tallahassee Rural Counties Day trip, upcoming Water Conservation Drop Savers contest, the Career Fair hosted at the Immokalee High School on February 10, where staff met and talked with high school seniors about water and wastewater careers, and lastly, a nomination for Member of the Year by the Immokalee Eastern Chamber of Commerce, noting that their annual membership event will take place on April 20, 2026.

OTHER:

Ms. Brister asked for an update regarding a recent incident on 6th Street. A discussion ensued.

VI. Other Public Interests

There were no public interests.

VII. Adjournment

The Board meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.