

**MINUTES OF MEETING
SPRING LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

The Landowners meeting was held Wednesday November 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office, 115 Spring Lake Boulevard, Sebring, Florida. The regular meeting immediately followed.

Present were:

Kay Gorham	Board Chair
Butch Copeland	Vice Chair
Tim Roland	Secretary
Phil Gentry	Asst. Secretary
Troy Marsh	Asst. Secretary

Also, present were:

Bill Nielander	District Attorney
Joe DeCerbo	District Manager
Israel Serrano	Deputy Manager
Diane Angell	District Administrator
Randy Nelson	Field Superintendent

Residents & Guests

“See Sign in Sheet”

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order and Pledge

Board Chair Kay Gorham called the meeting to order, and Tim Roland led the Pledge.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Convene Landowners Meeting

A. District Manager appointed to conduct meeting.

Joe explained the process for determining voting units.

B. Determine number of voting units present and candidates.

The audience was polled, and it was determined that there were 428 voting units present. Kay Gorham presented 98 proxies. Diane said she verified that the taxes had been paid.

C. Collect Proxies and determine results pending proxy certification.

Kay Gorham was the only candidate seeking a landowner seat on the Board and received all votes.

D. Public Questions and Comments

Kay Gorham was congratulated.

E. Adjourn

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Phil Gentry the landowners meeting was adjourned and the regular meeting was convened.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS

Convene Regular Meeting

A. Motion to accept Resolution 2025-01 canvassing and certifying the election results.

ON MOTION by Tim Roland, seconded by Butch Copeland with all in favor Resolution 2025-01 canvassing and certifying the election results was approved.

B. Candidate is seated and takes oath of office.

Kay Gorham was given the oath of office.

C. Nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary of Board

ON MOTION by Tim Roland, seconded by Phil Gentry with all in favor to nominate Kay Gorham as Spring Lake Improvement District Board Chair was accepted.

ON MOTION BY Phil Gentry, seconded by Tim Roland with all in favor to nominate Butch Copeland as Spring Lake Improvement District Board Vice Chair was accepted.

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Phil Gentry with all in favor to nominate Tim Roland as Spring Lake Improvement District Secretary of the Board was accepted.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Upcoming Meetings, Events and Correspondence

- A. November 22nd, Summary Judgement Court Hearing @ 9:00 a.m.
- B. November 28th – 29th, Thanksgiving Holiday, Office closed.

Kay thanked the Spring Lake Property Association for their \$2,500 contribution to the District Festival fund.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Supervisor Requests/Questions for Field Services

Tim Roland asked Randy if we had decided what the first project for the new Track hoe would be. Randy said that nothing had been decided yet.

Butch Copeland asked about additional trash cans for the District Festival.

SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes

The Board received copies of the minutes from the September 11th and October 9th, 2024, meetings. There being no further questions.

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Tim Roland with all in favor the minutes from September 11, 2024 meeting were approved.

ON MOTION by Tim Roland, seconded by Butch Copeland with in favor the minutes from October 9, 2024, meeting were approved.

SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of Financials

The Board received copies of the September and October 2024 financials. There being no further questions.

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Phil Gentry with all in favor the September 2024 Financials were approved.

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Troy Marsh with all in favor the October 2024 Financials were approved.

EIGHTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

A. Resolution 2025-02 FY 2025 Budget Amendment

Two projects from FY 2024 were not completed before year end. A resolution moving operating funds for the Track Hoe and a transfer switch at the pump station was presented to the Board.

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Phil Gentry with all in favor Resolution 2025-02 FY 2025 Budget Amendment was approved.

NINTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Manager

A. Updates

There were no questions on the updates that were included in the Board Packets. Joe added updates on the e-mail everyone received on Water Plant # 2 from Clay, the new FASD web site, a 2026 Legislative Appropriation strategy, and asked what Supervisors needed gate codes or remotes.

B. Supervisor Guides

Joe distributed the 2025 updated Supervisor Guide pages to be put into each person's book.

C. FY '25 meetings and holidays

Joe explained the approval of the meetings and holidays for FY '25 was delayed due to the shortened October meeting due to Hurricane Milton.

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Troy Marsh with all in favor the FY '25 meetings and holidays schedule was adopted.

D. Past Resolutions

The Board had received all the pertinent past resolutions that dealt with major operational policies, and it was decided only the Trespass resolution (fishing) would be reviewed at a future meeting. Staff will prepare a briefing for the Board to review.

E. New Special District Mandate, FS 189.0694

Joe explained the new Florida Statute relative to goals and objectives for all programs and services that the District assesses. All the information must appear on the website, and yearly results posted by no later than December 1 of each year. He will get the information posted as quickly as possible.

TENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Operational Update

Israel reviewed the operational update that was sent to all Supervisors; there were no questions.

ELEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Festival Update

Phil Gentry gave an update on the festival. There were 122 of the 133 vendors in attendance. One food truck did not show up. It was suggested for next year’s festival to move the costume contest over by the DJ area. Additional trash cans need to be provided, and a designated handicap parking area needs to be established. It was also suggested to change the hours of the festival to 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

TWELVTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Attorney

Bill Nielander explained the Summary Judgement hearing process that will take place on November 22nd at the Courthouse. Each side will present case law and legal arguments to the judge.

Bill is working on the title information needed for the FRDAP projects at the Bark Park and Arbuckle Creek Park.

THIRTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Supervisor Requests

Kay Gorham read a prepared statement describing her positive feelings about the succession plan but concerned about the high percentage of the total personnel budget that was going to the two top District positions. She felt that this was not sustainable, and she had a meeting with Joe and Clay on November 5 to voice her concerns. Kay asked for a motion to allow her, and Israel, to meet with Joe and Clay separately to review their chart of work and future compensation. Butch asked Israel his opinion of the motion and he concurred that this was a timely initiative. Joe stated he was willing to review his current contract, which goes until October 11, 2026.

ON MOTION by Tim Roland, seconded by Butch Copeland with all in favor for Kay and Israel to meet individually with Joe and Clay to discuss their future chart of work and compensation. They are to bring the results back to the Board for discussion

Tim Roland asked if anyone had commented about the new entrance sign. Joe responded no.

FOURTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Comments

Bob Rider said for the Board to keep up the good work.

FIFTEENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Wednesday December 11, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.

ON MOTION by Butch Copeland, seconded by Phil Gentry
with all in favor the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Kay Gorham, Board Chair

Tim Roland, Secretary