MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE FORT PIERCE UTILITIES AUTHORITY, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022, 4:00 P.M., CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS.

Members Present: Chairman Frank H. Fee, IV; Vice Chairman Kristina Gibbons; Secretary Barbara Bennett; Deputy Secretary Larry Lammers; and Mayor Linda Hudson.

Others present: Javier Cisneros, Director of Utilities; Rupert N. Koblegard, III, FPUA Attorney, Barbara A. Mika, Director of Financial Services; Paul A. Jakubczak, Director of Electric & Gas Systems; Bo Hutchinson, Director of Water/Wastewater Systems; Daniel Retherford, Director of Utility Support Services; and Lois Wolfe, Acting Director of Regulatory Affairs.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank H. Fee.

Opening Prayer was by Christelle Myrick, FPUA Water Distribution.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The roll was called and a quorum declared.

A motion was made by Mrs. Gibbons, seconded by Mr. Lammers, and unanimously carried to approve the set agenda.

A motion was made by Mayor Hudson, seconded by Mr. Lammers, and unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 18, 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Lammers, seconded by Mrs. Gibbons, and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda.

1. Bid No. 18-39: i) Approve Amendment No.1 to the Emergency Catering Services Contracts with Arthur's Catering, Inc. of Altamonte Springs, Florida; Vizcarra Hospitality, LLC of Carrollton, Texas to allow for two additional one-year renewal options, and include FEMA required contract terms. ii) Approve Amendment No. 2 to the Emergency Catering Services Contract with Good Eats, See Food, LLC, of Fort Pierce, Florida, to allow for two additional one-year renewal options.
2. POA No. 22-29: Approve the Single Source Purchase of essential equipment and parts required for the Reverse Osmosis Train "A" Conversion from Fluid Control Specialties, Inc. of Sanford, Florida, in an amount to exceed $65,781.
3. RFQu No. 20-10: Approve the Continuing Contract with Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., of Reading, Massachusetts, for Professional Engineering Services for Gas Systems. The initial term of this contract is February 2, 2022 through June 30, 2025, with unlimited five-year renewal options.

Chairman Fee said I understand we have a few letters of appreciation today.

Ms. Sabota said we do.

We received a call from Lucille Cotton regarding the weatherization service she received. She is 82 years young and was born and raised in Fort Pierce and she has never had such professional and caring people assist or that she's ever known. She specifically mentioned Eric Winterstein and his team who did the service.

We received an email from a customer, Dwayne Whitmore, who had an exceptional experience with Wendy Tomlinson a customer service representative. He said she was one of the most professional CSR's he's ever had the pleasure of interacting with and that her attention to detail and kindness made what could've been a bad situation into a pleasant one.

Chairman Fee said very nice letters. We will move on to new business.

Mr. Cisneros said thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon. The first item this afternoon is a request for the approval of the specific authorization with Globaltech for the replacement of the energy service center fuel system. The tanks will meet the end of useful life in December of this year. Mr. Daniel Retherford, Director of Utility Support Services will present this item.

Mr. Retherford said thank you. Mr. Chair, members of the board. I'm Daniel Retherford. Newly appointed Director of Utility Support Services. We're asking for approval of this specific authorization GT-35-2203 with Globaltech in the amount not to exceed $823,052.78. This is for the replacement of some older 10,000 gallon below ground storage tanks we will replace with some new above ground storage tanks self-containment systems. They are housed at ESC. That's the home of electric and gas, our fleet operations and warehousing. It's our primary storage facility for our gas and diesel.

A little bit of background. These tanks are at the end of their useful life. They were installed back in like 1992. They are approaching more than 30 years old. We can't insure them any more after 2022. It's time to change them out. That's the background, that's the history and the request.

I'm here to answer questions should you have any?

Chairman Fee asked any questions of the board?

Mr. Lammers asked is there a projected project schedule for when everything will be complete?

Mr. Retherford said yes, sir. Some of the funding for the project is already budgeted for this fiscal year. We will get started as soon as we can. We will be careful not to uproot this and have it not available during the hurricane season. We will try to get some done prior to hurricane season. If we think we can get some of it done and the system back in place we will. If we get to a point where we think we can't do that, we're going to hold off a little bit till we're out of hurricane season. Then we will wrap things up at the end of the year.

Mayor Hudson asked do you know what the lifetime is of the new ones?

Mr. Retherford said I do not. The old ones were 30 years.

Mayor Hudson asked what happens when they wear out or become uninsurable?

Mr. Retherford said it just puts us at risk.

Mayor Hudson said do they deteriorate?

Mr. Retherford said they start to degrade. The biggest risk that we run is they leak into the ground and we run into an environmental mess. That's probably the largest risk.

A motion was made by Mayor Hudson, seconded by Ms. Bennett, and unanimously carried to approve POA No. 22-53: Approve the Specific Authorization No. GT 35-22-03, for ESC Fuel Tank Replacement with Globaltech, Inc., of Boca Raton, FL, in an amount not to exceed $823,052.78. The initial term of this Contract will be upon written notice to proceed and end on final completion of the work, and acceptance by FPUA.

Mr. Cisneros said Mr. Chairman the next item this afternoon is a request for the approval of a specific authorization with Dewberry Engineers to complete the engineering certificate for the new bond issuance and debt refinancing. The scope did change slightly because we've added the mainland water reclamation facility to the evaluation. Barbara Mika, Director of Financial Services will present this item.

Ms. Mika said thank you Mr. Cisneros, Chairman Fee and board members. This agenda item is a specific authorization for professional services with Dewberry Engineers of Fairfax, Virginia in support of our revenue bond financing.

The first phase of this project was approved under the authorization of the Director of Utilities, which covered the task of the projects initiation meetings with Dewberry Engineering, FPUA staff, our financial advisor and rate consultant. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information and develop an outlining scope of work they needed to obtain the engineering report which is a requirement of getting the new debt issuance.

As phase one progressed, the concept of including the capital cost associated with the relocation of the wastewater plant into the debt issuance was discussed and was added to the scope of work and the financial feasibility. So we have another specific authorization for the second phase now that they developed what the scope is under the first phase. Dewberry will evaluate the system projects, the asset inventory, system improvement costs, the future capacity and coordinate with that financial feasibility report. All of which will culminate into the engineering report which we need in order to do the debt refinancing. In addition to the approval of the authorization, we are requesting approval of a budget transfer to cover the cost in the amount of $208,400. The specific authorization will commence upon written notice to proceed and will be valid through the end of the fiscal year September.

Chairman Fee asked are there any questions of the board?

Mayor Hudson said so this -- Mr. Chairman, this is a requirement for engineers to evaluate in order to get the financing. Have I got that right?

Mr. Cisneros said yes ma'am.

Mayor Hudson said even though engineers don't have anything to do with finance. You have to have engineers say this is legitimate.

Ms. Mika said they are evaluating the projects that will be included in the financing so the investors will know it's a valid project and it's worth the money they are buying the bonds for.

Mayor Hudson said okay, thanks.

Chairman Fee asked then who reviews the final engineering report? A separately engaged engineer on behalf of the lender.

Ms. Mika said Dewberry is an independent of 8 engineers that will do the review. So their report is independent of.....they're just gathering information from our staff.

Chairman Fee said and then that will go to our bond refinancer I expect. Any other questions?

Mrs. Gibbons asked is it in hopes this would then get put into the bond refinancing as well....or is this going to be separate? Is this a short term?

Ms. Mika said adding the relocation of the wastewater plant. Yes, we're hoping we're getting the financing in there. Not probably 100% of it, because we are looking into some grant funding and other funding sources. We're not looking to finance all of it, but a good portion of it if we can get in there and the financial feasibility portion corroborates that report. We hope that falls in place.

Mr. Cisneros said so to add to that, originally, we were going to refinance and take about $27-$28 million dollars so we can reinvest into the system with system expansion. That originally what was we were doing. But in December, January, we decided to include WRF as part of the evaluation for us to be able to go out to bond. We included the WRF in the evaluation so they could be considered for financing with the bond. Originally we were going to go for $30M and like Barbara said we're looking for a much higher number probably in the $120 million dollar range.

Chairman Fee said that's a lot of money.

Mr. Cisneros said we'll talk about some of those things in just a minute.

Chairman Fee said with one bond person.

Mr. Cisneros said I will start off with that.

Chairman Fee said way to soft sell us on that one. All right. Any other questions? Anybody's hands not shaking?

Ms. Bennett said Mr. Chair, how much would we look to get grants for?

Ms. Mika said I believe the grants are $10 or $20 million. Depending on which grants they're.....

Mr. Cisneros said we're looking around $20 million. We're hoping to get $20 million.

Ms. Mika said there are several grants out there so they're trying to get one or both or more than one.

Mr. Cisneros said as many as we can get.

Ms. Mika said it's still up in the air. That piece is still questionable. We're not going to include that. To begin with we have to come up with a finite picture with what we will focus in on for this financing and then when we get to that point we'll figure if it's a short term or some other form of financing if we don't get grants.

Chairman Fee said refresh my recollection. What will the bond interest rate going to be? We still don't know?

Mr. Cisneros said we want to make sure we get it done before the summer as it will increase. We have a couple of numbers that have been thrown out there. I don't know if you remember the latest one. I think it was 2.2., 2.0.

Ms. Mika said a year ago it was probably .5.

Chairman Fee said borrowing $100,000 doesn't mean much. When you're talking about $100 million that 2% adds up.

Ms. Mika said it will be over a longer period of time than the $28 million we we're originally looking at. Maybe a nine-year pay back on that one. If we're going for much more it will have to be more like 25 or 30 years or something like that. The debt we have now will be gone by 2029. If we were to do nothing else we would be debt free by 2029. This work needs to be done so we need to find a way to finance it.

Mayor Hudson asked is there an opportunity, do you think, to get infrastructure funds from the new federal distribution?

Mr. Cisneros said yes, ma'am. We're looking at all of those grants.

Mayor Hudson said I think I got an e-mail that said now the rules are out or the guidelines are out or something. Somebody is looking at that right now.

Mr. Cisneros said last week Mr. Hutchinson and I had a meeting with our design build team and we specifically reviewed those grants and I believe there were two grants that we have a good chance of getting. That includes some of the infrastructure money.

Mr. Chairman said anyone care to make a motion?

A motion was made by Mayor Hudson, seconded by Mrs. Gibbons, and unanimously carried to approve POA No. 21-68: Approve Specific Authorization No. DW-21-22-02, for Revenue Bond Financing with Dewberry Engineers Inc., of Fairfax, Virginia, in an amount not to exceed $208,400. This Specific Authorization shall commence upon written notice to proceed through September 30, 2022.

Mr. Cisneros said Mr. Chairman the next item this afternoon is a request for the approval of a specific authorization with McNabb Hydrogeologic Consulting. The scope of the work includes a mechanical integrity test for the deep injection well at the island water reclamation facility. Shane Ostrander, Engineering trainee will present this item.

Mr. Ostrander said thank you Mr. Cisneros., Chairman Fee, ladies and gentlemen of the board. With the Florida Department of Environmental Protection underground injection control operating permit FPUA must demonstrate mechanical integrity of its deep injection wells every five years. The deep injection wells at the Henry Gahn Water Treatment Plant and the island water reclamation facility are both required to have the mechanical integrity test performed in

June of this year. To save time and costs staff has chosen to consolidate both tests into one project. Funding is currently available in our operation and maintenance budget so staff is recommending the approval of the specific authorization for McNabb Consulting in the amount of $252,780 for engineering, testing and reporting services in support of the testing of these deep injection wells.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Chairman Fee asked any questions of the board members?

Mrs. Gibbons said I have a question. I do see that it is budgeted. So this in the 2021-2022 budget that you already planned to use?

Mr. Ostrander said operation and maintenance, yes ma'am.

Mayor Hudson asked is this required to establish the integrity?

Mr. Ostrander said yes, ma'am. Every five years per our permit. We must show the wells are operating correctly.

Mayor Hudson asked is it a timing thing that you think it might not have integrity? What -- what if it fails? What happens then?

Mr. Ostrander said then there's remediation to correct that. This test is a video log, pressure test, temperature check, and also they test it with iodine to make sure there's no leaking of the casing of the well itself.

Mayor Hudson asked and right now you don't have any reason to believe there is?

Mr. Ostrander said no, ma'am.

Mayor Hudson said this is required to do.

Chairman Fee asked has there been prior history of leaking or any type of compromise with the system?

Mr. Ostrander said no, sir. Not that I know of.

Chairman Fee asked do these type of wells have a life span?

Mr. Ostrander said I believe so. I don't have that number right now. I can get that to you.

Chairman Fee said I am going to lean on you if you think we're good. No need to know the answer to that question. Okay. Any other questions?

Mr. Lammers asked Mr. Chair, we don't have any history of any prior field tests and these tests are required by FDEP. What happens if we miss the deadline? Are there fines associated with it? Are they large fines?

Mr. Ostrander said these are critical assets to our function. We can ask for an extension. But I do not know the actual fee. I assume there would be....if we operated outside the lines of our permit; I believe there would be financial repercussions.

Mr. Lammers said you mention critical assets. Probably something whether FDEP had a rule saying that we needed to do it or not. It's something we would do on our own because it's a good idea to make sure those facilities are in good shape.

Mr. Ostrander said correct.

Mr. Lammers said and then just to kind of respond to the life span of the well. I think it's highly dependent on the soil conditions that the well is in and how much flow comes through the well. Because each well kind of has veins inside of it that the water flows through. It's like I said highly dependent on what kind of soil that water is following through and how much water is that well drawing.

Mr. Ostrander said that confining layer, that protects the well if that erodes, we would have to take action.

Chairman Fee asked any other questions?

Mrs. Gibbons said I have a question. We've never had to repair any of these in the past?

Mr. Ostrander said not that I know of.

Mrs. Gibbons said I'm just curious. Let's say they do find something in order to repair that. Is it something more like a lining type thing, like we do with the pipes or how do we maintain it?

Mr. Ostrander said it would depend on the issue itself and McNabb, the professional geologists, would then help us come up with a plan. Depending on the severity you might have to drill a new well. That hasn't happened.

Chairman Fee asked anyone care to make a motion?

A motion was made by Mr. Lammers, seconded by Ms. Bennett, and unanimously carried to approve POA No. 22-53: Approve Specific Authorization No. MHC 22-66-01, for Mechanical Integrity Testing of the Deep Injection Well IW-1 at the FPUA Island Water Reclamation Facility and IW-1 at the Henry A. Gahn Water Treatment Plant with McNabb Hydrogeologic Consulting, Inc., of Jupiter, Florida, in an amount not to exceed $252,780. The initial term of this Contract will begin upon notice to proceed and end on final completion of the work and written acceptance by FDEP of the mechanical integrity testing report, contingent on receiving the required Certificate(s) of Insurance.

Mr. Cisneros said the last item today will be an information item for the very exciting upcoming FMEA lineman competition. Paul Jakubczak, Director of Electric & Gas Systems will present this item and I believe he's accompanied today by the team that will hopefully bring home the trophy.

Mr. Jakubczak said thank you Mr. Cisneros, Chairman, members of the board. I'm happy to present to you an exciting event that we're planning on having here in Ft. Pierce on February 26th. It's the annual FMEA Florida lineman's competition. I believe it's the first time it's been held anywhere south of Kissimmee in its 20 year history. This is actually a year delayed because of Covid from last year. We're very excited and we'll go through a little bit of what we're planning on doing and how you guys can get involved as well.

This is the competition that we're talking about right now. It's the 2022 FMEA lineman competition in Florida. The reason for this is basically to show off the communities that are public power, but also to show off the communities where this competition is held. It's also a great way to see what the linemen do for the public power communities in the state. The winners of this competition on the journeymen side will get a free trip to the APPA rodeo, which I believe this year will be held in Austin, Texas in April. Unfortunately, we don't have a journeyman team, but we keep on striving to get that journeyman team put together so we can actually compete and actually win and potentially get up to the APPA rodeo.

We've been advertising for this. We're going to be advertising more in the coming weeks. Some of the things we've done already through the help of Jann and the city are bill inserts. We've gone through two sets of bill inserts for this. If you don't read your bill you probably haven't seen this. If you do read your bill you have read it. It has been posted on Facebook multiple times by FPUA as well as FMEA. Some of the things you will hear in the future is we plan on some radio ads. We will be utilizing the Fenn marque because that's are where the competition is. I will show you the map in a second.

The benefits to the community. They're looking at 23 three man journeymen teams and 60 to 70 apprentices are the people that compete. You add that together along with spouses and families and you are looking at an influx of about 400 to 500 people into the community. We've worked -- Jann and I have worked with the downtown business alliance to work with downtown

businesses to be able to draw people in with buy one get one free type deal or 5% off a meal. We're trying to draw people in to Ft. Pierce itself. Jann has worked with Main Street as well to get together a map of some of the downtown interests and stuff as well. One of the things that we have in here is that if people really like the community, they are more willing to come back. That's truly what we want to do. We want to show them a good time while they are here, but also draw them back to get the tax dollars in the future.

Some of the competitions that you will see. This is actually the set up for the field. It's going to be at the Fenn Center. It's behind the skate park. We will have all the events there. There's five journeymen events and six apprentice events. Why do the apprentice's get an extra event? They need to take a written test on safety to make sure that they are being trained properly. So that safety test for them will take place on Friday after they register. As you can see here the grounds for the actual competition is behind the baseball fields and the skate park leading all the way up to Rotary Park itself. Inside Rotary Park we will have vendor booths. Some that the linemen use for competition, they'll have shirts and stuff like this. We will use the opportunity to show case our 50th anniversary. We will have a booth set up for that as well too. We will have an area for the kids. We will have a little bounce house. A little bit of activities for them to do. We want this to be a family friendly event. We want the whole community to come out and take a look and say you know what FPUA does a great job. Now I understand why it may take an hour for my electric to come on compared to some of these that complain that it should be on right now and you see why it takes that average of 60 minutes to do that.

We're also going to have three local food trucks. The boys and girls club will be singing the national anthem. I talked to Will Armstead about that, so that's going to be promoting them. They are actually going to have their food truck there as well to promote their culinary program that the boys and girls club put together.

All events are going to be at the Fenn Center. I know one of the big things we always talk about is unfortunately or fortunately however you want to look at that it's also the fair weekend. All the parking will be held in front of the football fields. That's where all the main parking is going to be. We'll have a little VIP area for those that need extra assistance. I've talked to Mike Realls and we're going to be utilizing the city's trolley to take the people from that parking area down to the events.

Let's see what else. Friday afternoon is going to be set up for all the teams coming in from across the state. I know we have teams from Tallahassee, Talquin, Clay County, unfortunately, the teams from the Keys and Homestead will not be attending which means we'll be the furthest south team competing. Friday is set up and check in and then the written test for the apprentices. Saturday the opening ceremonies will be at 8:00 a.m. with the kick off and some speeches as well as the national anthem. Then we will get started and the guys will be climbing poles until around 3:00 when the competition ends. After the competition is over there's a banquet later that

evening and if any of the board members wish to attend the banquet please get with Jill so we get your ticket orders for that. I believe the banquet actually starts at 6:30pm. That's when we will give out awards and let you know. We'll go through a recap of some of the things that happened. This is also where they normally give out community service awards. What have you done in your community? We apply every year with the different things that we do, i.e. the food drives, the volunteer hours all those things we submit to that. If we're one of the qualified ones they'll go ahead and give us an award for that as well as they also award the utilities that have actually done mutual aid outside of their own utility, which we have in Louisiana.

With that we will move on to our 2020 apprentice team. This team went up to Tallahassee right before Covid locked everything down. They were able to compete. We had five apprentices at that time. Currently, we've got a three-man team, we'll show that in a second here. The picture on the right shows you the awards that we were able to receive as well as for all of our dedication inside our city itself and our utility as well as to outside utilities that need our assistance.

The pictures here on the left-hand side is a herd man rescue. This is a required event no matter where you go to any of the linemen competitions, linemen rodeos as they call it. It goes up to say if there's an accident out there how quickly can you get someone down to administer CPR. I belief Bill, correct me if I'm wrong, the fastest is about a minute and 40 seconds. You can imagine starting at the ground, putting on your hooks climbing the pole getting the individual down and then starting CPR in a minute and 40 seconds. That's hauling!

The picture on the right is the street lights change out. This was one of the events. It's not an event this year. They go through the different events and try to mix it up a little bit to make sure everyone is not practicing that same thing over and over again. They get a little bit of diversity and a little bit of ability to change it out.

Our middle picture right there is our own Dan Tillman. Two years ago he was able to get first place in the written test. Right before the test and right after the test I mentioned to him it doesn't matter how quickly you do it matters how many answers that you get right. Some of these people were finishing this test in three or four minutes and their scores were not as good. Dan took a little bit longer in the four or five minute time, but scored the highest on the test and that's why he came home with the trophy.

All of this couldn't have been done without a great planning committee within FPUA. We have Heather, Karina, Katie, Jann, Trish, Thierry, Bill and Maurice. They've been a great help trying to herd the cats together to make sure we have everything prepared and we put our best foot forward by utilizing and putting forward Ft. Pierce and what the city has to offer as well as what FPUA has to offer.

With that I would like to introduce you one member of our apprentice team and our coach. We have Maurice Bacon. He's been the coach of the apprentices now for a couple of years. He's also

one of the judges for the competition as well. So he wears two hats during that weekend. Then we have Dan Tillman who, as you saw, took first place. He has to defend his trophy. The other night I saw him leaving and I said you have your book with you to study. He said I sure do sitting here right next to me. Then we have Chuck Alford and Brandon Richardson and they will compete as well. Thank you gentlemen. We couldn't do it without their fearless leader, Bill Crawford, to make sure they have the time and effort to put their best foot forward and practice for the events.

With that my easy button it's time for any questions that you may have. I truly appreciate the effort and the opportunity that the board has allowed us as well as our leadership to go ahead and host this. It's a great thing for us to be able to host this south of KUA. Let people know what the beach looks like. Let people know what warm weather looks like and basically show off what Ft. Pierce is and what Ft. Pierce is doing and what FPUA does for the community.

Like I said, my easy button is it's time for questions. I expect to see everyone on the board there at some point during the day. At least to say hello and to see what these guys actually do in the middle of the night.

Chairman Fee asked any questions of the board?

Mrs. Gibbons asked was it planned for it to be on our 50th anniversary and that it was going to be here?

Mr. Jakubczak said we kind of told Covid to stay another year just so we could push it to our 50th and show off our new logo.

Mrs. Gibbons said so it was going to be here last year.

Mr. Jakubczak said it was actually going to be in 2021. It is free for the public. Please come out. We're looking at the possibility of setting some shorter poles maybe having some hard-hats and stuff for the kids to take pictures. Family friendly event and like I said we're pushing Ft. Pierce and FPUA on its 50th at this event.

Chairman Fee asked any other questions?

Mayor Hudson said I have a question that will show how little I know. Why don't we have -- what's a journeyman as opposed to an apprentice?

Mr. Jakubczak said a journeyman is an individual that's gone through a 4 and a half year program. Basically they start from scratch. They teach them how to climb and work at 600 volts, and high voltage (15kV) and be safe. It's a four-year program and part of it is you have to have 8,000 on-the-job training hours in order to be certified. Our program is certified with the state. So after four years, Mr. Tillman and the other apprentices will get a journeyman certificate saying they have been certified to do that. Unfortunately, our journeymen have been busy and have a lot of

family commitments so they couldn't dedicate the time to be able to put together a team. Some of these utilities have a lot more journeymen than we do. So JEA, as you can imagine, has probably 800 journeymen. They have teams that practice all year-round. They'll take a day or two or half a day and they'll practice all year around. We just aren't afforded that luxury to be able to do that.

Ms. Bennett asked how many local businesses are we utilizing on that date?

Mr. Jakubczak said we will have three food trucks that are all local. I know the Manatee Center is going to be having a booth out there as well. One of the things, because it's at the Fenn Center, that I have stressed and believe I have stressed it enough with FMEA is that we are going to have local establishments provide adult beverages at the Fenn Center. For example; Sailfish, Pierce Cider and many others will be available for people to sample and we're also using the Fenn Center's catering companies. I believe most of those are local as well. The boys and girls club have been a great supporter. Some of the contracts that you will see under $5,000 are local companies. The tent contractors, the ice people and there's a couple of other ones in there as well that we are utilizing local. One of the things also are the trophies and stuff. We try to use local to make sure they are done. The shirts the guys wear and will be used for the volunteers. We try to promote as much as we can locally. Unfortunately, there's some things that we can't get local companies to do because it's not available for them.

Ms. Bennett asked how do they register to become one of the vendors?

Mr. Jakubczak said if they have something that is needed, as our committee meets, we go over okay, we need 20 of this. Who can provide 20 of those and can we keep it locally. Sometimes we can't because it's just not available. I know some of the signs and some of the flags and stuff we try to go to the local vendors to be able to order them from those vendors just to keep the money as local as we can and to promote what we do throughout our community. If anyone has any suggestions by all means give myself a call or Jann a call as we continue the process. We have another four meetings if not more to make sure this event goes off without a hitch. There's always something, but we'll make sure it doesn't.

Ms. Bennett asked is there a certain deadline that they have to sign up?

Mr. Jakubczak said within the next two weeks would be great.

Ms. Bennett said I'm saying for next year.

Mr. Jakubczak said next year.....I don't know where the competition will be held next year. It won't be in Ft. Pierce. It will more likely be somewhere in the panhandle or Gainesville. They try to rotate it around the state.

Mr. Lammers said just a couple of things. One, I think this is a great opportunity for Ft. Pierce just to show case what we offer as a community. But beyond that, have you -- I'm sure you have

worked out any deals with local lodging, which you're having the people from out of town stay in?

Mr. Jakubczak said all the lodging has been put up on the web site for them to register. It's all between the turnpike and 95 in that corridor. I believe all the hotels are full. One of the things also we learned from Covid is a lot of people like to travel in their travel trailers. We put under the new KOA, Savannah Preserves all those different locations those are filled up as well too. So now we are actually expanding a little bit on the north side as well to find camp grounds that have the ability with hook ups for these individuals to travel and bring their families.

Mr. Lammers said and I'm sure you mentioned that maybe I missed it, the banquet will be held at the Fenn Center.

Mr. Jakubczak said at the Fenn Center in the large banquet facility. I think right now they are set up for about 550 people.

Mr. Lammers asked is that open to the public as well? Or is this just the competition?

Mr. Jakubczak said mainly for the competition. They do have tickets, but when the tickets are gone there's no more room in the Fenn Center. That's why if the board wants to attend the banquet get with Jill to make sure you have a seat at the table.

Mayor Hudson said we need to rsvp and let her know we will be there.

Mr. Jakubczak said yes. Preferably before Friday. That's the deadline for sign up

Mr. Cisneros said we will go ahead and get you tickets.

Mayor Hudson said this is very, very exciting. First time ever right?

Mr. Jakubczak said as far as I can tell looking back it's the first time ever in Ft. Pierce and the first time ever below KUA.

Mayor Hudson asked is the press going to be there?

Mr. Jakubczak said we let the press know quite a bit. I'm actually going to reach out to WPTV a contact that I have there. I've talked to him during another nonprofit event and he was very excited when we started mentioning what was going to be happening, so I'm going to reach out to him and see if he would like to come in and cover that.

Mayor Hudson asked are you working with the TDC? The St. Lucie County Tourist Development Council. Are they aware of this event?

Mr. Jakubczak said they are aware it. I know that we are actually working now putting together the county permits. We're done with the city permits. We will submit to the county as well to wave fees they have for the use of the facilities. Which I talked to one of the commissioners a

year ago about it and she said that would not be any issue doing that just make sure we get it in, in time.

Mayor Hudson said you might reach out and Jann may know Charlotte, she's on the staff at the Tourist Development Council. I'm sure he would want to be a part of it and help promote.

Mr. Jakubczak said we will make sure to reach out to her.

Chairman Fee said thank you. Good luck. Director....

Mr. Cisneros said yes, sir. I have 7 items today. I will try to be as brief as possible.

Since the last board meeting gas prices have been high as the weather has been colder. Yesterday the prices were around $4.87 a dekatherm. The board's decision not to change the PCA at the last board meeting was a good call. At the next board meeting we'll have a PCA recommendation for the board to consider.

I would like to provide a quick update on the water main break on Georgia Ave and 13th St. that happened on January 26th. The break was on a transmission water main about five blocks from the water plant. Our crews made every effort to isolate the system, but unfortunately I had to make the difficult decision to turn off the pumps at the water plant around 1:30 in the morning in order to identify and repair the main break. The system was restored by 6:00 a.m. with full system pressure by 7:00 a.m. We estimate around 4.8 to 5 million gallons were lost during the break. That's a lot of water. The repair of the main break and the road repairs are estimated to be around $125,000. Hopefully, less than that, but that is what we are estimating right now. There were no damage to nearby homes. It's important for me to recognize the field crews that worked tirelessly to restore the system as quickly as possible. It was a great team effort by dispatch, locaters, gas ops, wastewater crews, water plant, and water operation crews. I would like to recognize Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Andrew Byrd. Especially Mr. Byrd as he was able to do what he does best and that is manage the crews under a great deal of stress. Restoring water by 6:00 a.m. allowed the school board and Indian River State College board to hold classes instead of cancelling classes. So I would like to apologize to the students rooting against us.

We did do a lot of things very well. However, there's some areas for improvement. We've identified a task force team that will help improve our emergency notification process. The idea there is to have a strong and consistent process for notifying our customers, city, county, school board and all community partners. We'd like to make a presentation to the board in March with an overview of the plan.

Next Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Retherford and I will be attending the legislative rally in Tallahassee next week. The Hopper as the Tallahassee folks like to call it includes legislative bills for cybersecurity specifically to protect the critical infrastructure data from public records request.

And also as the Mayor mentioned at the last board meeting prohibiting any utility transfer to the city. That specific one doesn't appear to have any legs yet, but there's a lot of time left. Just too kind of summarize, that one would specifically prohibit annual transfers from utility to city unless those funds are specifically used for replacement of aging utility infrastructure. So it would still be allowed, but you would have to reinvest back into the utility. The person who is behind it is really focusing on the water utility system, but it would affect all municipal utilities, especially FPUA since we are defined by charter with its own governing board. The FPUA board and the 6% transfer of requirement. Hopefully, we'll be able to provide more information after we come back from the rally.

Currently, we have Dan O'Hagen (FMPA) tentatively scheduled to provide an update on the Florida Sunshine Law. This is effectively a training session, a refresher session for the board. It will focus primarily on open meeting requirements and ethical rules for public officials. We haven't done this in a while and I think we've all talked about it and would be good for the board to get a refresher and also it gets us some face time with the FMPA staff. They have a great staff over there.

Last Friday our bond council provided the latest update to the amended bond resolution. Mr. Koblegard has reviewed it and I'm sure he'll talk about it here in a second and discuss with the bond counsel. We will continue to move forward and obviously today the board approved the Dewberry specific authorization that will allow us to move forward on the engineering certificate. As soon as we get the engineering certificate squared away, we will go out to market pending any small items that we have to address.

We're continuing to work with Raftelis. That's our rate consultant to develop potential rate increases or the potential related rate increases for the funds associated with the debt for the new water reclamation facility. We hope to get an update in late February and, then after that, we can start scheduling a meeting with board members and the city commission so we can keep you up-to-date.

At the board meeting on March 1st Barbara will present a summary of current outstanding bonds with the original loan amount and our outstanding balance with a high level description of what we spent the money on. As she mentioned, if we did nothing we would be out of debt in a short -- in a pretty decent amount of time. It's great for the board. That's not healthy for the system for the utility not to expand. It's important for us to expand. That does provide the board and staff with some important institutional mileage as we move forward with the new debt issuance.

The last item Jill handed out a memo that provides some dates of conferences and important FPUA dates that includes budget workshops and stuff. Some of those dates may be required to be changed based on the availability of the board members. I would like to highlight the FMPA/FMEA Annual Conference which is on July 12th through the 14th. This is great event I hope

the board can attend. If there are any other events that you would like to attend, please let us know and Jill can take care of your registration and travel arrangements.

That's all I have for the board today.

Chairman Fee asked any questions for the Director?

Mayor Hudson said I have a question. The Sunshine Law presentation that will be in conjunction with the board meeting?

Mr. Cisneros said yes, ma'am. We'll try to keep it to about 8 to 10 minutes.

Mayor Hudson said I just want to know if it was going to be a special meeting.

Mr. Cisneros said no, it would be for the board meeting, yes, ma'am.

Chairman Fee said just remind me when will that meeting be?

Mr. Cisneros said March 1st.

Chairman Fee said and that's when they will make the presentation for the Sunshine.

Mr. Cisneros said I will coordinate with Mr. O'Hagen from FMPA. He may have to move to 15th based on availability, but as of right now I'm expecting it to be March 1st. He's done this presentation for other utilities. It's something he can pull off the shelf.

Mrs. Gibbons said I was at the DBA meeting last week and heard an update on kiosks with regards to the fiber and everything. I didn't know maybe if we could have an update at the next meeting or if you know anything that you can share with us. I was surprised that I didn't know what was going on with that.

Mr. Cisneros said I'm not up to speed with that. There's a little bit of separation now. I would have to ask that I give you an update at the next board meeting. Maybe even a presentation.

Mrs. Gibbons said that would be great.

Chairman Fee asked any other questions?

Chairman Fee asked any report from the Attorney?

Attorney Koblegard asked does everyone have a Sunshine manual and updated one? As Mr. Cisneros mentioned, there's comments on the bond resolution they were revising to go forward. It's their own bond resolution, anyway. They will present to the board for your approval. I have about another hour and a half of discussions about some general things with everyone here, or I can put it off for now and we can go home. Whatever you would like.

Mayor Hudson said whatever we need to do.

Chairman Fee said it's a big number.

Mr. Cisneros said I think the presentation that Barbara will make with the summary of our existing debt, I think it will paint a different picture. It's going to require rate increases, but it won't as bad as we think it will be. Hopefully we'll continue to crunch the numbers and try to streamline processes to keep the cost low. We have to do something.

Mr. Koblegard said that's all tied in of course to moving the plant also.

Chairman Fee asked any comments from the Board Members?

Mayor Hudson said I would like to say that if we have ethics and it will be 5 to 10 minutes we are getting off easy. If you are an elected official you have to take four hours every year of ethics training.

Mr. Cisneros said as Mr. Koblegard mentioned, he's going to try and hit on maybe just a couple pages of the book. It really is a lot to ask to go through four hours of training, but at least.....

Mayor Hudson said he'll highlight the really important points that people don't sometimes get.

Mr. Cisneros said especially stuff they've experienced over the past year they really need to highlight.

Mayor Hudson said it will be good.

Chairman Fee asked any other comments from the board?

Mr. Lammers said Mr. Chair...you know my ears definitely perked up hearing Javy talking about the bill that's trying to get created or pushed forward and that local utilities can't transfer any money to the city. Madam Mayor, do you know what percentage of the city's budget the FPUA transfer constitutes yearly?

Mayor Hudson said a big one. I think we're like at $42 million and $6 million out of $42 million.

Mr. Lammers said a big one. More than 10% about 15%. Is there anything that FMEA is asking and I know you mentioned it doesn't seem like it has legs yet. Is there anything that FMEA is asking boards to do?

Mr. Cisneros said on Monday, when we go to the rally, we have a board meeting and during that board meeting they will give us all of the talking points. Actually, I talked to Amy today. She's

going to give that to us hopefully by Friday so we can prepare over the weekend. We will be prepared to talk about those -- or be well versed in those talking points. We'll be talking to Dana Trabulsy and Senator Hill. We'll be meeting with them to talk about those specific bills that affect utilities. We will be prepared. We will get that information on Friday. Have a group session with FMEA and the other utilities and try to be well versed before we go into the meeting with the representatives.

Chairman Fee asked anything else?

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:53pm.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

CHAIRMAN