

**SEACOAST UTILITY AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING**

August 27, 2025

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: 3:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Robert Weisman, Chair
Karen Marcus, Vice Chair
Robert Cole, Member
Ron Ferris, Member
Richard Reade, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Nat Nason, General Counsel
Rim Bishop, Executive Director
Jessica Moore, Authority Clerk

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

*****OPENED PUBLIC HEARING*****

RESOLUTION NO. 4-2025, A RESOLUTION OF THE AUTHORITY BOARD OF THE SEACOAST UTILITY AUTHORITY; ADOPTING THE ANNUAL OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR OCTOBER 1, 2025, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 FOR SEACOAST UTILITY AUTHORITY; AUTHORIZING AN INDEXED 4.8% INCREASE TO OCTOBER 1, 2024 WATER, SEWER, AND RECLAIMED WATER RATES, INCLUDING LOW-PRESSURE SEWER AND WATER MAIN EXTENSION ASSESSMENTS, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2025; AUTHORIZING LINE-ITEM BUDGET TRANSFERS BETWEEN DEPARTMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE
(Read by Authority Clerk Jessica Moore)

A. Board Comment/Deliberation

Board Chair Ron Ferris complimented staff on the three-year projection and stated that the budget was put together well and easy to understand.

B. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

MOTION

Board Members Ferris/Marcus moved to approve Resolution No. 4-2025, as recommended by staff.

The motion carried unanimously.

*****CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING*****

*****DETERMINED THE CONSENT AGENDA*****

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Considered a motion to approve the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JULY 30, 2025

Considered motion to approve the minutes for the meeting of July 30, 2025.

CONTRACT AWARDS

A. EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES

1. Sodium Hypochlorite Contract Renewal

Considered a motion to approve Water Treatment Chemical – Sodium Hypochlorite Contract Renewal with Allied Universal through September 2028 in the amount of \$1.78 per gallon, estimated annual cost of \$362,950.00, as recommended by staff.

2. Liquid Chlorine Piggyback Contract Approval

Considered a motion to approve Water Chemical – Liquid Chlorine Piggyback Contract Approval with Allied Universal through, pursuant to the terms of the competitively bid Town of Jupiter contract in the amount of \$1,546.90/ton, estimated annual cost of \$860,000.00, as recommended by staff.

B. PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

1. I-95 and Central Boulevard Utility Relocations – Agreement for Professional Services. Change Order No. 2 (R2315)

Considered a motion to approve I-95 and Central Boulevard Utility Relocations – Agreement for Professional Services, Change Order No. 2 with Chen Moore Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$35,860.00, with a supporting budget transfer of \$35,860.00 from R2477, as recommended by staff.

WESTERN MAINTENANCE FACILITY – QUIT CLAIM AND EASEMENT

Considered a motion to approve Western Maintenance Facility – Quit Claim and Easement, as recommended by staff.

ANNUAL SPECIALTY VENDOR REVIEW

Considered a motion to receive and file staff's Annual Specialty Vendor Review in accordance with Administrative Procedure AP89-03, as recommended by staff.

RESOLUTION NO. 5-2025 – AMENDMENT TO SEACOAST UTILITY AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AP/91-23, CUSTOMER BILLING INQUIRIES/HIGH BILL DISPUTES

Considered a motion to approve Resolution No. 5-2025 – Amendment to Seacoast Utility Authority Administrative Procedure AP/91-23, Policy, as recommended by staff.

MOTION

Board Members Ferris/Reade moved to approve the consent agenda, as recommended by staff.

The motion carried unanimously.

*****ENDED CONSENT AGENDA*****

DESIGN BUILD AUTHORIZATION - HOOD ROAD WATER TREATMENT PLANT – MEMBRANE BUILDING AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM REPLACEMENT (R2587)

MOTION

Board Members Ferris/Marcus moved to approve Design Build Authorization – HRWTP Membrane Building Air Conditioning Replacement with Globaltech, Inc., in the amount of \$390,000.00, with a supporting budget transfer of \$390,000.00 from R2514 – Lake Park Neighborhood Improvements 8C, as recommended by staff.

The motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEERING SERVICE AGREEMENTS

MOTION

Board Members Ferris/Cole moved to approve the following Agreements for Professional Services in the aggregate amount of \$617,224.08, including supporting budget transfers in the amount of \$617,225.00 from Old Port Cove Force Main Replacement (R2477), as recommended by staff.

Project	Firm	Amount
North Palm Beach Neighborhood No. 11 Watermain Replacement (R2588)	EAC Consulting, Inc.	\$227,089.08
Lake Park 5C Neighborhood Improvements (R2589)	CES Consultants, Inc.	\$390,135.00

The motion carried unanimously.

PIPELINE CONTINUING CONTRACTOR AUTHORIZATIONS

MOTION

Board Members Ferris/Marcus moved to approve the following Pipeline Continuing Contractor Authorizations in the aggregate amount of \$5,094,780.00, including supporting budget transfers in the amount of \$2,054,230.00 as recommended by staff.

Project	Firm	Amount
PGA Boulevard 24-Inch Parallel Force Main at I-95 (N2472)	Centerline, Inc.	\$1,944,300.00
Marina Drive Infrastructure Improvements (R2528)	Deevan, Inc.	\$954,880.00
Lake Park 8A Neighborhood Improvements, Watermain Replacement (R2510)	Centerline, Inc.	\$2,195,600.00

The motion carried unanimously.

PROPERTY/CASUALTY/WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

MOTION

Board Members Ferris/Marcus moved to approve property/casualty/workers' compensation insurance coverages for FY 2025-2026 at a total annual premium of \$1,002,126.00, as recommended by staff.

The motion carried unanimously.

LOW PRESSURE SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION – DIRECTION TO STAFF

Executive Director Rim Bishop stated that he provided a summary of the Authority's Master Plan and how it is administered, and he asked if there is anything that the board would like changed about the program.

Vice Chair Karen Marcus voiced that she would like the Authority to take more initiative and require customers to connect to the sewer system if they have an available connection. She mentioned the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners recently had a similar item on their agenda and that County representatives have reached out to Ms. Marcus about the initiative. Ms. Marcus would like for the Authority to broaden its plan and be a champion of septic to sewer conversion, and the Village of North Palm Beach could help finance.

Ms. Marcus mentioned that the City of Palm Beach Gardens has been aggressive in bringing sewer to areas. Board Member Ron Ferris added that CBDG helped through grants, but the city does not help finance the process, nor does the city force anyone to connect. Mr. Ferris would also like to see septic systems become obsolete, but is concerned about the imposition it will bring to home and business owners, as the connection is very costly. Mr. Ferris also mentioned that within the City of Palm Beach Gardens, it is policy that a homeowner be required to connect to the Authority's sewer system if their septic tank goes down and a sewer connection is available.

Mr. Ferris also mentioned that it is difficult for the Authority to require customers to connect because it does not have the same flexibility as cities and counties, as the cost cannot be added to a tax bill. Staff would have to disconnect water service to assessed properties if owners do not pay, or the property can be lienied, and this limits the Authority's flexibility.

Board Member Richard Reade suggested that individual cities or towns can enact ordinances within their respective jurisdictions to compel connection. This way, the enforcing agency would not be the Authority, and each community can have its own ordinance establishing its own rules, and this would be completely separate from Authority policy.

Board Chair Bob Weisman stated that he believes the Authority's current policy is very generous, and it works if someone wants to use it for this purpose. Mr. Weisman believes this should be presented to local governments so that they can be the enforcers, and they could contract with the Authority for installation, but the local government would have to pay to initiate the process. Executive Director Rim Bishop mentioned that past assessment projects for the installation of water and sewer have been completed by multiple governments within Seacoast's service area.

Mr. Ferris added that the City of Palm Beach Gardens has a Neighborhood Improvement Assessment Program. The program ensures residents are given the opportunity to vote on improvements to the area. If the majority votes for the presented improvement, the project moves ahead. His concern is for people who may have difficulty making ends meet being forced to spend money they don't have or pay for an assessment they cannot afford. He believes the system currently in place is reasonable, and he likes the Authority's current program.

Mr. Weisman stated that, as the Authority representative for Palm Beach County, he will contact Commissioner Marino to see if she wants to provide him with any guidance.

MOTION

Board Members Ferris/Weisman moved to continue existing Authority practice in effect since 2019.

Mr. Weisman believes the Authority has a generous policy that's in place to allow customers to connect to Authority sewer if they would like to.

Mr. Ferris added that he is not promoting this initiative and does not want to give the appearance that the Authority is soliciting connection to its sewage system.

Ms. Marcus is receptive to approaches from other governments.

Mr. Weisman withdrew his second. No additional motion was made.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Board Chair Ron Ferris wished everyone a Happy Labor Day.

Ms. Marcus stated that even though the policy stands as is, she will be promoting Seacoast and will continue to champion septic to sewer conversion. Mr. Weisman stated that board members can report the information back to their own governments to discuss the issue.

STAFF REPORT

Executive Director Rim Bishop stated the engineer's report and the financial report were in the packet. Chief Operations Officer Brandon Selle was present for any engineer report questions. Chief Financial Officer Daniela Russell was present for any financial report questions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, Chair Bob Weisman adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:31 PM.

APPROVAL:

ROBERT WEISMAN, CHAIR

KAREN MARCUS, VICE-CHAIR

RON FERRIS, MEMBER

ROBERT COLE, MEMBER

RICHARD READE, MEMBER

ATTEST:

JESSICA MOORE, AUTHORITY CLERK