Kilsheimer questions information given to gas district board

By John Peery
Apopka Chief Staff

An asset management contract and the 2016-2017 budget were among the items discussed and unanimously passed Monday, September 26, by the board of directors of the Lake Apopka Natural Gas District. Apopka Mayor Joe Kilsheimer and City Commissioner Diane Velazquez are among the five board members as the city of Apopka owns the gas district along with the cities of Winter Garden and Clermont.

The asset management contract got the most discussion from the board with Kilsheimer raising concerns about the information given to board members by gas district management.

The mayor said that he and the other board members didn't have the technical expertise to understand the information given to them when they were asked to approve a proposed three-year asset management contract with Infinite Energy, a company based in Gainesville.

Infinite has been the gas district's asset manager for several years.

Originally, the board members were given a single sheet of Infinite Energy's proposal, but after Kilsheimer complained about the lack of information, he and the other board members were provided with a five-page bid letter from Infinite.

"You're asking us to approve a three-year contract based on what, as the chairman has said, looks like Greek," the Apopka mayor said.

"Without the benefit of this additional memo, that, to me, is not responsible. It's not a responsible way to do business. You're asking the board to approve a three-year contract without giving us enough information with which to make a reasonable decision.

"You guys are experts," Kilsheimer said to district managers. "You have been doing this for all this time. You guys have been doing this business for a long time."

Fred Crabtree of Winter Garden served as the acting chairman for the meeting in the absence of Ann Dupee of Clermont.

Crabtree served as the general manager of the gas district from 1991 until 2008. He agreed with Kilsheimer while acknowledging that his years of experience as the general manager allowed him to understand what Infinite Energy was proposing.

"That document should have been shared before the meeting. I agree with you, Mayor," Crabtree said.

"I'm personally comfortable with what's here, but I'm probably different from the rest of you because of history."

Mayor Kilsheimer said he has talked with gas district customers who have complained about the district's prices. That's not news to district management as several foliage nursery owners have brought their concerns about the prices to board meetings.

The growers use gas for heating plants during cooler weather.

"As a board member, who now has to go back out in the public and defend what this organization does, I am not armed with enough information to be able to say that this organization is making the right decision on behalf of its customers because you just haven't provided that information," Kilsheimer said prior to the five-page bid letter being disseminated.

The board members considered signing just a one-year or two-year deal with Infinite, but declined to do so because of higher yearly costs.

The vote on the asset management contract had to be voted upon at the September 26 meeting because the current contract between the gas district and Infinite expires today, Friday, September 30.

The new deal begins Saturday, October 1.

In the end, Kilsheimer made the motion to approve the new contract after asking Crabtree his thoughts on the matter. Crabtree said he understood Kilsheimer's reticence but had no problems with the contract.

"I will accept the recommendation of the chair and I will make a motion to approve a three-year agreement, but I want it noted for the record that I think the district has not done a good job of informing the board members of why this is the best deal for the district. I'm just not here to accept things on faith. I want to see it in black and white," Kilsheimer said.

The contract was approved 4-0.

Budget

The district board also voted to approve a budget of more than $15.3 million for the 2016-2017 fiscal year that begins Saturday, October 1.

For the 12-month period, district officials are expecting income of $15,372,324, while having expenses of only $13,470,399, which would mean a profit of $1.9 million for the district.

Projections call for the highest profit to be accumulated in the cooler months of the year from November of this year through March of 2017. July 2017 is forecast to have a loss for the district.

Next meeting

The October meeting of the Lake Apopka Natural Gas District Board is scheduled for October 24 at 10 a.m. at the district's headquarters at 1320 Winter Garden-Vineland Road, Winter Garden.

The meeting is open to the public.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Scholar's Prep Academy, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Obituary notices once published can be found on our website: **theapopkachief.com** using Friday's date of publication.

REGAL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP
Fri., September 30 thru Sun., October 2
3D MOVIES
MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN 3D (PG13) 1:30; 4:30; 10:25^; 10:35*
STORKS 3D (PG) 9:50
Sunday Movies $6 All Day
DEEPWATER HORIZON (PG13) 10:30A*; 1:20; 4:40; 7:40; 10:35^; 10:25*
MASTERMINDS (PG13) 10:20A*; 1:50; 4:50; 7:30; 9:55
MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN (PG13) 10:15A*; 12:40; 3:50; 7:20; 7:50
STORKS (PG) 10:10A*; 1:00; 3:40; 7:15
THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN (PG13) 10:05A*; 1:00*; 1:10^; 4:00*; 4:10^; 7:00*; 7:10^; 10:00*; 10:10^
BRIDGET JONES'S BABY (R) 10:00A*; 12:50; 4:00; 7:00; 10:00
SULLY (PG13) 10:40A*; 1:40; 4:20; 7:45; 10:20
WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS (PG13) 10:40
(*)SUNDAY ONLY
(^)FRIDAY AND SATURDAY ONLY
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Apopka Rotary Annual Pancake Supper

Thursday Night
October 13, 2016
4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Wekiva High School in large tent north of football field

Enjoy a big pancake supper just before Kickoff at 7:00 pm when the Blue Darters tackle the Wekiva Mustangs

All-you-can-Eat Pancakes and Sausage

Admission $5.00 per person

To purchase tickets, call 407-464-7024 or pick up tickets at the Apopka Chamber of Commerce

APOPKA ROTARY CLUB CONTRIBUTES TO MANY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE SMALL SCALE FUTURE LAND USE AND CHANGE OF ZONING AMENDMENT

NOTICE is hereby given that **APOPKA HOLDINGS LLC** has made an application, in accordance with Florida Statutes 163.3187(c) and the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article XII, Section 12.04.00, to the City of Apopka City Council, and Apopka Planning Commission for a **CHANGE IN THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION FOR APPROXIMATELY 0.52 +/- ACRES FROM "COUNTY" LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (0-4 DU/AC) TO "CITY" OFFICE (MAX FAR 0.3)** and a **CHANGE IN THE ZONING FROM "COUNTY" R-3 (ZIP) TO "CITY" PUD/PO/I/& RESIDENTIAL (PROFESSIONAL OFFICE/INSTITUTIONAL/& RESIDENTIAL).** This application relates to the following described property located west of Clarcona Rd., south of Washington St.

Parcel I.D.: 09-21-28-0197-10-211 & 09-21-28-0197-10-213
Contains: 0.52 +/- Acres

Notice is given that the **City of Apopka Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing to consider the change of Future Land Use and Change of Zoning request at its regularly scheduled meeting in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Tuesday, October 11, 2016 beginning at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible.

FURTHER NOTICE is given that a series of public hearings on the proposed amendments will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, November 2, 2016, beginning at 1:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as possible AND on **Wednesday, November 16, 2016, beginning at 7:00 p.m.,** or as soon thereafter as possible. Public hearing notices are also posted at www.apopka.net.

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council
Apopka Planning Commission
Community Development Department

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