

Board Meeting

Ash Creek SSD

October 23, 2025

Present: Nanette Billings, Justin Sip, Clark Fawcett, Kelly Wilson, Joey Campbell

Staff: Mike Chandler, Darrel Humphries, Matt Goodrich, Gary Wilcox, Logan Murphy, Melissa Stewart, Fay Reber, Kavyn Bringhurst

Audience: Brian Higley, Craig Ashcroft, Landon Saxton, Trevor Lindley, Aaron Anderson, Sean, Kyle

Prayer and Pledge: Darrel Humphries

Public comments: None

The board had no conflicts of interest to declare.

The minutes from the August 28, 2025 meeting were discussed.

**Motion** by Joey Campbell to approve the August 28, 2025 minutes. Second by Justin Sip. Carried by unanimous vote.

Fay had no legal matters to discuss.

Aaron Anderson with Bowen Collins came before the board to talk about the districts Master Plan progress. The information presented was in draft form and not finalized. The final Master Plan will be presented at the districts December board meeting for public hearing.

The impact fee study projects district needs for the next 10 years. The average estimated growth rate during that time is 6.2%. The board discussed the growth happening in the district and how plans for paying off Confluence Park Treatment Facility as well as converting the lagoons to a mechanical treatment plant need to be considered.

Aaron presented a suggested range of \$3,800.00-\$6,900 per ERU for the new impact fee. The board agreed that they'd prefer to lean towards the higher side of the range and do another study in a few years to reevaluate. Mike and the board asked Bowen Collins to move in that direction while finishing the study.

Darrel asked the board to approve Melissa Stewart as a check signer for the district.

**Motion** by Justin Sip to approve Melissa Stewart as a check signer for the district. Second by Clark Fawcett. Carried by unanimous vote.

Darrel reported on the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget for 2025 and the preliminary budget for 2026. The operating budget is right on track at just over 75% of the projected. Expenses are at about 64%, so just below what was projected.

Mike added that the district has hit a point where most of the collection system projects planned have been completed, which should stabilize that budget a bit moving forward.

Darrel presented capital expenditures. The district has spent about \$16.6 million throughout the year with about \$15.5 million of that towards Confluence Park.

Interest earned has gone down through the year, but that was anticipated.

The proposed 2026 budget includes wages for 2 new collection operators and making a treatment operator who is currently part-time, full-time. The district has also proposed a 3% increase for existing employees. There are a few merit increases that are not included in the current proposed budget but will be adjusted for December's meeting.

Justin expressed how he prefers to see a higher increase to keep good employees rather than having employees leave and needing to train new employees. Darrel said that the district has had great retention and that operators also qualify for raises as they pass tests throughout the year.

Darrel has added a few new budget line items. One of them being the power expense for Confluence Park. Because the district is unsure of what that will look like, it is an estimate. Lagoon Power is also a new line item. This is not a new expense but will just help the district better track expenses.

Darrel talked about capital budget items for 2026. The largest expense being a new vac truck.

Darrel proposed to the board to combine the November and December meeting. This meeting will be held December 9 at 5:00pm for budget hearing.

The board will likely be adopting an impact fee during this meeting.

**Motion** to adjourn 7:10pm.