

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**SARASOTA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER  
1660 RINGLING BOULEVARD  
COUNTY COMMISSION CHAMBER  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA**

8:00 a.m.

David R. Mills, Chair, District 2  
Nora Patterson, Vice Chair, District 4  
Paul Mercier, District 1  
Shannon Staub, District 3  
Jon Thaxton, District 5

Also present were:

James Ley, County Administrator  
Stephen DeMarsh, County Attorney  
Kathleen Schneider, Deputy County Attorney  
Paula Clintsman, Deputy Clerk

**WORKSHOP**

**1. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Environmental Services Executive Director Rob Patten submitted a copy of and provided an overview of the presentation, and recognized the efforts of the Environmental Services Staff present in the audience.

Environmental Services Water Operations Manager David Cash recognized the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee members present and provided an overview of the history of the Utility System Evolution. Discussions were held with Mr. Cash, County Administrator James Ley, Environmental Services Water Resources General Manager Theresa Connor, and Mr. Patten on the following topics/issues:

- acquisition program/Curry Creek Franchise Area designation
- cost of the (second) Manatee County Water Contract
- request to provide the number of customers served in Staff reports, without objection
- number of small/private systems acquired (Oyster Bay)
- financial feasibility of the debt service compared to the number of customers
- future improvements made to systems to address increased rates
- Staff review of Grand Canal flow and circulation/level of treatment/water quality in canals
- water distribution system/current debt/number of customers to date (water versus wastewater)/number of utilities franchises/package plants remaining.

(8:34:22)

Ms. Connor discussed the future system improvements/projects and costs. Discussions were held with Ms. Connor, Environmental Services Operations General Manager George MacFarlane, County Administrator Ley, and Mr. Patten on the following topics/issues:

- estimated cost of the regional pipeline from Carlton Reserve north to Central Sarasota Parkway Area System Improvement Project/need for capacity and reliability

**1. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - Continued**

- estimated cost of the Dona Bay Water Supply Development System Improvement Project/request for Staff presentations to reflect a breakdown of the cost versus grant funds received, without objection
- participation with Manatee and Charlotte Counties/City of North Port/municipalities/Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority (PRMRWSA)/regional projects/policies and requirements set by the Authority/ownership/municipalities/Alliance/regional perspective
- sustainability/SWFWMD (Southwest Florida Water Management District) conservation issues/developer rates/redistribution of water/penalties/growth restraints/management
- wastewater plant expansions/costs/amount of grants.

(9:01:03)

Environmental Services Program Management General Manager Roger Rasbury discussed the future neighborhood improvements/projects and the number of future/potential customers. Discussions were held with Mr. Rasbury and Ms. Connor on the following topics/issues:

- existing versus future customers
- total potential neighborhoods/customers
- map for South County
- environmental needs/impacts/areas with impaired water bodies/repair.

(9:07:06)

Mr. MacFarlane provided an overview of the financial status of the current water and sewer system projects. Discussions were held with Mr. MacFarlane, Mr. Patten, County Attorney Stephen DeMarsh, and County Administrator Ley on the following topics/issues:

- utility debt obligations and other contractual commitments
- mandatory hookup requirement/policy issue/State Statute/options/review of other counties with Ordinances requiring mandatory hookup (Charlotte County)/PCSSRP (Phillippi Creek Septic System Replacement Program) percentage of hookup/alternatives to require hookup/readiness to serve charge on customer's water bill with a credit upon hookup  
Commr. Mercier moved to implement a readiness to serve charge on customers' water bills effective with the adoption of an Ordinance. Commr. Staub seconded the motion. Following clarification of the motion that the readiness to serve charge applies to wastewater customers with lines installed (ready to serve), Mr. MacFarlane noted a public hearing requirement for a Resolution versus an Ordinance. Following discussion regarding annexation issues, Commr. Patterson requested that the motion include the readiness to serve charge as a credit (not at 100 percent) and that Staff bring the matter back. Commrs. Mercier and Staub noted agreement to the addition. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.
- total CIP (Capital Improvement Program) versus required CIP
- utility required ten-year CIP and annual operating cash flow excluding the PCSSRP
- required ten-year CIP to be funded/future equities/funding mechanisms

**1. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - Continued**

- PCSSRP commitments/amount of grants received/cost of funding per customer/increased costs/Staff estimates/development of relationships with vendors/Staff review of methodologies to lower costs.

**RECESS:** 10:01 a.m. - 10:12 a.m.

Discussion continued with Mr. Rasbury, Ms. Connor, Mr. MacFarlane, and Mr. Patten on the following topics/issues:

- existing neighborhood projects with a MSBU (Municipal Service Benefit Unit)/variation of Area A versus the remaining project area for the PCSSRP/method to recover costs
- potential neighborhood projects without a MSBU
- neighborhood improvement project "drivers"
- prior funding approaches for neighborhood projects
- future funding (Board) direction/funding alternatives for neighborhood projects/water and sewer rates compared to other jurisdictions
- request to separate the Dona Bay Waterline Project from the Dona Bay Water Supply Development.

(10:30:28)

Following comments on income eligibility issues and funding alternatives/sources/programs for neighborhood projects, the Board requested consideration of the following alternative funding/options/revenue sources, without objection:

- utilize infrastructure surtax/not based on income eligibility
- explore a deferred loan program and the impact on cash flow/general revenue (property taxes)
- explore a prepay program/apply to bill now (per month)/supplement a percentage of the cost
- income qualified/eligibility related program
- request for no rate increases
- request to discuss the South Venice Project/residents' request for water versus water and sewer lines
- National review/research other communities
- participation by financial institutions
- request to contact the Englewood Water District
- temporary borrowing program from the revenues of the City of North Port escheated lots sale/request for Staff review, without objection.

(10:52:01)

Following an inquiry, Deputy County Administrator David Bullock noted the time frame for the update on the results of the City of North Port escheated lots auction. Discussion ensued regarding the Nokomis Waterline Extension Project.

Mr. Rasbury reviewed the "next steps"/future plans for projects and discussions were held with Mr. Rasbury, County Administrator Ley, and County Attorney DeMarsh on the Shore Road Waterline Project/Contract, the survey response and results, and yearly versus monthly payments/options for the Project.

**1. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES - Continued**

Following discussion, Commr. Staub moved to proceed with the Shore Road Waterline Project with Westra Construction, Inc., and to provide, at the time of consideration of the Contract, information on the possibility of using the City of North Port escheated lots fund based on an income eligible loan program and potential use of infrastructure surtax funds as a possible revenue source. Commr. Thaxton seconded the motion. Following comments, the motion carried by a 4-1 vote, with Commr. Mercier voting "No."

Following comments on concerns with the PCSSRP Project, Commr. Staub suggested that the infrastructure surtax discussion item not be specific to the Shore Road Waterline Project and requested that the Staff report include excess surtax and designate/link the surtax funds to offset future projects.

Subsequent to comments on the future grants/plans/policy issues relating to the PCSSRP, Mr. Rasbury noted the schedule and time frame for Board discussion on the PCSSRP, Water Supply Master Plan, an updated Waterwaster Master Plan, and draft policy language as directed by the Board this date.

Following discussion regarding MSBU's and Staff direction to contact Charlotte County relating to a program for vacant lots, Mr. Patten provided a recap of the Board's direction this date.

**2. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Commr. Patterson noted the favorable results of Sarasota's bid to host the 2007 and 2008 Florida Police and Fire Games.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 11:23 a.m.