

The Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida, met in a special joint session with the City of Crystal River on the above date in the Lecanto Government Building, to discuss Indian Waters Sewer Project and other water quality issues.

The Chairman called the Board to order and the Mayor called the Council to order. Following the calling of the roll, Commissioner Fowler led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and then the Board and Council proceeded with its business.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS	CRYSTAL RIVER CITY COUNCIL
COMMISSIONERS: Brad Thorpe, Chairman; Roger Batchelor, 1 st Vice Chairman; Jim Fowler, 2 nd Vice Chairman; Gary Bartell, and Vicki Phillips ATTORNEY: Larry M. Haag ADMINISTRATOR: Gary W. Kuhl DEPUTY CLERK: Elicia A. Kuhl	CRYSTAL RIVER COUNCIL MEMBERS: Joe Chrietzberg, Paula Wheeler (absent), Mike Gudis, Ray Wallace, and Alex Ilnyckyj MAYOR: Curtis Rich MANAGER: David Sallee PUBLIC WORKS: John Letow Buddy Holshouser CLERK: Shirley Carroll

STAFF PRESENTATION:

Ken Frink, Assistant Public Works Director, presented information on the Indian Waters Sewer Project (IWSP). He referred to a layout for the project, provided estimated project and assessment cost, possible funding sources and a typical time schedule, etc.

INDIAN WATERS SEWER PROJECT	
Estimated Project Costs	
Engineering	\$ 109,748
Construction	1,097,480
Estimated Assessment	
Number of ERU's¹ in District: 208	
Engineering	\$ 109,748
Construction	1,097,480
BOCC Legal & Administration (2% of construction)	21,950
Contingency Fees (10% of construction)	109,748
Recording Fees (\$6/ERU)	1,248
City Connection Fees (\$2,000/ERU)	416,000
Property Appraiser's Fee	16,450
TOTAL COST	\$ 8,522

¹ Equivalent Residential Use (ERU)

Mr. Frink expounded upon the service area, the types of sewer technology to be used (gravity and low pressure systems), alternative funding sources--i.e., grants, low interest loans, etc.

Mr. Kuhl responded to Councilman Guidis stating that the financing term would depend upon the loaning institution at that time.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Comments from citizens: Mike Flanagan; Wayne Overley, Indian Waters Preservation Association; Jeff Beeler, Harvey Smith, Hugh Adkins, Jim Gilroy, Bill Ward, Dave Aunkst, Jim McIntosh, George Mimnaugh, Pete Gerardin, Doug Thomas, and others.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ◆ Assessment added to the property without an increase to property values. | ◆ Project too expensive to residence, need cost to be affordable. |
| ◆ Distance between north and south Indian Waters Subdivision (IWS). | ◆ Pollutant sources; e.g., septic tanks, nitrates, etc. |
| ◆ City's annexation and hook-up fees. | ◆ Package plants should be addressed first. |
| ◆ No development beyond IWS and other areas are being bypassed. | ◆ Support assessment due to degradation of water quality. |
| ◆ Overgrowth of aquatic weeds. | ◆ Project was necessary. |
| ◆ No water access. | ◆ Ascetics of a mound from septic tanks. |
| ◆ EPA Report regarding decentralized systems. | ◆ Base projects on scientific data. |
| ◆ Ownership of more than one parcel. | ◆ Find other funding mechanisms; e.g., grants. |

BOARD/COUNCIL/STAFF DISCUSSION:

Mr. Kuhl made several points:

- Master Water Plan available with specific projects outlined.
- Decentralized systems' cannot be required to connect.
- Annexation issue: Crystal River Interlocal Agreement allowed for residents to hookup without being annexed. (Commissioner Batchelor confirmed the issue had been a point of negotiation.)
- Cost could fluctuate depending upon funding mechanism.
- Governmental Utility Authority could give a broader base to borrow money, but would not be organized in time.
- Nitrate pollution was a legitimate concern.
- Aquatic weed was a problem.
- The project would not solve the problems, but would be a beginning.

Mr. Frink responded to Councilman Guidis stating certain fees are not covered by the grant; for example, hookup fees.

Mayor Rich referred to Woodland Estates, explained that the figures started high, then after the bids were received the cost was lowered.

Councilman Chrietzberg expressed concern for cost, but cost would rise if the project was delayed. He felt connection to a sewer system would increase the property values.

Commissioner Batchelor stated that the IWSP would not be the answer for Kings Bay or the river, but would be a starting point. He pointed out that the problems are a combination of issues and desired to move forward with the IWS South and ultimately beyond. He encouraged the City to continue work on US-19 and Ft. Island Trail Road.

Commissioner Fowler stated something had to be done, understood all points of view, referred to the excessive cost of hookup to the City, alluded to the Board's efforts to fund projects such as this one through the one cent sales tax, and desired to proceed.

Mayor Rich replied that the Council had voted positively for the project. David Sallee, City Manager, stated that the City had an ordinance that required an extra charge for properties outside the City limits. Commissioner Fowler felt the City would benefit by the hookup and that City policy should be reviewed. Mayor Rich advised that the fee was not a deposit, but covered meter installation, hookup from the stubout, etc.

The Chairman responded that once the lines were in place some package plants would recognize the economic benefit and consider connection.

Commissioner Bartell referred to the high cost to operate a package plant, environment and water quality concerns, the success in moving forward with the Homosassa project, etc. He stated the project should begin and seek grant funding, that the one cent sales tax would have been a funding mechanism, and if the funding mechanism was in place, the State would recognize that the County/City are serious, and to delay now would just postpone the project.

The Chairman desired to move forward with the process and review once a definite cost was determined, referred to the one cent sales tax and the projects that could have been accomplished, etc.

Mr. Sallee referred to the Council's agreement to fund half of the cost for preliminary engineering and grant pursuit, in order to move forward with the IWSP and the Council stood by that commitment.

Motion by Commissioner Fowler, seconded by Commissioner Batchelor, to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign Addendum No. 3, at \$57,000 (\$28,700 for Task #-1 and \$28,300 for Task 3-2 after grant award), to the Ongoing Community and Economic Development Projects Contract with Summit Professional Services for the planning, development, preliminary engineering/environmental report and program administration activities for a Rural Development grant for the IWSP, approved a budget transfer: Water Quality: \$14,350 from #062-5415-247-260 to #-53100; and accepted 50 percent funding from the City of Crystal River.

Commissioner Phillips acknowledged water quality problems, that the cost was high, and that the final cost would be available prior to adoption of an assessment. She hoped the cost would be lowered, supported moving forward, requested the City review their ordinances, etc. (II)

Corbit Alday, Summit Professional Services, Inc., stated that the IWSP was a suitable project to be considered for grant funding and low interest loans, and that the preliminary study would allow research into other opportunities for funding. He further stated that the City might have to take the lead, with the City and County working cooperatively.

The Chairman called a question on the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Upon motion by Councilman Wallace, seconded by Councilman Chrietzberg, and carried unanimously, the Council supported the Board's approval for Addendum No. 3, at \$57,000 (\$28,700 for Task #-1 and \$28,300 for Task 3-2 after grant award), to the Ongoing Community and Economic Development Projects Contract with Summit Professional Services for the planning, development, preliminary engineering/environmental report and program administration activities for a Rural Development grant for the IWSP; and approved funding 50 percent. (Short discussion prior to vote.)

The Chairman stated that the venture with the City was a journey to determine answers to questions that had to been raised, then make a final decision.

Commissioner Bartell encouraged a legislative package be developed now for funding and Mr. Salle concurred.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting. (IIA/6:43 P.M.)

ATTEST: _____, Clerk _____, Chairman