

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD TOWN OF BELLEAIR, FLORIDA HELD AT TOWN HALL ON APRIL 7, 2014 AT 5:00 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Doug Pace, Chairman  
James White  
John Hail  
Daniel Hartshorne  
Chris Foley

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** NONE

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Perry Lopez, Public Works Director

Quorum present on roll call with Mr. Pace presiding; the meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 2014**

Mr. White moved approval of the Minutes of the February 3, 2014 meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Hartshorne and carried unanimously.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

There were no citizens' comments.

**APPROVAL OF PALMETTO RD. FDR**

Perry Lopez, Public Works Director stated that as part of the capital improvement plan, staff was recommending to use the Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) method for replacing Palmetto Rd.; staff felt that this was the most cost efficient way to proceed repairing the road; spoke about stormwater structures along Palmetto Rd.; stated that by going with the FDR it would eliminate the need for engineering services; that staff recommended to piggy back with the City of Largo's contract for the same work; that the project was slated at \$1.5 million dollars with the original estimates; that by going with the FDR the cost would be \$571,161.00; that the town would be saving \$928,839 dollars; reviewed the schedule of values; provided the actual bid tab with the City of Largo; stated that staff recommends approval of a piggy back contract to perform the FDR work for Palmetto Rd. to Asphalt Paving Systems in the amount of \$571,161.

Mr. Foley inquired as to why the FDR was less expensive than going with the traditional route.

Mr. Perry stated that the town used the FDR method on the Pineland and Palm View project; provided a brief explanation of the FDR method; spoke about the curb and sidewalk replacement

.

Mr. Foley moved to approve the Palmetto Rd. full depth reclamation project. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hartshorne and approved unanimously.

**REVIEW OF THE WATER RATES**

JP Murphy, Assistant Town Manager stated that this item was brought to the board's attention as to the increase of water rates; stated that the rates had gone up 40% to 50% depending on utilization; stated that the water revenue that had not been sufficient to meet the operational expenses and was averaging at a negative \$331,000. 00 over 5 years; that there had been decreases in consumption not only due to the hotel closure, but a number of other items had occurred as well; there was water use restrictions and with the recession, people cut back their costs of water wherever they could; that another reason was regulatory from SWFWMD; that turning off the tap had great effects in revenues; that the past rate structure relied heavily on high consumption when the bi-monthly structure was in force; provided information regarding the past tier structure and costs; explained the new monthly billing system and benefits of going to monthly billing; provided a breakdown of the new tiered rate structure and costs; spoke about condo consumption and reviewed the comparison heat map provided regarding other municipalities' water costs per month.

Discussion ensued regarding reclaimed water; regarding setting water rates; regarding potable water consumption costs and revenue as it pertained to reclaimed water for irrigation.

Mr. Hail inquired about the possibility of a new water plant and the cost for that project.

Mr. Hartshorne stated that the big issue coming forward was Reverse Osmosis (RO); stated that the town had wells of varying lives; that under RO the water would be mixed together; that the town would be required to get involved with this in the not too distance future; that the cost was huge at a tune of \$9.7 million dollars; spoke about the infrastructure improvements; spoke about the need for reserves; stated that the only way for Belleair to survive into the future safely was to sell the water system; spoke about the benefits of selling the water system and the high costs for going with the RO system; spoke about a pipe replacement rebate.

Mr. Murphy stated that the town was involved with a corporative funding agreement with SWFWMD to do a preliminary engineering report to receive a more finite cost estimate on various methodologies for undertaking RO and to look at the capital cost so that the commission could make a better decision as to whether to retain, go with RO, sell and use a different water source.

Discussion ensued regarding a RO and the potential costs; regarding reclaimed water.

Mr. Murphy spoke about the "Fresh Keeper" process which helped with salt water intrusion; spoke about the costs for the deep injection wells for RO; spoke about other water providers such as Clearwater and selling the system; spoke about the water fund and pipe replacement; stated that once he received the PER he would bring that before the board for discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding water usage as it pertained to the Belleview Biltmore Hotel; regarding the water fund and the general fund reserves; regarding the economy.

**DISCUSSION OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD**

Mr. Murphy stated that staff was taking this item up to all the advisory boards; stated that basically it was an opportunity for the board members to communicate to the commission as the what the role of the board was; that this was an opportunity for the members to discuss those roles and to make any changes; stated that with being the newest board that the language was not as antiquated as some of the those boards that had been setting for 20 to 30 years; stated that Resolution 2010-55 laid out three main pieces for the board; stated that 95-13 dealt with the board construction in terms of the chairman and board advisor; reviewed both Resolution 2010-55 and 95-13 with the board; asked if there was any questions regarding the roles of the board and the commission advisor and if they were happy with the construction of the board.

Discussion ensued regarding the roles for the board; regarding some of the studies that were done based on the board's recommendation.

It was the consensus of the board to keep the roles the same and not the make any changes.

Commissioner Fowler stated that he felt that the commissioner advisor was a conduit to the commission; that if there was issues at the board level, that he wanted to bring those issues to the commission; that he did not want to inflect his feelings on to this board.

**CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATES**

Perry Lopez stated that the three major construction projects mentioned at the last meeting were now complete; stated that they have begun the Indian Rocks/Ponce de Leon Blvd., traffic calming project; that within the next 2-3 weeks they will close Indian Rocks Road; that the Pinellas Althea project was out for bid; that there was a pre-bid meeting and there were 8 contractors present; that the Verona/Osceola project was in the engineering stage; that he was working on updating the capital improvement project schedule; that he hoped by the next meeting to provide the new schedule.

Discussion ensued regarding Duke Energy concerning street lights.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to discuss.

**COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORT**

Commissioner Fowler stated that it was time to appoint members for expired terms of service for the board; stated that the terms for Mr. Hail and Mr. Foley were ending the end of May; asked if

they were interested in continuing to serve on the Infrastructure board; that the existing board members would have the right of first refusal.

**COMMISSION ADVISOR REPORT, cont.**

Mr. Hail and Mr. Foley both stated they would like to continue to serve on the board for the 2 year term.

Commissioner Fowler stated that he had notice some new potholes on Indian Rocks Road; inquired about patching and repair for those holes.

Discussion ensued regarding the maintenance of Indian Rocks Road and the closing for the round-about construction; regarding the patching during that time; regarding a letter of complaint concerning construction on Bayview.

Commissioner Fowler expressed his concerns regarding stagnate water along Belleair Creek.

Mr. Lopez stated that staff had requested a proposal on looking at the entire creek for cleanup; that it would be a new project added to the capital improvement list; stated that he has started the stormwater preventative maintenance which will be done at least twice a year.

Discussion ensued regarding the cleanup of Belleair Creek; regarding a dam that had been built by someone along the creek at Roebbling Rd.; regarding stormwater maintenance; regarding water run off along the Pinellas Trail.

Commissioner Fowler spoke about the town's water rates versus the high water rates of other municipalities in Florida.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned in due form at 6:40 PM.

**APPROVED:**

---

**Chairman**