



**ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS  
SPECIAL CALL VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Islamorada Founders Park Community Center  
87000 Overseas Highway  
Islamorada, Florida 33036**

**Wednesday, September 11, 2013  
At 3:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Mayor Ken Philipson called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m. The following Council members were present on roll call: Mayor Philipson, Vice Mayor Ted Blackburn, Councilman Mike Forster, Councilwoman Deb Gillis and Councilman Dave Purdo. Also in attendance were Village Manager Ed Koconis, Village Attorneys Nina Boniske and Lillian Arango, Village Clerk Ariana Lawson, Finance Director Maria Aguilar, Wastewater Program Manager Greg Tindle, Wade Trim, Inc. Vice President Thomas Brzezinski, and all other appropriate personnel.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Former Mayor Bob Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. AGENDA: Request for Emergency Additions / Deletions**

There were no emergency additions to or deletions from the agenda.

**IV. WASTEWATER MATTERS**

**A. Discussion and Direction Regarding Wastewater Collection System Design Alternatives**

3:15 Thomas Brzezinski, Vice President, Wade Trim, Inc. opened discussion, delivering a PowerPoint presentation to Council entitled "Alternative Collection Technology Opportunities: Lower Matecumbe Key." Mr. Brzezinski summarized the following six (6) Alternative Technology Options, explaining the pros and cons of each:

- Option 1: Vacuum-Low Pressure System Hybrid
- Option 2: Duplex-Low Pressure System Hybrid
- Option 3a: Supplement Residential Cost (Purchase Grinders)
- Option 3b: Supplement Residential Cost (Equalize Amount)
- Option 4a: Duplex-Low Pressure System (Purchase Grinders)
- Option 4b: Duplex-Low Pressure System (Equalize Amount)

Vice Mayor Ted Blackburn and Councilwoman Deb Gillis inquired as to the difference between Options 3a & 3b, to which Mr. Brzezinski explained that due to differences in property size and connection run lengths, equalization would not result in every resident paying the same amount or receiving the same amount of subsidization. Councilman Forster suggested giving another \$2,500 per connection for future grinder pump maintenance costs, bringing the total capital cost to \$6.2M. Council discussion ensued. Councilwoman Gillis questioned the effectiveness of such a stipend in situations wherein the property owner sold the property and the next owner had to replace the grinder pump shortly thereafter. She expressed interest in the Duplex-Low Pressure Systems (Options 4a and 4b). Council agreed that the right-of-way issue was too great of a barrier to the feasibility of Duplex-Low Pressure Systems, and clarified for the public that the proposed \$3,500 and \$10,000 figures are talking estimates and not absolutes.

#### **B. Additional Wastewater Matters**

No additional wastewater matters were discussed.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Ken Philipson opened public comment.

Hank Paurowski, Islamorada, questioned why grinder pumps must be installed on private property rather than on public property serviced by the Village.

John Cooper, Islamorada, questioned why easements cannot be sought on Venetian Shores roadways determined to be private. Vice Mayor Ted Blackburn responded that most Venetian Shores roads are public. Councilman Mike Forster noted that the Village just held an executive session in the matter.

Fay C. Hamblen, Plantation Key, questioned how elderly citizens can cope with wastewater costs. Mayor Ken Philipson advised Ms. Hamblen that the Workforce Affordable Housing Committee is investigating possibilities for assisting low-income and senior citizens with wastewater costs.

David Zander, Islamorada, expressed satisfaction with the workshop dialogue thus far.

Lou Ann Buschlen, 886 Old Hwy, Plantation Key, expressed concern over missing the opportunity to make changes to the wastewater collection design for her property.

Randy Bell, Water Resource Technologies, Marathon, encouraged the public not to fear grinder pumps technology.

David Makepeace, Islamorada, commended Council on their efforts toward equalizing wastewater costs and suggested Council consider Option 4b, compensating property owners only for installation of the system itself and crediting operations and maintenance costs over time.

Tom Woods, Ocean Lane, Lower Matecumbe Key, commended Council on their efforts and spoke in support of equalization and subsidizing grinder pump costs.

Bob Johnson, Islamorada, opined that too much information had been presented during this Special Call Meeting and that the full cost of grinder pump installation and maintenance should be paid by the Village.

Brad Dougherty, Lower Matecumbe Key, stated that he would like to have seen long-term cost projections associated with each of the Alternative Options presented. Mr. Dougherty advocated the use of a vacuum system rather than a low-pressure system, and suggested pressuring the Florida Department of Transportation via State legislators with regard to wastewater issues in the rights-of-way.

Joe Robinson, Islamorada, commended Council's efforts toward equalization, and criticized a letter on the subject purportedly circulated by former Councilmember Chris Sante. Mr. Robinson expressed his appreciation for Councilwoman Deb Gillis' comments regarding the benefit of stipends to future property owners; opined that the Village should pay for grinder pump installation and maintenance; and noted that Mr. Bell's earlier public comment regarding grinder pumps was biased by his profession.

Larry Barr, North Plantation Key, questioned the costs presented, and inquired about future wastewater assessments and the status of the Mayfield Grant. Mayor Philipson stated that no additional wastewater assessments are currently planned. Council advised the public that the State has made \$20 million available to the Village through the Mayfield Grant, via the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Sue Miller, Islamorada, referenced Reynolds Water Islamorada's original bid package and noted that Council chose at the time of contract negotiation to save \$7.5 million by not installing grinder pumps throughout the Village.

Mayor Philipson closed public comment.

## **VI. MOTIONS**

No motions were made.

## **VII. MAYOR / COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**

Council agreed to select a date certain at the September 12, 2013 Regular Village Council Meeting to hold another Workshop or Special Call Meeting to continue the discussion at hand.

## **VIII. VILLAGE ATTORNEY / VILLAGE MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no Village Attorney or Village Manager communications.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Dave Purdo made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Mike Forster seconded the motion. Council voted all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

*Minutes of  
Special Call Village Council Meeting  
(Wastewater Collection System Design Alternatives)  
September 11, 2013*



Ariana S. Lawson  
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council this 23<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2013.

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