



**ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS  
VILLAGE COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

**Founders Park Community Center  
87000 Overseas Hwy  
Islamorada, FL 33036**

**April 23, 2014  
at 5:30 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER\ROLL CALL**

Mayor Ted Blackburn called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m. The following Council members were present on roll call: Mayor Ted Blackburn, Vice Mayor Deb Gillis, Councilman Mike Forster, Councilman Ken Philipson, and Councilman Dave Purdo. Also in attendance were Village Manager Maria Aguilar, Village Attorney Roget Bryan, Village Clerk Synthia Lankford, Wastewater Utility Director Greg Tindle and all other appropriate personnel.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ron O'Brien led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**A. Discussion Regarding Grinder Pumps, All Property Types**

Tom Brzezinski presented a Power Point entitled "Residential Grinder Pump Program Update". Mr. Brzezinski advised Council, to maintain the construction schedule, a draft scope of work for the grinder pump program will be provided at the May 8, 2014 Regular Village Council meeting. The final change order will be brought back at the May 22, 2014 for approval.

Councilman Dave Purdo stated residents in larger developments often have a lower cost for connection, as the costs are split between all residents of the development.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis confirmed that of the eighteen properties in the over four EDU category three were anticipated to have residential connection costs in excess of \$3500/EDU. Vice Mayor Gillis stated she would support including the greater than one to four category in the residential grinder pump program.

Councilman Mike Forster stated there are many residents that will pay significantly less than \$3500 to connect single family homes, and the cost to offer the grinder pump program to all residential properties would be approximately \$5.70 per household/per month.

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Councilman Ken Philipson communicated his hope that the legislature will approve more funding for the wastewater project.

Councilman Dave Purdo expressed concern that the cost of the wastewater water system was driving the workforce out of Islamorada.

#### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Ted Blackburn opened public comment for the residential grinder pump program.

Gretchen Luff encouraged Council to make a decision that is equitable for all Village residents.

Ron O'Brien inquired about the number of grinder pumps that will be required at Sand Pebbles Condominium.

Allan Deckard spoke about the inequity of costs between condominium owners and owners of single family residences.

Richard Russell appealed to Council to provide financial relief to the residents.

Jose Gonzalez inquired of the status of his forty eight unit trailer park and the process to obtain a building permit from the Village.

Building Official Gerald Albertson offered clarification of the process to apply for a permit to connect to the wastewater system.

Steve Kurutz inquired if any condominiums in the Village are connecting by vacuum.

Myles Milander expressed concern over providing an access easement on his property.

Larry Barr noted that residents with a long lateral run are not being subsidized by the Village.

Ken Tafoya inquired regarding the engineered drawings for grinder pump systems.

Joe Robinson inquired on the maintenance program for grinder pump systems.

Sally Bauer inquired about access easements on private property.

Mayor Ted Blackburn closed public comment for the residential grinder pump program.

Councilman Mike Forster suggested the Village install and maintain grinder pumps on all residential properties.

Councilman Ken Philipson stated he would support a maintenance program on the properties in the over four EDU category.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis stated she would support installing and maintaining grinder pumps in the over four EDU category, if the associated costs were billed to the property owners.

Village Manager Maria Aguilar advised billing was possible, and could be addressed during the process of purchasing new software for the Finance Department.

Tom Brzezinski clarified his direction was to bring back to Council a change order to the grinder pump program that would include the properties in the category of greater than one, but less than four EDU's. Mr. Brzezinski advised he will evaluate the costs associated with providing installation and maintenance of grinder pumps for the properties in the over four EDU category and bring it back to Council after June 1, 2014.

Mayor Ted Blackburn adjourned the meeting for a break.

Mayor Ted Blackburn called the meeting back to order at 7:10 p.m.

Tom Brzezinski advised Council that the notice to proceed for the residential grinder program must be issued by June 1, 2014 to meet the construction deadline schedule. A six month time extension beyond the contracts final completion date would be required to address a grinder pump program for commercial properties.

Village Attorney Roget Bryan advised Council the December 31, 2015 deadline was an act of the Florida legislature. Mr. Bryan advised against authorizing any changes that would not meet the mandated deadline.

Mayor Ted Blackburn opened public comment for a commercial grinder pump program.

Steve Kurutz spoke of the inequity between businesses serviced by the vacuum system and those serviced by grinder pump.

Paul Bates stated the hotels being serviced by grinder pumps are being treated inequitably.

Myles Milander suggested meeting with the F.D.E.P. to extend the December 31, 2015 deadline.

Michael Abel stated the Village should pay for grinder pumps on commercial properties.

Ken Tafoya inquired if a mixed use property was considered commercial.

Mayor Ted Blackburn closed public comment for a commercial grinder pump program.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis suggested Council consider that commercial properties can write off the expense of connecting to the wastewater system.

Councilman Mike Forster recommended initiating a financing program from the Village to commercial properties.

Councilman Ken Philipson stated he could not ask residents to subsidize commercial properties, but would consider a financial assistance program.

Village Manager Maria Aguilar advised State Revolving Fund Loans could not be used for a loan program for commercial grinder pumps.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis suggested providing commercial properties the opportunity to purchase grinder pumps through the Village to achieve economy of scale.

Councilman Mike Forster inquired about the penalties if a commercial property does not hook up by the December 31, 2015 deadline.

Village Attorney Roget Bryan stated property owner could be subject to fines from F.D.E.P. if they have not hooked up and there is service available. Mr. Bryan advised state law mandates the December 31, 2015 deadline and any decisions made should not be contingent upon an extension of the deadline.

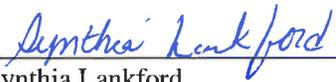
Councilman Mike Forster suggested Wade Trim and staff explore avenues to assist commercial properties.

Tom Brzezinski stated Wade Trim will begin the process to conceptualize a program to assist with commercial grinder pumps.

Vice Mayor Deb Gillis encouraged all property owners to begin obtaining estimates for the costs of hooking up to the wastewater system.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Dave Purdo made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Ken Philipson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

  
Synthia Lankford  
Village Clerk

Approved by the Village Council this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2014.