

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) met at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20th, 2008, in Conference Room B1-", County Administration Building, 1840 25th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

Present were Chairman Andrew Allocco, District 2 Appointee; William Johnson, District 3 Appointee; Mark Grossman, District 1 Appointee; Robert Pickett, District 4 Appointee; Carlton Miller, Member at Large; and John Tschinkel, Member-at-Large.

Absent was Dr. Stephen Faherty, District 5 Appointee (excused).

Also present were Commissioner Liaison Joseph Flescher; and IRC staff: Jason Brown, IRC Budget; Himanshu Mehta, Solid Waste Disposal District Director; Sasan Rohani, Chief of Long Range Planning; Cindy Corrente, IRC Utilities; and Misty Pursel, Commissioner Assistant, District 1. Also present were: Elizabeth Pollicck, Bernard Higgins, J. Victor Smith, Rafael Soriano, Larry G Mullins, Philip R. Blum, Robert Churchill, Rodney Dyke, Floyd Queen, Linda Futch, Bruce Jenkins, Timothy Gaither, Ruby Piatt, Dentist Hall, Vonnie Dare, Dennis Powell, and John Kocka, SWDD employees.

Others present were: Steve Myer, Teamsters Local 769; Todd Westover, Treasure Coast Reuse; William and Ruth Stanbridge; interested citizen; Stanley Hatford, interested citizen.

Call to Order

Chairman Allocco called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m., at which time it was determined a quorum was present.

Chairman Allocco noted during the last meeting a formal vote was not recorded for the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Grossman, SECONDED BY Mr. Johnson, the members voted unanimously (6-0), to elect Mr. Allocco as Chairman and Mr. Tschinkel as Vice Chairman of the Utility Advisory Committee for 2008.

Approval of Minutes of January 10, 2008

Chairman Allocco asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Grossman, SECONDED BY Mr. Johnson, the members voted unanimously (6-0), to approve the minutes of January 10, 2008, as presented.

Introduction

Chairman Allocco provided a brief explanation of the purpose of the Utility Advisory Committee. He stated the committee was formed of a number of private citizens appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to provide recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on different issues related to IRC utilities. Chairman Allocco introduced Cindy Corrente, Controller for the Indian River County Utilities Department.

Mrs. Corrente related as a result of the property tax reform the County was looking for ways to reduce the budget. Ms. Corrente indicated the purpose of the meeting was not to make a final determination for bid specifications and noted the entire process could take several months. She acknowledged the importance of SWDD employees being part of the process and stated their input was essential in providing information and helping understand the role the Citizen's Convenience Centers (**CCC**) in the community. Mrs. Corrente added the ultimate goal was to provide the services in the most effective and efficient way and to achieve this as a cohesive group.

Mr. Miller inquired if there was any relation between the property tax reform, the budget cuts, and SWDD as an enterprise. Chairman Allocco explained it was his understanding the directive from the County Administrator requested all the County departments to explore ways for budget reduction and not just the CCCs.

Chairman Allocco suggested having monthly meetings to expedite the entire process. He added the meetings could be changed to Wednesdays, this to allow SWDD employees to attend.

Mr. Tschinkel asked for clarification on the Board directive. He noted based on the minutes from the Board of Commission meeting, the board made two main decisions in a 4-1 vote. The first was to develop bid specifications and the second was to bid the CCC. Mrs. Corrente explained BCC indeed asked for bid specifications and a bid package but the main purpose was to get a baseline for comparison.

Presentation on Customer Convenience Centers by Himanshu Mehta, Managing Director, SWDD

Himanshu Mehta thanked all the committee members for having the flexibility of arranging the meeting on Wednesdays, to provide an opportunity to the SWDD members to attend.

Mr. Mehta provided a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is in file at the Commission office. He went over the history of the CCC and explained they were originally unmanned and opened 24 hours a day; 7 days a week. Mr. Mehta noted the centers were now opened 5 days a week and 11 hours a day and explained their services had expanded over the years. He summarized the SWDD operational procedures, the employees' general duties, and pointed out the importance of their services. Mr. Mehta presented a report on the CCC tonnage for the FY 2006-2007. In addition, he presented figures showing number of employees, salaries, benefits, and years of service.

Mr. Mehta added the revenues collected at CCC for FY 06-07 were \$55,224. He pointed out during the same time period the newspaper revenues increased from \$13/ton to \$115/ton and the scrap metal revenues increased from \$12/ton to \$140/ton. Mr. Mehta explained some of the cost saving measures being utilized for vehicle maintenance as well as some of the other services provided including weekly pick-up at various county departments and several public events. In addition, he noted some of the future plans for CCC included the Fellsmere bid and the upcoming single or dual recycling program.

A long discussion ensued.

Discussion by Steve Myers, Teamsters Union

Mr. Myers indicated he was a representative for Teamsters, a union that represents both public and private employees. He explained the benefits of having SWDD as a public sector enterprise and noted he was a firm believer of public employees being more efficient when compared to those in the private

sector. Mr. Myers pointed out SWDD employees' experience and vast knowledge and suggested requesting to the Board to revisit the item.

Jason Brown, IRC Budget Director, indicated that on January 29th the citizens voted to approve Amendment 1, which required cutting taxes significantly. Mr. Brown expressed the County had a responsibility to both employees and taxpayers and stated they were analyzing what could be done in a more cost-efficient manner.

Mr. Johnson inquired whether the Board would oblige to a lower bid if presented. Chairman Allocco explained the committee will make a recommendation to the Board and they would decide upon the issue. Commissioner Flescher stated that as a Commissioner liaison he would carry the committee intentions and recommendations to the best of his abilities.

Ruth Stanbridge, former IRC Commissioner, explained this issue had been explored when she was in office and it was decided to maintain SWDD as a public enterprise. Mrs. Stanbridge inquired about a deadline for making a decision on the issue. Commissioner Flescher stated due to the complexity of the issue a deadline could not be determined at the time.

Mrs. Corrente advised against accelerating the process and setting up a quick deadline for finalizing the bidding package. She explained the entire process was very complex and many elements needed consideration. Chairman Allocco inquired about the existence of similar bid documents that could be used as a reference.

Discussion by SWDD Employees

Chairman Allocco asked the employees for their input, comments, and opinions on the issue.

A long discussion ensued.

On MOTION BY Mr. Carlton, SECONDED BY Mr. Grossman, the members voted unanimously, to have a meeting in 28 days to continue discussion of the issue.
(4:01)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.