

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: May 17, 2010

Date Submitted: May 11, 2010

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator
Cleve Fleming, Public Works Director

Subject: Ratification of Workshop Regarding the Solid Waste Disposal Assessment and Transfer Station Project

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item requests ratification of discussions regarding the solid waste disposal assessment and transfer station project.

Background:

During the March 15, 2010 Board Meeting, the Board approved the Critical Events Schedule outlining the process to implement the special assessment which also included the scheduling of this workshop (Attachment #1).

During the spring of 2007, the County requested a review of solid waste management alternatives to address future growth, meet regulatory criteria and increase operational efficiencies and safety. A feasibility study was completed and presented to the Board in September 2007. There were four alternatives evaluated and presented in the feasibility study for Board consideration is listed as follows:

1. Alternative 1 – No Change to Existing Operations
2. Alternative 2 – Modifications to Existing Transfer Station
3. Alternative 3 – Use Leon County Transfer Station
4. Alternative 4 – Build a New Transfer Station

In November 2007, the Board selected Alternative 4 – Build a New Transfer Station. At this Board meeting, the Board was also presented the option of pursuing funding for this project through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) as there is a possibility of grant funding that may be available to the County. Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc. was selected to support the County with this effort. Per the Board's direction, Jones Edmunds & Associates, Inc. prepared and submitted a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) and Environmental Assessment to the USDA Rural Development –RD.

At the August 4, 2009 Board Meeting, the Board authorized the Chairman to execute the Letter of Intent to Meet Conditions to move forward with the transfer station. In addition, on December 8, 2009, the Board signed Resolution #09-57, a statutorily required Resolution expressing the County's intent to include this special assessment on the tax bill. Subsequently, during the January 25, 2010

Board Meeting, the Board approved Change Order #1 to Jones Edmunds for the relocation of the Solid Waste Transfer Station within the existing Lower Bridge Landfill facility.

On May 6, 2010, the Board held a workshop to discuss the Solid Waste transfer station and the solid waste disposal assessment.

Analysis:

At this workshop there was a presentation by the Jones Edmunds & Associates (JEA) regarding the Lower Bridget Transfer Station and the solid waste assessment (Attachment #1). The presentation outlined what the assessment would the fund and the process for implementation. Also presented was the need for the transfer station to meet Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) requirements, which is currently does not. Additionally, curb side and recycling costs were estimated by JEA to be \$149 per year (or \$12.42 per month) for curb side pick-up and recycling as opposed to just the disposal estimate of \$112 (or \$9.33 per month). The two main primary options presented at the workshop are as follows:

- a. Proceed with Residential Disposal Assessment and reduce overall costs with the USDA Loan/Grant Program.
- b. Not implement Residential Disposal Assessment and use an alternative revenue pledge.
 - i. Risk losing USDA Grant and Loan.
 - ii. Risk FDEP forcing upgrades with funding responsibility entirely of Wakulla County.

Additionally, the County Attorney presented regarding a solid waste assessment program and licensing ordinance. The licensing program presented would establish the following:

- Companion regulation to the Solid Waste Disposal Assessment.
- Provide minimum LOS standards, insurance requirements, reporting.
- Require all haulers to obtain an annual license for hauling waste within the county.
- Require all solid waste be disposed of at the County Transfer Station.
- Require offset from monthly contracts for the disposal assessment.
- Optional License Fee set at a percentage of gross revenues.

Summary of Options:

There was discussion by the Board regarding the assessment as well as the assessment program and licensing ordinance. The consensus of the Board appeared to be approval of the assessment to fund the transfer station and staff should move forward with the solid waste assessment program and licensing ordinance. Therefore, staff is seeking Board direction on the following:

1. Approval to move forward with the solid waste assessment in accordance with the Critical Events Schedule (Attachment #2).

2. Approve moving forward with Solid Waste Licensing Program and Ordinance which will include the following components:
 - a. Provide minimum LOS standards, insurance requirements, reporting.
 - b. Require all haulers to obtain an annual license for hauling waste within the county.
 - c. Require all solid waste be disposed of at the County Transfer Station.
 - d. Require offset from monthly contracts for the disposal assessment.
 - e. Optional License Fee set at a percentage of gross revenues.

Options

1. Ratify workshop and approve Options 1 & 2 detailed above in the analysis section.
2. Do not ratify workshop and do approve Options 1 & 2 detailed above in the analysis section.
3. Do not ratify workshop and approve modified actions as per the Board direction.
4. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachment(s):

1. JEA PowerPoint Presentation from 5/6/2010 Workshop
2. Critical Events Schedule