

MAYOR  
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VICE MAYOR  
MICHAEL B OCHSNER

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TOWN MANAGER  
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February 7, 2017

Indian River County Board of County Commissioners  
1801 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Building A  
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

RE: Old Winter Beach Road Grant Opportunity

Dear Commissioners.

In 1984, in accordance with your Resolution 84-62 and the Town's Resolution 322, the Town agreed to continue to control, maintain and supervise Old Winter Beach Road and the Bridgehead Property. However, it is evident that this roadway was never built to the County's minimum requirements for elevation, and has been a flooding hazard the entire time. While Resolution 84-62 provides that the Town may decide at any time to not continue to control, maintain and supervise Old Winter Beach Road and the Bridgehead Property, it is the Town's desire to partner with the County to jointly solve this issue.

After Vice Mayor Ochsner and I met with each of you individually on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, I was contacted by Amy Adams of Cape Canaveral Scientific, Inc. who is a grant writer for the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, now called the Indian River Lagoon Council. She explained that the cooperative project that I described to each of you was not possible due to restrictions regarding the installation of infrastructure on private property. She then explained that part of her responsibilities include helping smaller municipalities with funding opportunities within the Central Indian River Lagoon district.

Mrs. Adams further explained that the Florida legislature implemented a new "House Form" to request appropriations for funding for projects such as this, and that she would be willing to help put together a proposed project to make the necessary improvements to Old Winter Beach Road (OWBR) and the surrounding storm water drainage issues. Since the legislative deadline was the first week of February, 2017 to submit projects for funding approval for 2018, Mrs. Adams began the process immediately. Representative Erin Grall and Senator Debbie Mayfield both have a copy of the House Form and are anxious to take on this project.

As you know, the Town employed David Knight of Knight, McGuire in 2002 to develop a plan to raise (OWBR) and to clean up any related storm water before it reaches the Lagoon. Mr. Knight has agreed to update the plans to include the required, latest, scientifically proven technologies and the cost estimates to complete the project.

When we met back in December, the estimate was around \$400,000. However, now with the requirements to use proven technology that eliminates upwards of 80+% of nitrogen and phosphorus, the costs have increased to around \$1.25 million. Interestingly, Mrs. Adams has indicated that the funding could increase based on the project's affiliation with resident access to evacuation routes (a Transportation project) in the event of an evacuation order. The required local match for the proposed project is \$625,000. To equally share this expense, it would be a cost of \$312,500 each on the part of the Town and the County. If the project was chosen to be funded, a state contract would likely be released in January 2018. The project would then go to bid in March 2018. **Ultimately, neither the County or the Town are under any obligation to accept any funding for this project.**

We hope that the Commission recognizes this valuable opportunity to participate in this joint effort to properly repair Old Winter Beach Road and the surrounding storm water drainage once and for all. The Town Council would appreciate the Commission's discussion on this proposal and a response from you indicating your position on this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert H. Stabe, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert H. Stabe, Jr.  
Town Manager  
Town of Indian River Shores

cc: Jason Brown, County Administrator  
Dylan Reingold, County Attorney  
Michael Symkowski, Director of Management & Budget  
Rich Szpyrka, Public Works Director  
Internal (Town Council, Attorney, Treasurer)