



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
AGENDA ITEM

Assistant County Administrator /
Department of General Services
Parks and Conservation Resources Division

Date: March 23, 2020

To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners

Through: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Assistant County Administrator

From: Kevin M. Kirwin, Director, Parks and Conservation Resources

Subject: Approval of License Agreement with Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club, Inc. for Partitioned Section of the Donald McDonald Campground Office to Include Space Behind the Office for Construction of One Antenna.

BACKGROUND

Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (VBARC) is a registered not for profit organization located within Indian River County. The VBARC stated mission is " to recruit, train and help committed HAM (*term that refers to amateur radio operators*) Radio operators carry on the tradition of amateur radio by using our network of technical resources, and expertise to provide equipment, skilled operators and emergency services when called upon by local authorities in time of need to assist and protect the citizens in the communities in which we live and serve."

The VBARC has a long standing history of service to the citizens of Indian River County through their cooperation with the Indian River County Emergency Services Division.

Most recently, when Indian River County opened ten shelters in preparation for Hurricane Dorian, the Indian River County Emergency Services Division worked with Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and VBARC to activate communications at all of the shelters including the Special Needs & the Pet Friendly Shelters. ARES and VBARC provided vital health and welfare information to the various agencies through coordination with the Emergency Services Division. Amateur radio operators logged 631 hours amongst the 16 volunteers during this activation.

VBARC is looking to utilize space at the Donald MacDonald Campground, located at 12315 Roseland Road. The office of the campgrounds is housed within a 1,976 square foot, repurposed modular building (formerly the pro-shop and club house for the Sandridge Golf Course). Campground staff use only a small portion of the entire square footage of the building and their primary tasks are focused on campsite maintenance and grounds maintenance duties on nearby parks.

VBARC intends to partition approximately 204 square feet of the building's space to set up a fully operational amateur radio station along with an antennae tower in order to conduct HAM certification trainings for Scouts, Veterans and other interested residents. The club will hold monthly gatherings for low powered temporary installations, training in the latest digital techniques, license courses, testing, and conduct amateur radio exercises.

Additionally, VBARC will be installing a CCTV security monitoring system in the building which the County will have access to and a digital locking system for the building to enhance security. VBARC's presence in the building will further enhance the security of the facility and campgrounds. There are no foreseeable operating impacts with the execution of this license.

FUNDING:

Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club, Inc. will reimburse the County for additional electrical expenses incurred through this license. The estimated value of the digital locking system to be installed by the VBARC is \$800 and the estimated value of the CCTV security monitoring system is \$500.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff respectfully recommends the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners accept the license agreement with Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and authorize the chair to execute the same.

ATTACHMENT:

License Agreement with Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

DISTRIBUTION:

Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Kevin M. Kirwin, Director –Parks and Conservation Resources

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR APRIL 7, 2020