

Indian River County, Florida
Department of Utility Services
Board Memorandum

Date: April 22, 2020
To: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
From: Vincent Burke, PE, Director of Utility Services
Prepared by: Cindy Corrente, Utilities Finance Manager
Subject: Suspension of Delinquency Charges associated with Utility Services through May 31, 2020, due to COVID-19

Background/Analysis:

On March 12, 2020, the Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS) temporarily suspended the practice of disconnecting potable water service if a customer’s account is past due. On March 17, 2020, the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved Resolution 2020-31, which delegated the authority to the County Administrator to execute all documents necessary to the proper functioning of the County until the BCC could meet to ratify those actions. On April 7, 2020, staff recommended and the Board of County Commissioners ratified the actions taken by the County Administrator under Resolution 2020-31 to temporarily suspend the Indian River County Department of Utility Services’ charging of delinquency charges under section 201.08(J)(4) of the Indian River County Code Of Ordinances through April 30, 2020. The purpose of this agenda is to extend the delinquency charge suspension for another 30 days, or until May 31, 2020.

Due to the COVID- 19 pandemic, it is crucial that all potable water service within IRCDUS’s service area remain on in order to provide essential water supply for cleaning and cooking. With the recent stay home and social distancing requirements from local, state, and federal regulations, some of our customers are affected financially since, for many, their jobs have been furloughed. This affects their ability to pay for utility and other bills.

Funding:

Revenues from delinquency charges are recorded in the Utilities Operating fund. It is estimated that \$75,000 per month (estimated \$150,000 total) in revenues will not be recorded as a result of this recommendation. In addition to the lost revenue, approximately \$25,000 per month (estimated \$50,000 total) in reconnect fees will not be recorded as well.

Account Name	Account Number	Amount
Penalties	471034-343540	\$200,000

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners suspend the Indian River County Department of Utility Services’ charging of delinquency charges under section 201.08(J)(4) of the Indian River County Code Of Ordinances through May 31, 2020.