

the County to convert septic systems to sewer connections. She concluded by discussing the biosolids that are allowed to be spread on Indian River County farmland and ultimately end up in our water systems.

Ms. Cheryl Dunn, Environmental Health Manager, discussed permits for repairs, modifications and new septic systems that her office is responsible for administering. She explained that her department can “encourage” homeowners to meet the twenty-four-inch separation between the drainfield and groundwater but that it is voluntary and unenforceable at this time for septic systems installed before 1983. She indicated that as the septic contractors typically pull repair permits, there is little to no communication between the homeowner and her department until final inspections are performed. She described the significant cost to individual homeowners to raise the drainfields, adding that for some smaller properties it could be challenging because there may not be enough lawn space available. She advised that while there are currently no funds or incentives offered for homeowners to upgrade their drainfield or treatment systems, her wish is that they will become available at least for areas that while sewer connection is not a reality, sewage may be impacting the lagoon.

Mr. Vincent Burke, Utility Services Director, outlined mandates for new subdivisions and commercial development to connect to county sewer as well as determinations of mandatory connection for failed septic systems. He compared the costs to repair or upgrade existing septic systems to that of connecting to County sewer or the ultimate cost to the environment if neither option is chosen. He stated that the creation of new sewer infrastructure includes not only the price of sewer lines and pump systems, but the destruction of roadways, making these projects a public works issue as well. He concluded that his department continues to apply for grants from the State, District and the National Estuary Program (NEP) and that additional funding could shorten the timelines needed to connect communities to the County sewer system.

Extensive discussion followed regarding County staff’s commitment to pursue and identify opportunities to address goals, objectives and policies relating to sanitary sewer connections and septic systems.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Stewart, SECONDED BY Ms. Waldrop, the members voted unanimously (5-0) to approve staff recommendations on this Legislative matter with language added regarding the County’s commitment to pursue and identify opportunities.**

→ **Part 2:** Coastal management element amendments and related amendments to the Future Land Use Element.

Mr. Steven Hitt, Senior Environmental Planner, detailed proposed edits relating to coastal management in the Future Land Use Element and gave a PowerPoint presentation, copies of which are on file in the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Office. He recommended that the Commissioners recommend that the BCC approve the proposed amendments to the Coastal Management Element and Future Land Use Element for transmittal to state and regional review agencies.

Discussion followed regarding sea level rise projections as they relate to coastal high hazard area policies and safety plans.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Brognano, SECONDED BY Ms. Waldrop, the members voted unanimously (5-0) to approve staff recommendations on this Legislative matter.**

Chairman Polackwich read the following into the record:

**D. Consideration of Land Development Regulation (LDR) amendments to Chapters 910, 913, 914, 952 and 971 regarding traffic study requirements, subdivision and site plan review processes and Staff level approval authority for certain uses. [Legislative]**

Mr. Stan Boling, Community Development Director, reviewed information regarding the proposed LDR amendments. He referenced the Development Review and Permit Process Advisory Committee that was established by the BCC and began meeting in October of 2017 and he went on to detail their proposed Staff supported amendments. He recommended that the Commissioners recommend that the BCC adopt all five ordinances amending Chapters 910, 913, 914, 952 and 971 of the LDR regulations.

Discussion followed regarding staff level approvals, sign posting notice policies and appeal processes. It was suggested that notification signs be posted even when there are Staff level approvals for the eight uses proposed to go from PZC approval to staff level approval.

Ms. Debbi Robinson, Development Review and Permit Process Advisory Committee Chairperson, recapped the committee's task of streamlining the land development process while still protecting the public's safety, welfare and interests. She clarified that the Staff level approvals would pertain only to permitted uses that generally come to the Board on the Consent agenda, adding four weeks to the process as well as a disproportionate amount of staff time.

**ON MOTION BY Mr. Landers, SECONDED BY Mr. Brognano, the members voted unanimously (5-0) to approve staff recommendations with added sign notifications for the eight uses proposed to go from PZC approval to staff level approval.**

**Commissioner's Matters**

There were none.

**Planning Matters**

Mr. Stan Boling stated the likelihood of a meeting on February 22, 2018.

**Attorney's Matters**

There were none.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.