

October 3, 2017
ITEM 14.B.1

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 20, 2017

SUBJECT: Request Board Discussion on the Issue of Unmaintained County Roads

FROM: Peter O'Bryan
Commissioner, District 4

Over the past several years the county has been dealing more and more with the issue of road maintenance on roadways mainly used as access for water control districts. Over the years lots have been developed as residences and those residents are now faced with unmaintained, and sometimes impassable, roads. The majority of these issues are in the Fellsmere area and the south and southwest portion of the county.

I am asking the Board for some discussion on this issue and looking at options to address it. Some initial thoughts for discussion would include:

- 1) Status quo – take no responsibility for the maintenance of the roads.
- 2) Place a moratorium on any new building permits where the access is a road that is not maintained by the county. This would prevent new problems but does not address current residents.
- 3) Ask the Legislature to disband the water control districts and bring canals/drainage under county control. Possibly create a county wide “Drainage District” which would allow the county to collect non-ad valorem assessments for a) drainage and b) road maintenance.
- 4) Go ahead and start maintaining the roads. Purchase graders and hire additional crews and adjust tax rate as necessary
- 5) Other ideas?