

**Indian River County, Florida
Department of Utility Services
Board Memorandum**

Date: December 12, 2022

To: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Through: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
Sean C. Lieske, Director of Utility Services

From: Robert J. Tobar, EI, Utility Design Engineer

Subject: Award of RFP 2023007 – North County Water & Sewer Project Phase 2 -Private Side Connections for Sewer

Background:

The North County Water and Sewer Phase 2 construction contract was awarded to Centerline, Inc. by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on April 20, 2021. Construction of the project is nearing completion, and the County is transitioning to the private-side connection portion.

Typically, homeowners are expected to pay directly for the connection to the utilities; however, on April 20, 2021, the BCC authorized Resolution 3 under which the cost of the private sewer connection and associated septic abandonment would be paid for by the County. Water connection costs will be the responsibility of the homeowner

On November 3, 2020, the BCC approved a St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) Cost-Share Agreement to help fund the Indian River County North Sebastian Septic to Sewer Project Phase 2, as a water quality benefit to the Indian River Lagoon. The agreement provides funding from SJRWMD in the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,280,818.77, which can only be applied to 33% of the eligible construction costs of the project.

Additionally, the BCC approved the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Cost Share in the amount of \$3,250,000, and an Indian River Lagoon Council (IRLC) Cost Share agreement in the amount of \$204,017.69 on May 19, 2020, and August 18, 2020, respectively.

Discussion:

The private side connection portion of the project is anticipated to entail the connection of approximately 196 residential parcels to County sanitary sewer services and approximately 161 water service line connections.

On behalf of the Indian River County Department of Utility Services (IRCDUS), the Purchasing Division issued a request for proposals (RFP) to prequalify plumbers for homeowners to select to execute their connections. A single responsive proposal was received.

RFP Results:

Advertising Date: October 19, 2022
 RFP Opening Date: November 18, 2022
 Solicitation Broadcast to: 928 Subscribers and 159 Office of Supplier Diversity Registered Vendors
 RFP Documents Requested by: 18 Firms
 Replies: 1 Firm (Meeks Plumbing, Inc.)

Analysis:

A selection committee comprised of Robert Tobar, Utility Design Engineer; Scott Eddinger, Utility Inspector; and Harrison Youngblood, Utilities Engineer, independently reviewed the received proposal in accordance with the RFP document and Purchasing Manual. The committee then met to discuss the proposal, and agreed that the sole proposer met the RFP requirements, and is qualified to complete the project. Meeks Plumbing, Inc. (Meeks) has completed many projects in and for the County.

Staff is prepared to enter negotiations with Meeks to finalize the terms of the agreement, and return the final agreement to the BCC for approval.

Funding:

Grant funding, in the total amount of \$740,946.76, along with American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding from the ARP/Sebastian Phase II Water & Sewer account, number 13821936-066510-17513, in the total amount of \$886,111.04, may be used to offset some of the costs to homeowners for sewer connections, for a total amount of \$1,627,057.80, as shown below:

| Grant/Account Description | Agency/Account Number | Amount |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| SJRWMD Cost-Share Grant | SJRWMD | \$ 536,929.07 ¹ |
| Indian River Lagoon Cost-Share | IRLNEP | \$ 204,017.69 |
| ARP/Sebastian Phase II Water & Sewer | 13821936-066510-17513 | \$ 886,111.04 ² |
| Total | | \$1,627,057.80 |

1. 33% of the sewer connection costs per SJRWMD contract
2. Only eligible to be used to reimburse contracted plumber

State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) funding of up to \$20,000 of connection costs is available to homeowners who qualify based on household income. These requirements are listed on Community Development Planning Division’s webpage.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board of County Commissioners award the Request for Proposal 2022007 to Meeks Plumbing, Inc., and authorize staff to begin negotiations.