

**UTILITIES WORKSHOP  
ENGLEWOOD WATER DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**JANUARY 12, 2004**

A workshop of the Board of County Commissioners was held at the Murdock Administration Complex, Room 229, in Port Charlotte, Florida. The following members were present: Chairman DeBoer and Commissioners Thomas C. D'Aprile, and Mac V. Horton. Also in attendance were County Administrator Bruce D. Loucks, Assistant County Administrator Roger Baltz, County Attorney Reneé Francis Lee, Assistant County Attorney Marty Young Burton, and Deputy Clerk Diane J. Nice. **(Commissioners Cummings and Devos were not present for the first portion of the meeting.)** The meeting was called to order at **10:32 A.M.**

**I. Introduction, Background, and History**

Thomas R. Keith, Assistant County Administrator, explained County and Englewood Water District (EWD) staffs have been working to resolve the long-standing dispute on the wastewater service area; as a result of a December 8, 2003 meeting, resolution options were identified: (1) Charlotte County Utility (CCU) would become the balk customer of EWD pursuant to a draft agreement that is being prepared by both parties and (2) an evaluation is being performed with a view towards purchasing service area assets from EWD under an acquisition agreement that will be brought back to this Board and the EWD Board in the future. Mr. Keith advised CCU Assistant Director Laurie Case, Utility Engineer Michael Saunders, and EWD Executive Director Richard Rollo are present to answer questions.

**II. Questions and Answers - Board and Staff**

**Chairman DeBoer** requested the amount of infrastructure owned by each party in the certificated area. Mr. Keith stated a third-party consultant is evaluating the assets and Utilities does not own any wastewater services in the area. Michael Saunders, Utility Engineer, reported CCU provides water service to 3,500 customers in East Englewood; EWD owns and operates approximately 5,700 lineal feet of 6" force main along S.R. 776 east from Winchester Boulevard, EWD owns a lift station in the Tringali

Recreation Center area, and Winn Dixie owns a lift station; EWD provides service to 30 customers; CCU has existing wastewater services along the perimeter. **Commissioner Horton** questioned if the 30 customers are being served adequately. Richard Rollo, EWD Executive Director, nodded affirmatively. **Chairman DeBoer** requested if EWD were to expand into the area, have Board Members discussed the enactment of legislation to incorporate it into a voting area. Mr. Rollo advised both issues have been discussed; the low-pressure system project on S.R. 776 beyond the Winn Dixie in EWD's five-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) has been put on hold; and EWD Members have discussed a codification of the enabling act for expansion of EWD's political boundaries but there are concerns regarding the impact on customers. **Chairman DeBoer** concluded EWD does not want to expand the political area so the residents could vote for EWD Members. (**Commissioners Cummings and Devos were present for the remaining portion of the workshop.**) Mr. Rollo agreed. **Commissioner Horton** questioned if EWD wants to provide water service. Mr. Rollo responded negatively. **Chairman DeBoer** summarized EWD would prefer the County to pursue the purchase of assets to provide wastewater service since EWD is not desirous of providing water service. Mr. Rollo expressed uncertainty regarding the desire of all EWD Board Members on selling or entering into a retail/wholesale agreement. **Chairman DeBoer** commented in support of having one provider for all utilities in the service area. Mr. Keith stated the consultants are performing an evaluation of the system and a report will be brought back to the Board. **Chairman DeBoer** requested an EWD decision on selling the assets to the County. Mr. Rollo indicated he has spoken with several EWD Board Members and it appears they want to do what is most beneficial for residents. **Commissioner Horton** agreed residents would best be served by having one utility provide service and stated it should be CCU. Mr. Keith pointed out staffs have established a good working relationship and they are looking forward to resolving the dispute.

### **III. Board Direction**

**Chairman DeBoer** questioned if staff direction is necessary to continue Option 2 to evaluate the assets for purchase by CCU and bring back an agreement. **COMMISSIONER HORTON MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF STAFF DIRECTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DEVOS AND DECLARED UNANIMOUS.**

Bruce Pomeroy requested an opportunity for citizens input. **Chairman DeBoer** explained the workshop was set for Board and staff discussion and citizen comments may be brought to the Board's attention during the second citizens input at the January 13, 2004 meeting.

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:45 A.M.**

Signature on file in Commission Minutes  
Matthew D. DeBoer  
Chairman

**ATTEST:**

BARBARA T. SCOTT, CLERK  
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND  
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD  
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: Signature on file in Commission Minutes  
Deputy Clerk

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