

Memorandum

Date: March 1, 2011
To: Mayor & Commissioners
From: Ken Schenck, Town Manager
Re: Town Update – March, 2011

I am providing you with brief updates on some of the Towns continuing projects and events.

Coconut Lane Drainage-

We received the grant from the State for \$119,415.
We are completing the design and hope to go out for bids in March.

Old Ocean Blvd. Dune.-

The Garden Club Dune Committee is about 90% complete on the new plantings. They expect to complete it in the next couple of months. Once complete they propose to add a new bench. They've substantially improved the dune in this area.

Old Ocean Ave-

I'm met with the residents on Old Ocean Blvd. to develop a plan to remove the Scavola and replant the area with native vegetation. We want to have a plan that will eliminate the Scavola and maintain the privacy that's been provided by the Scavola for the last 20 years.

Energy Grants-

We have received a notice to proceed from the County for the \$50,000 grant for energy improvements on Town Hall and Ocean Ave. The engineering survey for this work is in the State grant. As we have still not received the State grant the County will allow us to use the County grant for the engineering evaluation. We are getting two engineering evaluation bids as required by the County.

We have been told that the Governor has put a hold on all grants exceeding \$1,000,000, which includes our grant application. We are hoping the following information is still valid when and if they ever release the grant. We have received notification from the State that we have been awarded an energy grant from them. The original grant request was for \$250,000. The State reduced the grant to \$173,500. The major reduction was in the residential rebates which were reduced from \$123,000 to \$38,465. We were told this reduction was due to EPA wanting to eliminate this component. EPA has decided they don't want to pay for hybrid vehicles so we've requested those funds be included with the residential rebate program. This would allow \$110,000 for residential rebates, \$6,500 for an energy audit and \$57,000 for common elements with the other applicants. We don't know what the restrictions will be on the residential rebate program. Lantana is the lead agency on this grant and they are working with the State to finalize the grant. This has been a very frustrating process.

Entrance Signs

Three of the signs have been installed. We've submitted a permit to FDOT to get a variance to install the fourth sign at the south end of Town.

Capri Apts.

The plans to remove the present laundry discharge have been submitted to the Health Dept. and are under review for permits.

Ethics Commission

A committee made up of representatives of the County and the League of Cities is presently developing the ordinances and needed documents to implement the Ethics Commission voted on by the residents in the last election. All of the municipalities passed the referendum. However, as the saying goes the devil is in the details. A major concern, at present, is the funding for Ms. Sheryl Steckler, the Inspector General and her staff. The IG's office was supposed to be funded by a 1/4% of the municipal and county contracts. The contracts that would be subject to this fee were not defined. This, however, appears to be changing. There are discussions ongoing that the funding may be based on a community's budget rather than the contract percentage. There is uncertainty about what parts of the budget would be included as well as how large a staff she will have. Based on preliminary numbers our cost will be about \$3,750.

At present it appears that the Executive Director for the Ethics Commission, Mr. Alan Johnson, will be funded by the County.

Although the details haven't been finalized there is a growing concern among many of the municipalities that this is turning into an unintended expensive monster. The details should be worked out in the next couple of months. I will keep you informed as this develops.

The Executive Director of the Ethics Commission, Mr. Alan Johnson, will be providing mandatory training to all of the municipalities as to the ethics dos and don'ts. This will include the Commission, Board members and staff. The timing is uncertain at present.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS-

Commission Meeting -----April 4, 2011 @ 6:00 PM

Code Enforcement-----April 5, 2011 @ 10:00 AM

cc: Chris Yannuzzi, Police Chief
Karen Hancsak, Town Clerk
Town Employees