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TOWN OF SEWALL'S POINT



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Town Manager

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Town Clerk

TINA CIECHANOWSKI
Chief of Police

JACK REISINGER, CBO
Building Official

MARIA PIERCE
Finance/Human Resource Director

March 10, 2023

Mr. Don Donaldson
Martin County Administrator
2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, FL 34996

Re: Requested agenda item – March 21, 2023
Permission for 706 Low-Pressure
Septic to Sewer Connections,
South Sewall's Point Area

Dear Don,

The Town of Sewall's Point Commission requests that the following matter be addressed by the Martin County Board of Commissioners by approving 706 connections for a Low-Pressure Septic to Sewer Grinder system. Currently, there is a policy in existence with Martin County Utilities limiting the number of low-pressure sewer grinder connections to three hundred (300) connections, and the Town of Sewall's Point is requesting permission for seven hundred and six (706) connections for the following reasons:

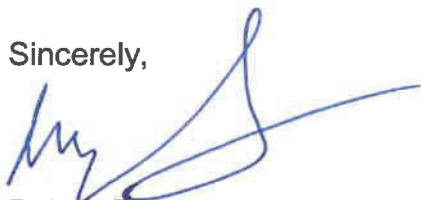
- The Town of Sewall's Point is the only municipality in Martin County without a complete sewer system. In a study conducted by Martin County Utilities, Sewall's Point ranked number twelve (12) out of twenty (20) communities in Martin County needing a complete sewer system. The Town of Sewall's Point sought to decrease that timeframe and provide residents, and the region, with a system that reduces the impact of wastewater on the environment. A study paid for by the Town identified the best system for the Town, a low-pressure grinder system, and sought grant funding to pay for the infrastructure. The Town was recently awarded an \$8.4 million dollar grant for the project from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- The current Martin County Utility policy on Low-Pressure Grinder connections addresses communities. It does not consider that the Town of Sewall's Point is a municipality with six separate communities located within South Sewall's Point.

- In December 2022, the Town of Sewall's Point Commission authorized part 1 of the project converting septic to sewer for up to 148 connections. Due to successful grant applications, the Town wants to provide the opportunity to all residents to be serviced by Martin County Utilities. The low-pressure system was chosen because it is more cost-effective for the residents and the Town, and with directional boring, the construction would be less disruptive to the roadways, driveways, vegetation, and trees.
- The Town completed a successful Septic to Sewer project in North Sewall's Point. It would be unfair to 369 of the South Sewall's Point residents to have an assessment related to a gravity system increasing their costs, different from North Sewall's Point and 337 residents in South Sewall's Point. Therefore, equity is a concern.
- The Town of Sewall's Point has worked on all of the infrastructure needed, grants, time commitment, and effort without needing any expenditure from Martin County. The Town has offered to cover any additional maintenance fees, and the residents will pay the Customer Connection Package, including the Capital Facility Charge. All of these fees go to Martin County Utilities.

In closing, this is a win-win proposal. The Town of Sewall's Point gets a more environmentally friendly method to dispose of wastewater, the residents get a system that is more affordable, Martin County Utilities receives a no-cost turn-key sewer infrastructure built to their specifications, and the rivers and environment become cleaner.

I respectfully request that this matter be placed on the March 21, 2023, BOCC agenda for what hopefully will be the Board of Commissioner's support.

Sincerely,



Robert Daniels
Town Manager
Sewall's Point