



Board of County Commissioners

2401 SE Monterey Road
Stuart, Florida 34996

Agenda Item Summary

File ID: 19-0566

DEPT-3

Meeting Date: 6/18/2019

PLACEMENT: Departmental

TITLE:

APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH MS. SARAH WOODS FOR THE POSITION OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On May 21, 2019 the Board of County Commissioners (Board) directed the County Administrator to begin contract negotiations with Ms. Sarah Woods for the County Attorney position. A contract has been developed and is being presented to the Board for approval.

DEPARTMENT: Administration

PREPARED BY: **Name:** Taryn G. Kryzda
Title: County Administrator

REQUESTED BY: Board of County Commissioners

PRESET:

PROCEDURES: None

BACKGROUND/RELATED STRATEGIC GOAL:

1. Agreement/Contract drafted by: Ms. Sarah Woods and Taryn G. Kryzda
2. Parties to the Agreement/Contract: Ms. Woods and Martin County Board of County Commissioners
3. Purpose of the Agreement/Contract: Employment contract for the County Attorney position
4. New/Renewal/Modification: New
5. Duration: One Year with annual renewals
6. Benefits to Martin County: Sets forth terms and conditions for employment
7. Cost to Martin County: Salary plus benefits which may vary from year to year

The County Attorney position became vacant as of January 1, 2019. The Board directed staff to begin the recruitment process and placed Ms. Krista Storey in the position as Interim until the vacancy was

filled. Staff advertised the position and worked with our partners at Florida Association of Counties Attorneys (FACA) to ensure candidates being considered possessed the qualifications and skill-set necessary to meet the needs of the Martin County Commissioners (Commissioners).

As staff reviewed and considered each of the candidates that applied, it became apparent that the County had high expectations and some significant and complex pending issues that must be addressed in the near future. It also became apparent that possibly the prior incumbent, Ms. Sarah Woods, may be willing to return, as her retirement requirements from Florida Retirement System (FRS) Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) were ending. The Commissioners directed the County Administrator (Administrator) to verify if Ms. Woods would be interested in returning to the County Attorney position, and if so, negotiate a contract for the Board's approval.

The contract before the Board for consideration is consistent with the prior County Attorney contract terms and benefits with a start date of July 9, 2019 due to Ms. Woods having a prior commitment in early July.

ISSUES:

None.

LEGAL SUFFICIENCY REVIEW:

The County Attorney's Office reviewed the contract for legal sufficiency.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

RECOMMENDATION

Move that the Board approve the contract with Ms. Sarah Woods for the County Attorney position to begin employment on July 9, 2019 with Ms. Krista Storey returning to her prior position (salary and benefits) of Sr. County Attorney before being made Interim County Attorney.

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

None

FISCAL IMPACT:

RECOMMENDATION

The salary and benefits are customary and consistent with the prior County Attorney contract Ms. Woods had prior to retiring, as well as comparable to other County Attorney salary and benefits for similar Counties. The salary and benefits for the County Attorney position are included in the current budget.

ALTERNATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

None

DOCUMENT(S) REQUIRING ACTION:

- ☐ Budget Transfer / Amendment ☐ Chair Letter ☐ Contract / Agreement
☐ Grant / Application ☐ Notice ☐ Ordinance ☐ Resolution
☐ Other:

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