

SUMTER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: **Feasibility Study (For Direction)**

REQUESTED ACTION: **For Direction**

Meeting Type: Special Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: 2/2/2021

CONTRACT: N/A

Vendor/Entity: _____

Effective Date: _____

Termination Date: _____

Managing Division / Dept: **Administrative Services**

BUDGET IMPACT: Estimated at \$75,000 Per Study

FUNDING SOURCE: General Fund

Type: N/A

EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT: Not established

HISTORY/FACTS/ISSUES:

The Board expressed an interest in determining its support to provide sewer service to Lake Panasoffkee, the City of Coleman, the City of Center Hill, and additional capacity for the City of Webster. In the latest review of providing service, we reviewed the Florida Government Utility Authority (FGUA) as a possible entity to acquire and operate systems that were interested in their pursuit of grant/loans to grow the service areas. The FGUA is a creation of the State of Florida to regionalize water and sewer service and step in when private or public water systems are failing. FGUA is interested in serving areas in Sumter County as they provide service in the surrounding counties, so scope and scale would fit their business model.

Lake Panasoffkee

Two separate studies were conducted in the past targeting the use of the City of Bushnell existing, but near capacity, wastewater treatment plan. The last study contemplated a series of sewage pumping stations and sewer force mains (pressurized lines) to pump sewage to the East of I-75 to the City of Bushnell plant. From this main “trunk” system, commercial activities could proceed while the residential collection system would move forward in later phases as state regulations tightened to eliminate septic systems with illicit discharge into the lake. No further action occurred as some businesses did not support the initiative, and the Lake Panasoffkee (resident-owned) water system had to approve the initiative due to the State Public Service Commission granting it territorial rights to not only water service but sewer service. The water system has no current plans to develop sewer service in this area.

City of Coleman

The City of Coleman has a water system but no sewer service. Sumter County recently supported (by paying for the design and facilitating an agreement between Wildwood and Coleman) an interlocal agreement between Wildwood and Coleman for interconnecting their water systems located near the intersection of US 301 and Warm Springs Avenue. The City of Wildwood paid for the construction of this interconnection. This service provides fire flow and

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customer service to the City of Coleman in the event of failure of their water plant. Likewise, the City of Coleman can service a limited portion of Wildwood should a portion of its system fail in this area. For years, the City of Wildwood has proposed the City of Coleman connect to its sewer system via an interlocal agreement, but the City of Coleman remains uninterested in considering it; therefore, Wildwood is making no more offers to do so. To the West and South of Coleman, a private sewer system is in place and developing, so another option for service to Coleman could be considered for dialogue. For these reasons, there is no plan to recommend Sumter County's further pursuit to support sewer service for the City of Coleman.

City of Webster

The City of Webster currently has a sewer collection system but not a sewer treatment system. It relies on an agreement with the City of Bushnell for the treatment; however, the current development activity in discussion with the City of Webster exceeds the maximum capacity "guaranteed" by the City of Bushnell. The City of Bushnell is currently prioritizing its capacity needs for its jurisdiction rather than for others. Webster is currently discussing interest from existing private water and sewer providers in their joint service area boundaries to joint in a future joint system. FGUA met with the City of Webster and supports their efforts for a larger consolidation of its public and the area private system; however, FGUA will not proceed with further interest until a water and sewer feasibility study is conducted. This is an area of support Sumter County can provide under the consolidated planning services provided to it, the City of Coleman, and the City of Center Hill.

City of Center Hill

Like Webster, the City of Center Hill is also gathering interest from private systems in their joint planning area to join the possible feasibility study. Center Hill has a water system but no sewer service.

I am seeking direction to pursue the solicitation to negotiate a contract with a consulting engineering firm to conduct two feasibility studies that would meet FGUA's criteria for the same. The first study would focus on the joint planning areas of the City of Webster and the City of Center Hill. The second would focus on the Lake Panasoffkee area provided the Lake Panasoffkee Water System Board of Directors if they support the activity and are open to the idea of another entity operating their system as part of providing sewer service in the community.

Prepared by: Bradley Arnold

Grammarly Check