

**The Inglis Town Commission  
held the Regular Commission Meeting  
Remotely via Zoom  
on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 PM**

**Present Were:  
Mayor Merritt, Comm. Brennan, Comm. Morin,  
Comm. Schwing, Comm. Webb, Comm. Williams  
Attorney Fugate**

**Motion to Adopt Agenda**

**Commissioner Morin made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Williams seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

**Prayer and Pledge to the Flag**

**Comments, Ordinances, ETC.**

**1. Attorney Comments:**

Attorney Fugate stated the Governor extended his order allowing for a non-in-person quorum through this month, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, this extension was accompanied by a memorandum that indicated that he probably would not be extending the executive order again, so the Commission needs to be prepared to have at least three of the Commissioners attending in person.

Attorney Fugate stated the Commission and residents still need to follow the CDC Guidelines and the recommendations of six (6) feet of distance between the attendees which might limit attendance inside the building but the hybrid meeting link will allow attendees to still join the meeting remotely.

**2. Ordinance/Resolutions:**

**A. Resolution R11-20, A Resolution for an FDEP Grant/Loan Agreement pertaining to the Sewer Project that will allow Woodard & Curran to file an application for funds.**

Commissioner Webb read the Resolution by title into the record.

Justin DeMello, Project Manager with Woodard & Curran addressed the Commission giving a presentation with slides for a Wastewater Funding opportunity through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection State Revolving Fund Program.

Justin DeMello stated Woodard & Curran is in the final stages of completing their Wastewater Planning, this involves a preliminary engineering report that will be submitted to the USDA, and that is through a State Grant with a value of \$572,178.00, to date the expenditures are approximately \$300,000.00.

Justin DeMello gave an in-depth description of how the Town can use the loan towards the remainder of the funding for this project and how this process will work.

Commissioner Morin stated so if she understands what is being presented, the left over funding will be used towards the next phase of the program and this will take care of the 100% of the 50% that the Town would have been responsible for.

Commissioner Schwing stated the Commission received a letter via email late this afternoon which stated the Town of Yankeetown would not be a part of this project at this time, so how would this affect this project for Inglis.

Justin deMello stated the project as it stands right now is just moving forward with Inglis but certainly if Yankeetown has formally said that they are out of partnership that would impact the number of users potentially on the system in its early phases, in terms of this grant funding this would be for the Town of Inglis, that would be the agreement through DEP so that would give additional dollars for Inglis, for the first phase of the Inglis design.

Commissioner Schwing stated the documents on the resolution say that the Mayor is hereby designated as the authorized representative to execute the loan agreement this will become a binding obligation, so what are they going to have in writing that shows it is not going to be a binding obligation and the Town is going to get that funding back, how are we going to get that in writing, I don't feel comfortable voting on this until I have it in writing.

Justin DeMello stated he can absolutely put something in writing but it's actually the cities dollars they haven't paid Woodard & Curran those dollars yet so I would say that the city can absolutely put something in writing that says to Woodard & Curran, we are taking \$170,000.00 out of your contract to pay a loan with DEP, that would be a change to Woodard & Curran's Contract to lower the value of your agreement with us which I am hereby agreeing to at this moment in order to help move this project forward.

Commissioner Morin asked if the Attorney would need to draft something.

Commissioner Schwing stated in speaking with residents in the area a lot of them could not attend the Zoom Meeting they do not have the capability or the confidence to be part of this meeting and she thinks that on behalf of the residents this needs to be tabled until the November meeting and give them the opportunity to attend in person.

Mayor Merritt stated the Resolution is just giving Woodard & Curran the opportunity to go back to DEP, the loan agreement will need to come before the board at the time that it is made.

Commissioner Webb stated just for clarification this Resolution and the agreement that the Commission puts forward is only giving Woodard & Curran permission to go forward seeking other funding in order to get the Town to a 90% grant, 10% loan status in the future.

Commissioner Schwing stated again that this Resolution is a binding obligation once it is signed so that means the residents are not going to hear this, it's binding that what this resolution states.

Mayor Merritt stated the loan agreement must come before the board before it can be signed.

Commissioner Schwing states so this won't be signed tonight or this week or next week.

Mayor Merritt stated the Resolution will be signed if the Commission so votes, the loan agreement will not because it hasn't even been drawn up yet, this is just the Resolution allowing Woodard & Curran to move forward.

Judi Blum stated she had a question, she's not sure if she mis-understood at the last meeting about the Sewer Project, but she thought they had said that nothing was going to move forward until they had an actual cost to the residents and that Woodard & Curran were currently working on that part of the project.

Justin DeMello stated these funding projects do not come up randomly, there are schedules for these things, what they look at is, lets throw your hat in the ring with every opportunity and DEP came back and said "yes this sounds like a great project here is some money", and if they turn their noses up to this, which is the Town's option to say no we are not interested at this time, then it gets sent back to the pool and gets given to someone else.

Judi Blum asked if Woodard & Curran working currently on a study for what the cost will be to each resident and when we do find that out and the citizens get a chance to vote or show up at a meeting and express their concerns and say this sewer project doesn't go through is out voted the people don't want it then what?

Justin DeMello stated then the Town still doesn't have any money out of pocket.

Commissioner Morin commented that the Town is trying to go forward with the grant money and this way at the end of the day it's not going to cost the residents especially for this go round and the way that the Commission put it to the general public is nothing is going to go forward if it's going to cost any more than say \$28.00 a month to the residents the hook up will be free if not of none of these things come to fruition then we will not have a sewer project, we're not going to pass anything that the residents cannot afford we just won't do it.

Judi Blum asked when would the final report from Woodard & Curran be available that's going to show what it's going to cost to the residents?

Justin DeMello stated as described in the documents it looks like they are scheduled for delivery in December.

Steve Schwing addressed Justin DeMello stating at the meeting he attended that was held in Bronson on this project he thought that at that time he had mentioned that the Governor had suspended all funding for these types of projects so he's curious to know how we're going to get around that to procure this funding.

Justin DeMello stated there are multiple funding avenues for this type of project that go beyond the State walls, the Governor redlined the LFI application for this fiscal year 20/21 but that doesn't mean that there won't be funding opportunities for LFI applications in the future, the SFR Program is healthy with plenty of funding and that is through DEP, at least currently, and then obviously there are additional grant opportunities through places like the USDA and others that would be Federal Programs that would be very interested in pursuing clean water projects like this.

Steve Schwing stated he is curious too that if they go through with this next phase or trying to get this loan that they are requesting tonight where do we stand with that and how long do we have to wait for that funding, is there stuff out there now for that that is available if we get to that point or this part of the money that is being put on hold by the Governor?

Justin DeMello stated it is a part of both, what he can largely say is with a good degree of confidence is that no one is going to write a check for 20 or 30 million dollars, no one entity, but several entities might write a check for a million dollars, two million or even five million dollars and provide another one in a couple years, so like anything Rome wasn't built in a day and Inglis' Sewer System may not be either so what we are trying to do is leverage several loan and grant opportunities like the DEP, USDA the LFI Application, over a several year program to get Inglis and perhaps Yankeetown, Citrus County, Levy County with the funding that they need and that may happen over a course of a decade but again it's a continuous program.

Mr. Schwing had many more questions on funding, the time frame for the project etc.

Justin DeMello tried to answer all the questions Mr. Schwing presented.

Commissioner Webb called for the vote.

**Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the Resolution for Woodard & Curran to go after the additional funding opportunity. Commissioner Brennan seconded. Motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Schwing voting Nay.**

### **3. Contracts/Agreements:**

#### **A. FY2021 Agreement between the Town and the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council For Local Government Comprehensive Planning Services.**

Commissioner Webb stated this an annual renewal that the Town enters into with the North Central Florida Regional Planning Council.

Commissioner Schwing asked for an explanation as to whom this is.

Attorney Fugate stated this is the company that assists the Planning Commission with any changes to the land development for the Town of Inglis

**Commissioner Morin made a motion to accept the Agreement. Commissioner Schwing seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

### **Consent Agenda**

<b>1. Minutes:</b>	<b>Regular Meetings</b>	<b>08/04/2020, 09/01/2020</b>
	<b>Budget Workshops</b>	<b>08/12/2020, 08/19/2020, 08/26/2020</b>
	<b>Budget Hearings</b>	<b>09/16/2020, 09/23/2020</b>
	<b>Workshops</b>	
	<b>Public Hearings</b>	<b>09/14/2020, 09/16/2020, 09/29/2020</b>
	<b>Special</b>	

### **2. Financial Statements: August 2020**

Commissioner Schwing stated at one of the previous meetings there was discussion about the Town Fire Assessment and what it would cost to do a study that would include vacant properties.

Attorney Fugate stated he does not have a quote for the plan that is going to have to be put in place to do a different analysis on the Fire Assessment Program, when the Town changes the structure of the analysis that needs to be done to satisfy the obligation then a study will need to be done to include the vacant properties.

**Commissioner Morin made the motion to accept the Consent Agenda and the appropriate financials. Commissioner Brennan seconded. Motion carried 5-0.**

## Regular Agenda

### 1. Planning:

Commissioner Webb stated the Planning Commission has not been able to meet due to the executive order but hopefully they will be able to hold a meeting soon.

### 2. Code Enforcement:

Commissioner Morin stated the Code Enforcement Board met last month and everyone that had been brought before the board was given a thirty day extension to show some sort of improvement and the next meeting is set for October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 at 6pm., those same individuals will be brought forth to see if they made the necessary improvements and any other individual people in violation will be notified.

### 3. Old Business:

### 4. New Business:

#### A. Letter of support for County Project Glide. (Mayor)

Mayor Merritt stated this is just a request for a letter of support from the Town giving their support for this project, it will not have a direct effect on the Town but it will bring around 500 new jobs to the area.

**Commissioner Morin made a motion to hold discussion regarding this request. Commissioner Brennan seconded.**

Commissioner Schwing asked what kind of project this is, what types of jobs and were the persons in attendance given a copy of this letter of request?

Commissioner Webb read the wording of the support letter into the record.

Commissioner Williams asked if there was any idea of where this development would be located?

Mayor Merritt stated, "Somewhere north on Hwy 19, they have not acquired the land yet and that is why this is being kept under wraps until the land can be acquired, at this point this is just for a study, once the study is done it may not prove to be a viable project."

Attorney Fugate recommended that if the Commission wants to give their support contingent on future information then they can just say so at the bottom of the letter they can state, given the limited information they give their support contingent on what the project is and where it will be located.

Discussion followed.

Judi Blum stated she is against having the Mayor sign the letter, she does not support it.

Steve Schwing stated this project and the M-Cores project appear to be linked and he is also against it.

Bob and Linda Kelly spoke against the letter of support for this project.

Mayor Merritt stated the medium income in the Town of Inglis, due to the lack of jobs is a little over \$24,000.00 a year, which is \$2,000.00 a year less than the poverty level, so basically what she is hearing is that they don't care about those people that need high paying jobs..

Commissioner Schwing stated she disagreed with the Mayors statement.

Commissioner Morin asked if there is a time frame for this letter to be submitted.

**Commissioner Morin amended the motion to follow the Attorney's suggestions and amend the letter by stating they give their support contingent on what is being proposed to be built. Commissioner Brennan amended his second. Motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Schwing voting Nay.**

## **5. Dept Report by Commissioners:**

### **A. Budget & Finance.**

Commissioner Brennan stated as far as the budget process is concerned it went very well and he owes a lot of thanks to the Town Clerk.

### **B. Water Dept.**

Commissioner Williams stated he has been out of Town all week and has not been able to get with the Public Works Supervisor Wayne Moore in order to get the report.

Town Clerk Slattery stated she has the report and will read it into the record if Commissioner Williams so approves.

Commissioner Williams commented on the report.

### **C. Maintenance/R&B.**

Commissioner Schwing read the report for the Maintenance and Road & Bridge Departments.

Commissioner Schwing stated she and Wayne are working with Scott Modesitt on finding grant funds for road paving, they are in need of volunteers that would be willing to help in getting the information on the household residency and income survey.

#### **D. Law/Fire.**

Commissioner Webb read the report from the Levy County Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Webb stated the construction of the Fire Department addition is moving along even though the rains held them up and she currently does not have a report from the Fire Department for calls, the server is down.

#### **E. Land Use/Code Enforcement.**

Commissioner Morin stated there was nothing more to add but reminded all in attendance of the meeting scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 @ 6pm.

#### **F. Planning.**

Commissioner Webb stated she has already spoken on this.

#### **G. Health/Welfare/Rec.**

Commissioner Morin stated the next IRC meeting will be this coming Monday at 6:30 pm at Town Hall.

Commissioner Morin stated the next Farm Share Food Giveaway will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> at the Am-Vets beginning at 9am and will continue until the food is gone.

Commissioner Morin stated there also will be a two-town yard sale crawl on November 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> this is replacing the Yankeetown Seafood Festival that is normally held that weekend due to Covid.

#### **H. Animal Control.**

Commissioner Webb stated the Animal Control Officer completed the training course and is back to work, she is trapping/collecting stray dogs and cats and would like to offer an opportunity for individuals to take care of their animals and remind them that they are required to register their dogs and cats with the Town of Inglis.

#### **6. Public Comments:**

Mary Sparkman asked if the Animal Control Department is still in need of volunteers, food donations or anything like that.

Commissioner Webb stated they are always in need of food donations since they have lost their connection with Chewy, they also need cat litter, food etc.

James Sparkman commented on the condition of Cove Road stating that the Waste Pro Garbage Trucks are the cause for the breakdown of the road.

**7. Workshops & Special Meetings:****8. Town Clerk:**

Town Clerk Slattery stated that she appreciates everyone's patience and support during the Budget process, telling the Commission that the Auditors will be in Town Hall week after next to do the preliminary work for the audit process.

Town Clerk Slattery stated the Accounts Payable Clerk, Jaden Van Horn will be out for the next couple of days, she is having foot surgery.

Town Clerk Slattery commented on the conversation she had the other day regarding the apron/road repair that Mr. Sparkman commented on.

**9. Comments:****A. Mayor:**

Mayor Merritt stated she did not have anything to add but wants to call everyone's attention to what Mr. Sparkman posted in the chat box if they are interested.

Commissioner Webb stated she does not know what that is but if anyone who does look it up.

Mrs. Sparkman stated, "Excuse me what are you referring to about the chat box, I did post that I wanted to raise my hand."

Town Clerk Slattery stated, "There were a whole bunch of comments in there from those young people."

Mrs. Sparkman stated, "Yeah, Yeah I saw that stuff but we had nothing to do with those comments."

Town Clerk Slattery stated, "No that was from those young kids, that how they got in I do not know and I tried to take them off of there and when I closed out the chat box and erased it, it took everything out of there, I did see that Mr. Sparkman had wanted to say something but I didn't catch it because I was trying to write notes and get the nasty comments off of there."

Commissioner Webb stated she did not know what the chat box was, so we're good.

Mrs. Sparkman stated, "What do you mean we're good, was it the Mayor that accused us of writing all that stuff in there, I would like an apology from the Mayor please."

Commissioner Webb stated, "Excuse me, do I hear a motion to adjourn rather than go into this mess."

**B. Commission.**

**Commissioner Morin made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Schwing seconded. Motion carried 4-0, (Town Clerk Slattery stated it appeared that the phone connection with Commissioner Williams was lost so he was not in attendance to cast his vote to adjourn.)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attested By: Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approved By: Mayor

Transcribed By: Darlene M. Slattery