

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING DATE: May 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Approval to Retain Specialized Legal Counsel for DEP Litigation Matters

DEPARTMENT: Administration / Legal

PRESENTED BY: David J. Murzin

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Century is currently involved in ongoing regulatory and litigation matters concerning the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Due to the complexity, technical environmental compliance requirements, and legal implications associated with these proceedings, it is necessary for the Town to retain legal counsel with specialized experience in environmental law, DEP enforcement actions, consent orders, compliance negotiations, and related litigation.

The Town's current general legal services do not encompass the highly specialized regulatory litigation expertise required to adequately represent the Town's interests in these matters. Retaining an attorney with direct experience in DEP administrative law and environmental litigation will ensure the Town receives competent legal guidance, representation during negotiations and hearings, and strategic assistance in resolving current and future DEP-related issues.

Administration has identified the need to move forward with engaging specialized legal counsel in order to protect the Town's operational interests, minimize liability exposure, and ensure compliance with applicable state environmental regulations.

REQUEST:

Approval is requested from the Town Council to authorize the Mayor and Town Administration to retain specialized legal counsel experienced in DEP regulatory litigation and environmental compliance matters and to negotiate an engagement agreement for such services on behalf of the Town.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the request in order to provide the Town with qualified legal representation specific to DEP litigation and environmental regulatory matters.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

I move that the Town Council authorize the Mayor and Town Administration to retain specialized legal counsel for representation of the Town of Century in DEP litigation, enforcement, and regulatory compliance matters, and to execute all necessary engagement documents related thereto.