



Date: November 12, 2024
To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Sean O’Keefe, Town Manager
Re: Consideration and Approval: **FDEP SAHFI Grant**

Objective:

To consider and approve the FDEP SAHFI Grant application for funding the Clean Water Facility Plan, to develop a centralized wastewater system to support current and future wastewater needs in Howey-in-the-Hills.

Summary:

The SAHFI (Supplemental Appropriation for Hurricanes Fiona and Ian) Grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) offers funding for projects that address infrastructure resilience and environmental impacts on wastewater systems. Through this grant, a Clean Water Facility Plan will assess current and potential wastewater solutions, with a focus on transitioning from septic systems to centralized sewer.

1. **Project Scope:**

- Evaluation of Current Systems: Assessing existing septic systems, options for sewer transition.
- Alternatives for Wastewater Treatment: Options include collaboration with Central Lake CDD, a partnership with Groveland, or the establishment of a Town-owned facility.
- Environmental and Economic Impact Assessment: Identifying costs, environmental benefits, and sustainability factors.

2. **Funding Requirements and Deliverable:** Woodard & Curran will provide services to meet FDEP’s requirements for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and help administer the grant through planning, cost assessment, and public engagement efforts. A finalized Facility Planning Document will outline findings, recommendations, and cost estimates, supporting the Town’s eligibility for further funding.

Recommended Motions:

The Town Council has the following options:

1. Motion to Approve the FDEP SAHFI Grant Application as presented, allowing the Town to proceed with the Clean Water Facility Plan.
2. Motion to Deny the FDEP SAHFI Grant Application, opting not to pursue the funding for the Clean Water Facility Plan.

Fiscal Impact:

The grant proposal budget totals \$185,000, covering both the SRF Facility Plan and necessary funding support services.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Town Council proceed with a motion to approve the FDEP SAHFI Grant Application to advance wastewater infrastructure planning in Howey-in-the-Hills.