



Town of Lake Park, Florida
Follow Up Community Meeting
On the 2023 Solid Waste Utility Rate Study

Thursday, June 08, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Commission Chamber, Town Hall, 535 Park Avenue, Lake Park, FL 33403

PRESENTATION/REPORT:

Follow-Up Meeting Associated with the 2023 Solid Waste (Sanitation) Utility Rate Analysis.

Public Works Director Roberto Travieso provided a summary of the study (exhibit A). Mr. Shawn Ocasio, Manager from Raftelis Financial Consultants and Mr. Murray Hamilton, CPA from Raftelis Financial Consultants provided a detailed presentation on the rate analysis. (Exhibit B). Public Works Director Travieso provided a timeline for the roll-out of the new utility rate.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Susan Ray, 301 Lakeshore Drive asked why the town would be billing the condominium association monthly instead of annually. Public Works Director Travieso stated that it is being streamlined for condominiums because of utilization and service of dumpster use, to be billed monthly, unlike residential sanitation. She asked when the condominiums will be given the final monthly amount they will need to pay. He stated that on June 21, 2023 there would be feedback from the Town Commission on what the maximum proposed rate would be and detailed information would be provided at that point.

Mayor Roger Michaud asked if in the first year the intention would be to influx the reserves, the operating costs, or both. Mr. Hamilton stated that it would be a combination of both. Mayor Michaud asked if the proposed maximum rate could potentially get any higher. Public Works Director Travieso stated that no, the maximum proposed rate would be the highest possible rate. Mr. Hamilton explained that if the rate in the first year was less than the highest proposed rate of 48%, then there would be services or equipment that would have to be given up. Public Works Director Travieso stated that this proposal is absolutely necessary. He also stated that in order to cut expenses, there would need to be a reduction in services. Town Manager John D'Agostino explained that operations have not been adequately funded for a very long time and that if we are not willing to fund the service at the appropriate level we would

continue underfunding and never get out of the rabbit hole. Mayor Michaud thanked staff for the information. Public Works Director Travieso stated that the calculations used in the rate analysis would be available for review by the public along with the reports.

Commissioner Mary Beth Taylor asked about the proposed amount that would be assessed per year. She stated what the amount would be per month and then broken down by services equates to approximately \$2.70 per month per service. Commissioner Taylor stated she would be happy to pay that amount to have those services. She asked if there were any other areas within the town services that could be cut a little bit.

Julie Sarcosi 301 Lake Shore Drive asked if the rates for condominiums are for single family or for commercial. Public Works Director Travieso explained that as of October 1st, 2023 condominiums would begin to be billed as commercial. He also stated that the rate chart would be posted once the rate is approved.

Commissioner John Linden asked why there is a new code officer position being requested in the proposal. Public Works Director Travieso explained that we need more enforcement of the town ordinances. This officer would be dedicated to focus only on sanitation, not only for enforcement but also for educational purposes for the customers and residents so that they know what the policies and guidelines are. Commissioner Linden also asked about the possible use of ad valorem. Mr. Hamilton explained if we moved these costs to a tax roll, there would be many residents that would be exempted while still contributing to the service need.

Unidentified speaker asked if Palm Beach County has plans to reduce recycle bins to one bin only. Public Works Director Travieso stated that the Town makes that determination. Finance Director Jeffrey Duvall spoke about the cost to move to single stream recycling far outpaces the materials that would be pulled out. He went on to say that combining recycling materials can cause some of the materials to degrade and have to be thrown away.

Public Works Director Travieso spoke about a recycling initiative that will help educate residents through workshops and booths at events.

Public Works Director Travieso recognized Mr. Paul Mathis and Mr. Henry Rossario for their hard work maintaining the Town's vehicles. He also recognized former Mayor Michael O'Rourke for his support.

ADJOURNMENT:

7:48 p.m.

Mayor Roger D. Michaud

Town Seal

Vivian Mendez, Town Clerk

Laura Weidgans, Deputy Town Clerk

Approved on this _____ of _____, 2023