

EXECUTIVE BRIEF REGULAR MEETING

AGENDA DATE: October 6, 2020

DEPARTMENT: Electric Utility

TITLE:

Interlocal Agreement with Palm Beach County for Pole Attachments related to the Student Wi-Fi Project

SUMMARY:

The Interlocal Agreement authorizes Palm Beach County to attach and maintain Wi-Fi devices, wireline and ancillary equipment on the City's utility poles as part of the City's participation in the County's Student Wi-Fi Project. The In-Kind City Electric Utility contribution value of these attachments and related expenses is \$296,215.50.

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

The City, Palm Beach County School District (PBCSD) and Palm Beach County have been working together to address the digital divide for students and their families within Lake Worth Beach. The recognition that there were many students who did not have home access to adequate or any internet services led to a partnership with the School District and Palm Beach County. The goal has been to find a way to install and operate a Wi-Fi system throughout the City for access by students who are in need. Almost 4 years earlier, with the leadership of the CRA and LWB Electric Utilities staff, the City participated in a similar Wi-Fi grant application to fund a similar project. Unfortunately, the grant was unsuccessful and the needs in the community persisted.

The recent COVID-19 closures of schools and libraries has exacerbated the problems with internet access as children are having to do their school work from home. The ability to access reliable internet services regardless of ability to pay, directly affects the learning process especially during the pandemic. As part of the CARES Act, funding has been identified to help with the implementation of free Wi-Fi for students in Lake Worth Beach.

On June 18th, 2020, representatives from PBCSD and Palm Beach County Information Systems Services (PBC ISS) presented the Student Wi-Fi Project to the City's Commission. Funds provided through the CARES Act will be utilized to fund the purchase of radios and fiber build out.

The City's contribution in this effort consists of providing space on the utility poles for the installation of the Wi-Fi radios and associated wireline attachments as well as providing power to the Wi-Fi devices. The in-kind contribution provided by the City, which would normally be charged to the private sector, is shown below

Item	Quantity	Rate Annual	Total
Wi-Fi Devices	225	\$1,300	\$292,500
Wire-line Attachments	100	\$16.50	\$1,650
Electrical Consumptions	225	\$9.18	\$2,065.50
Total In-Kind Value			\$296,215.50

Currently, the City is working with the PBC ISS team to identify radio locations for optimal coverage in the most needed areas in addition to routing options for the fiber back-haul system. It is anticipated, through PBC ISS's expanded fiber network, that the City will also have the ability to expand our communications footprint.

MOTION:

Move to approve/disapprove the Palm Beach County and City of Lake Worth Beach Interlocal Agreement for Pole Attachments.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Fiscal Impact Analysis-N/A
Pole Attachment Agreement