

MEETING DATE
February 12, 2018
Subject: Interlocal Agreement with the City of Altamonte Springs for the Provision of Water Plant Operational Services



AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA
Section: Decisions
Item #: 2

Department/Office: Public Works

<p>Requested Action or Motion: Move to authorize the Mayor to execute an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Altamonte Springs and the City of Maitland for Water Plant Operations.</p> <p>Summary Explanation & Background:</p> <p>For more than a decade there have had concerns over the renewal and replacement of the aging workforce within the water production industry. In 2017, the State of the Workforce report from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) ranked it as the most pressing issue for the industry.</p> <p>As water operators across the Country and the State retire, it is becoming more and more difficult for small municipalities to maintain the required water operators. As part of municipal permits with the Department of Environmental Protection cities are required to maintain the permitted level of licensed operators on the premises.</p> <p>In November, the City's Water Operator of 30 years retired, leaving the City with only one functional operator. As the AWWA anticipated, filling the additional water operator position has proved difficult.</p> <p>As a result, city staff reorganized the water and wastewater divisions to report to one utilities superintendent responsible for water distribution and wastewater transmission. To address the water production and operational responsibilities, city staff began discussions with the City of Altamonte Springs for the provision of water production and operational services.</p> <p>Currently, the City of Altamonte Springs has 17 licensed water operators on staff and housed at their regional water/wastewater operations facility at Keller Road, near the border of the two cities. They are ideally located and staffed to partner with Maitland on water operator services.</p> <p>Currently, Altamonte Springs partners with other municipal agencies to provide wastewater treatment to residents in Eatonville, portions of Longwood, Winter Park, unincorporated Seminole County, as well as Maitland. In addition, they provide potable water to portions of unincorporated Seminole County.</p> <p>Because of the history of long and positive partnerships with other local governments, staff beleives this partnership is in the best interest of the city. In a collaborative effort, and due to the City only having one operator, Altamonte Springs Water Operations has already been assisting with water plant operations and reporting on a temporary basis since November. Based upon this, staff is requesting</p>
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approval of a long-term partnership with Altamonte Springs to provide water plant operator support.

The Interlocal Agreement provides for the City of Altamonte Springs to operate Maitland's water treatment plants. The City of Altamonte Springs dual-licensed (licensed for water and wastewater treatment) plant operators will oversee all three of Maitland's water treatment plants. Altamonte Springs maintains staffing on a 24/7 basis, rather than the standby basis (on call) that Maitland utilizes for nights and weekends even when fully staffed with two operators.

Pursuant to the Interlocal Agreement, Maitland will pay Altamonte Springs \$179,000 per year to perform the services necessary to provide safe, quality drinking water, comply with all State and Federal laws, fulfill reporting requirements and respond to emergencies. Because Maitland has been unable to fill operator positions and the Water Supervisor was recently vacated, this will enable the Water Division to eliminate two vacant positions and reclassify one vacant position. The annual cost savings associated with contracting out plant operations includes personnel costs (salaries and benefits) and operational costs (uniforms, dues, training, and vehicle costs) of approximately \$188,000 based on FY 2017 actual expenditures.

With the approval of this item, Maitland Public Works staff will coordinate with the Altamonte Springs Public Works team to transition operator services during the 2nd/3rd quarter of FY 2018.

Fiscal Impact:

\$179,000 from the Water Utility Budget

Exhibits: Interlocal Agreement - Water Plant Operations Final DRAFT for Maitland Review (PDF)
Exhibit B Page 2 of 2 Maitland DEP Monitoring Requirements (PDF)
Maitland Water Plant Facilities Agreement EXHIBIT A (PDF)

Contact Person: Tonya Moore, Assistant Public Works Director

Commission/Board:

Phone #:

Reviewed by City Attorney

Yes N/A