



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

Post Office Box 1409 Key West, FL 33041-1409 (305) 809-3700

MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Bogdan Vitas, City Manager
E. David Fernandez, Asst. City Manager - Operations

FROM: Jay Gewin, Utilities Manager

DATE: May 31, 2013

RE: **Ratification of the City Manager's Emergency Approval of a Proposal from Douglas N. Higgins to Construct New Valves for the Simonton Street Stormwater Pump Station Under Terms of the City's General Services Contract in an Amount of \$73,222.67. Approving Appropriate Budget Transfers from Stormwater Fund Reserves to Facilitate Project.**

ACTION STATEMENT:

This resolution will ratify the City Manager's approval of a proposal from Douglas N Higgins under the terms of the City's General Services Contract in the amount of \$73,222.67 to install new valves at the City's Stormwater Pump Station at the north end of Simonton St.

The General Services Contract was executed via City Commission resolution 10-319. This resolution will also approve appropriate budget transfers from stormwater fund reserves to facilitate project.

BACKGROUND:

Front Street is one of the most oft-flooded areas of our City during torrential rains. Sitting at a very low elevation of around two feet, a massive amount of rainwater rapidly flows downhill from higher elevations to the south and quickly inundates this basin during heavy downpours. Businesses in the area are regularly threatened by the flooding, and the high waters are a safety concern for this busy pedestrian area.

The City of Key West operates a stormwater pump station (SWS-5) located at

Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.

the North End of Simonton St. near the beach. This station is designed to pump rainwater down two 120 foot wells near Simonton Beach.

Unfortunately, the station has not been operating as effectively as desired. Either due to soil/dirt saturation in the rock formation of the wells, an old stormwater collection system, or the overwhelming amount of water during heavy rains and high tides, the system needs to be improved to help lessen flooding during significant storms.

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION:

City Staff believes that valves should be installed for each of the pump station's two 120-foot deep wells to better enable us to maintain the station. In order to properly pressure test each of the wells, and to be able to utilize just one of the wells if the other isn't operating efficiently, valves are needed so that the individual wells can be isolated.

The City's General Services Contract is a competitively-bid contract that enables the City to utilize a qualified contractor to perform smaller or emergency projects in a timely manner. Douglas N. Higgins has successfully constructed numerous City of Key West infrastructure and facility projects over the years.

Due to the recent repeated flooding of the Front Street area, the City Manager decided to proceed immediately with this proposal from D.N. Higgins so that we can begin to better analyze and improve the Simonton Street Stormwater Pump Station. City Staff is therefore seeking ratification for this emergency proposal.

OPTIONS / ADVANTAGES / DISADVANTAGES:

1. The City Commission can ratify the City Manager's emergency approval of the DN Higgins proposal that will install valves for each of the stormwater pump station wells. This will allow the City to better maintain this key piece of stormwater infrastructure and give us better information to help improve operation.
2. The City Commission can decline the ratification from the City Manager. If this option is selected, the City will likely be responsible for funding the equipment already purchased by the contractor, but the actual work would likely not proceed until shortly after the June 18th Commission meeting. This option is not recommended by City Staff because installing valves at the pump station will help improve our ability to operate the facility.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

City Staff had recommended including this project in the FY 2014 budget. However, recent repeated floodings of the Front Street area have instead made Staff recommend pursuing this project immediately. Total construction costs will be funded from the \$80,000 budgeted line item for emergency stormwater repairs. Approximately \$10,000 will need to be transferred from stormwater fund reserves in order to proceed with the project.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Commission select option 1, ratifying the City Manager's emergency approval of a proposal from Douglas N. Higgins to install valves at the Simonton Street Stormwater Pump Station under the terms of the City's General Services Contract in the Amount of \$73,222.67, with the approval of appropriate budget transfers from stormwater fund reserves.