



Town of Loxahatchee Groves
Town Council/Loxahatchee Groves Water
Control District Joint Workshop
Saturday, January 14, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Loxahatchee Groves Elementary School Cafetorium
16020 Okeechobee Boulevard



Mayor David Browning (Seat 4)
Vice Mayor Ryan Liang (Seat 3)
Councilman Tom Goltzené (Seat 5)
Councilman Ronald. D. Jarriel (Seat 1)
Councilman Jim Rockett (Seat 2)
Town Manager Mark Kutney
Town Clerk Janice M. Moore
Town Attorney Michael D. Cirullo, Jr.

Chairman David Demarois
Vice Chairman Robert Snowball
Board Supervisor John Ryan
Board Supervisor Frank Schiola
Board Supervisor Don Widing
District Administrator Clete Saunier
District Attorney Mary Viator

PUBLIC NOTICE/AGENDA

1. OPENING

- a. Call to Order & Roll Call
- b. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation

2. PRESENTATION - Ralph M. Parilla, Jr, Parilla & Associates

- a. Roads
- b. Town/District Merger
- c. Ancillary Issues

3. WRAP – UP

4. ADJOURNMENT

Issue Paper for the Town Council & LGWCD Joint Workshop

Saturday, January 14, 2012

In order to determine the agenda for the Workshop, the facilitator, Ralph Parilla of Parilla & Associates, interviewed all of the members of the Loxahatchee Groves Town Council and the Supervisors of the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District, as well as the Town Manager and the Water Control District Administrator. Based on the interviews, the consensus for the agenda is to cover issues regarding Loxahatchee Grove Roads and the possible merger of the Town and the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District.

Format for the Workshop: The workshop is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, January 14, 2012. Members of the Public who wish to make comments at the meeting should register at the sign in desk upon entering the Cafetorium. There will be two sign-in sheets for comments – one for the discussion on the roads and another for the discussion of the possible merger. Comments will be limited to two minutes.

Roads

Background: Approximately half of the roads in Loxahatchee Groves are the responsibility of the Town, while the other half are the responsibility of the Water Control District. The District's policy for prioritizing road improvement projects has been based on landowner petition. Funding for District roads has been through special benefits assessments and maintenance assessments based on the acreage owned by each owner. The Town's policy for prioritizing road projects has been based on transportation elements of the Comprehensive Plan. Funding of Town roads is through funds received from the Gas Tax and ad valorem taxes. The District has employees who perform the work on District roads. The Town's Charter does not provide for the employment of staff and contracts the road work to the District and to outside contractors.

Issues for Discussion

- Is the current system meeting the needs of the Town and its citizens?
 - Is it cost-effective
 - Is it efficient
- What is the status of road and traffic improvements of the Town and District Roads?
 - Open grade emulsified mix (OGEM) and speed tables
 - Traffic signals
- What are the alternatives for changes of the current system
 - What are the benefits to the alternatives
 - What are the barriers to the alternatives

Possible Merger of the Town and the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District

Background: In 2008, the Town commissioned a cost benefit analysis of the possible merger of the Town and the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District. The study, conducted by District Offices LLC explored several alternatives for changes. One of the alternatives was merging the two entities. The analysis detailed the process that such a change would entail, including initiating, sponsorship, lobbying for and passage of special legislation. It noted that the approval of the special legislation would require the unanimous support of both the Council and the Board of Supervisors and a strong mandate from the residents.

Issues for Discussion

- What are the benefits of a merger?
 - Cost Savings
 - Efficiencies
- What are the consequences of a merger?
 - Costs
 - Legal issues for the Town
 - Legal issues for the District
 - Tax consequences