

## **Sugarmill Woods Bulletin**

### **August 30, 2010**

**Dear Residents,**

There will be a follow up special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners to address contracting out the operations and maintenance of the County owned Utilities Systems which includes the SMW Water Treatment Plants and the Waste Water Treatment Plant. This topic is very important to us as a community and needs your attention and awareness. You may or may not recall that the last Special Meeting on this subject on August 17 was abruptly rescheduled without hearing any presentations from any of the vendors. The reason given was potential legal action from one of the three vendors who had been denied the chance to present.

Three vendors responded to the Request for Qualifications. They are **Veolia Water North America - South, LLC** which currently has a contract with the city of Crystal River, FL for their Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant; **Woodard & Curran** which currently has a contract with the city of Inverness, FL for their Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant; and **U.S. Water Services Corporation**.

All three vendors are scheduled to make a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on their qualifications for performing operations and maintenance for the Citrus County Utility Systems.

**The Special BOCC meeting is scheduled for this Tuesday, August 31, 2010. The meeting begins at 9 AM in the commission chambers at the Citrus County Courthouse in Inverness.**

The BOCC is looking into the possibility of using a private company for the operation of the county owned water and wastewater utility systems. I personally met with four members of the County Commission and the County Administrator last week and they emphasized that they have made no decision on whether or not to use a private company instead of hired staff. I reemphasized to them that the water and wastewater utility systems are enterprise systems. They are funded entirely by fees (rates) and must be Cost / Revenue neutral (no profit and no subsidizing of other county agencies). There is no benefit to the county in terms of reducing their budget or our property taxes.

I plan to attend the meeting to ensure the best interests of the Sugarmill Woods Community and its residents are represented. The meeting is open to the public and if you are interested in the subject, please consider attending.

It should be an interesting and informative meeting. For those of you not able to attend, I will provide an update to you on the outcome and actions.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker  
President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

cc: Cypress Village POA, Oak Village Association, Southern Woods POA