

***Highland Meadows II
Community Development District***

***Special Meeting
Agenda***

February 6, 2023

AGENDA

Highland Meadows II

Community Development District

219 E. Livingston St., Orlando, Florida 32801

Phone: 407-841-5524 – Fax: 407-839-1526

February 1, 2023

**Board of Supervisors
Highland Meadows II
Community Development District**

Dear Board Members:

A special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the **Highland Meadows II Community Development District** will be held **Monday, February 6, 2023, at 11:00 AM** at **Shamrock First Baptist Church, 2661 Marshall Rd., Haines City, FL 33844**

Those members of the public wishing to attend the meeting can do so using the information below:

Zoom Video Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88622805377>

Zoom Call-In Information: 1-646-876-9923

Meeting ID: 886 2280 5377

Following is the advance agenda for the meeting:

1. Roll Call
2. Public Comment Period
3. Organizational Matters
 - A. Administration of Oath to Newly Appointed Supervisor to Seat No. 3
4. New Business
 - A. Approval of Minutes of the December 13, 2022, Board of Supervisors Meeting
 - B. Notice of Resignation of KE Law Group PLLC
 - C. Consideration of RFQ for District Counsel Services
 - D. Consideration of Request to Waive 60 Day Notice for Governmental Management Services
 - E. Discussion of RFP for District Management Services

- F. Notice of Termination of Contract Between Rayl Engineering & Surveying & Highland Meadows II CDD
 - G. Consideration of Bond or Insurance Requirements for Treasurer
 - H. Discussion on Status of Haines City Landscape Code Compliance Matters
 - I. Consideration of Status of SBA Account
 - J. Discussion of Use of Electronic Mail Messages for District Matters
 - K. Consideration of Resolution 2023-03 Establishing a Local Records Office
 - L. Consideration of Resolution 2023-04 Establishing a Local Bank Account & Appointing Signatories
 - M. Consideration of Delegating Authority by Resolution to the Chairman of the Board to Negotiate Agreement with Haines City
 - N. Discussion of the Rules of Procedure
- 6. Supervisors Requests
 - 7. Public Comments
 - 8. Adjournment

SECTION III

SECTION IV

MINUTES

**MINUTES OF MEETING
HIGHLAND MEADOWS II
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Highland Meadows II Community Development District was held on Tuesday, **December 13, 2022** at 2:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 200 Cypress Gardens Blvd., Winter Haven, FL and by Zoom.

Present and constituting a quorum:

Christopher Lopez
Debbie Galbraith
Kristen Anderson
Miguel Vazquez

Chairman
Vice Chairperson
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer

Also, present were:

Tricia Adams
Meredith Hammock
Alan Rayl
Clayton Smith
Marshall Tindall

District Manager, GMS
District Counsel, KE Law Group
District Engineer, Rayl Engineering
Field Services Manager, GMS
Field Services, GMS

The following is a summary of the discussions and actions taken at the December 13, 2022 Highland Meadows II Community Development District's Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting.

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Roll Call

Ms. Adams called the meeting to order and stated that there were four Supervisors present constituting a quorum.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Comment Period

Ms. Adams opened the floor to the public comment period, specific to items on the agenda and reminded the public to keep to the three-minute limit. Resident John Murray expressed his concern about the safety of residents due to speeding issues throughout the District. He suggested

that they get a monitoring system to identify those who were speeding. He also expressed concern about safety during school pick-up, suggesting that they move the location to the mailbox area instead of the main street.

Ms. Adams thanked him for his comments and asked if there were any other comments to be made. Hearing none, the next item followed.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS

Organizational Matters

A. Administration of Oaths for Newly Elected Supervisors to Seats No. 1 and 2

Ms. Adams, a Notary of the State of Florida and duly authorized, administered the oaths of office to Ms. Galbraith and Mr. Vazquez, and the two Board members signed the Oaths of Office.

Ms. Hammock reviewed the laws and rules that applied to Board members, including the Florida Ethics laws, Public Records laws, and Sunshine Laws. Ms. Adams also added that she had paperwork regarding Supervisor compensation, as permitted by Florida statute, that would need to be completed after the meeting.

B. Consideration of Resolution 2023-01 Electing Officers

Ms. Adams presented the resolution, noting that Florida statutes required that each time there was an election to the Board, that the Board members organize themselves as officers.

Ms. Anderson nominated herself as Chair, and Ms. Adams asked for a second.

On MOTION by Ms. Anderson, with no second, the Appointment of Kristen Anderson as Chairperson, the MOTION FAILED.

Mr. Lopez nominated himself as Chair, and Ms. Adams asked for a second.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Galbraith, with Mr. Lopez, Ms. Galbraith, and Mr. Vazquez in favor and Ms. Anderson opposed, the Appointment of Christopher Lopez as Chair, was approved 3-1.

Mr. Lopez nominated Ms. Galbraith as Vice Chair, and Ms. Adams asked for a second.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mr. Vazquez, with Mr. Lopez, Ms. Galbraith, and Mr. Vazquez in favor and Ms. Anderson

opposed, the Appointment of Christopher Lopez as Chair, was approved 3-1.

Ms. Adams recommended that Mr. Flint remain as the Treasurer due to check signing responsibilities and to process the District's financial records. Mr. Lopez asked for the bond documentation required for the Treasurer position, and Ms. Adams stated that she would get that to him after the meeting.

Mr. Vazquez asked if he would have to travel to the Orlando office to have the checks signed, to which Ms. Adams answered yes that checks are processed in Orlando. She also provided him with the address of the Orlando office.

Mr. Lopez nominated Mr. Vazquez as Treasurer, and Ms. Adams asked for a motion to approve.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Galbraith, with Mr. Lopez, Ms. Galbraith, and Mr. Vazquez in favor and Ms. Anderson opposed, the Appointment of Miguel Vazquez as Treasurer, was approved 3-1.

Mr. Lopez nominated Kristen Anderson and Brian Walsh as Assistant Secretaries, and Ms. Adams asked for a motion to approve.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Galbraith, with all in favor, the Appointment of Kristen Anderson and Brian Walsh as Assistant Secretaries, was approved.

Mr. Lopez suggested that the Secretary position be filled by Tricia Adams, adding that he did not want Jill Burns or George Flint to serve as officers. He also nominated Katie Costa as Assistant Treasurer, and Ms. Adams asked for a motion to approve.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mr. Vazquez, with Mr. Lopez, Ms. Galbraith, and Mr. Vazquez in favor and Ms. Anderson opposed, the Appointment of Tricia Adams as Secretary and Katie Costa as Assistant Treasurer, was approved 3-1.

FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

New Business

A. Approval of Audit Engagement Letter – Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank

Ms. Adams noted that the audit engagement letter was included in the agenda packet, adding that Special Districts are required to undergo an annual independent audit. She added that the District's Fiscal Year runs from October 1st through September 30th, and that the scope of services included in the engagement letter would be to audit the District's financials for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2022. She noted that the audits were required to be submitted to the state of Florida by the end of June each year. She stated that the Board previously met as an audit committee and selected Berger Toombs as the District's auditor in 2019, and subsequently the District entered into a 5-year agreement. In accordance with requirements of the base agreement, Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank provide an annual audit engagement letter with a fee of \$3,825. She asked for a motion to approve.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Anderson, with all in favor, the Audit Engagement Letter with Berger, Toombs, Elam, Gaines & Frank, was approved.

B. Consideration of HOA Requested Improvements

Ms. Adams stated that they had received an email from the property management team for Highland Meadows VII HOA regarding a request for a "7" to be placed on their entrance sign, as well as requests for lighting at the playground and traffic calming. She noted that the Board had adopted policies related to the amenity facilities including the playgrounds. She added that the playgrounds were only open from dawn to dusk, therefore there was no lighting installed. She also noted that she had followed up with Vicki in terms of whether the HOA would be able to assist with funding if the Board wanted to consider any improvements to the signage, and they indicated that they would consider participating in funding.

Ms. Adams also noted that regarding the traffic calming, the District did own the road, and Florida Statutes prescribed that CDDs do not engage in traffic enforcement. Therefore, they would need to defer to the local law enforcement authority to enforce traffic laws, including speeding in the community, which was mentioned as a concern by a resident as well. She did add that the Board was allowed to install traffic calming devices such as speed bumps or speed cushions in the roadway to deter speeding.

Ms. Anderson asked what the HOA meant about them being willing to help pay, and Ms. Adams responded that they were willing to consider funding the sign improvements. She added that the Board may want to get a proposal to review and determine the cost and then go back to the HOA to find out how much they would be willing to contribute to the project.

Mr. Lopez made a motion that the CDD create the signage throughout the entryways so that it would be uniform, and Mr. Smith suggested that they get a metal, slightly cursive gold font for the “7” so that it matched the leaf on the sign. The Board agreed and Mr. Smith added that he would come back with a quote.

Mr. Vazquez noted that several of the letters were falling off and suggested that they get some type of sealant so that they would stay on.

Mr. Smith noted that they would investigate it and anchor it into the wall as best as possible.

The Board also discussed that they look into maintenance of the signage, as well as that Mr. Smith would bring back a proposal for both maintenance and sign refurbishment at next month’s meeting.

Ms. Anderson asked if Highland Meadows 7 had any signage at the playground stating the hours, and Mr. Smith responded that they did not have signage. She asked how much a sign would cost, and he responded that it would cost about \$200.

Mr. Smith also added that they would have to make sure that there weren’t any rules against a sign before they could put one up, but that he could bring back a proposal for the next month for three signs and include a picture of what the sign would look like.

Mr. Lopez recommended that he would bring back a proposal for speed bumps as well.

Mr. Rayl clarified that they would want to get speed humps and not bumps, because they cause less damage and were more gradual. He added that from his experience, there were usually only a few people that were causing the problem, and that it rarely provided the desired result. He noted that when designing the subdivision, he would have put a controlled stop condition in at Hummingbird Lane to provide a solution and would be more effective than a speed hump.

C. Presentation of Arbitrage Rebate Report – 2017 AA 4B/C Project

Ms. Adams presented the Arbitrage Rebate Report for the 2017 AA 4B/C Project stating that in the course of developing the project, the District issued tax exempt bonds to fund the construction of the infrastructure of the community, adding that they were regulated by the SEC

and IRS. She noted that the IRS required that the interest the District earnings could not be more than what they were paying, and if there was an arbitrage issue, there would be a financial penalty associated with it. She added that an arbitrage rebate would be required every 5 years if there was a penalty, however the District ran those reports for each bond issue annually. She clarified that it was the same price to run the report annually as it would be to run it once every 5 years.

She noted that the arbitrage calculation arbitrage rebate report was included in the agenda packet on page 23, adding that there was no rebate liability. She asked for a motion to accept.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Anderson, with all in favor, Arbitrage Rebate Report – 2017 AA 4B/C Project, was approved.

D. Discussion of New Meeting Location Options

Ms. Adams stated that each year the District adopted an annual meeting schedule, adding that the schedule could be changed if the Board chose to do so. She noted that the Board had adopted a meeting schedule back in September for the current year for the second Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. at the current location. However, there was a request to add the item to the December agenda due to the Board wanting the option of finding a location that was closer to Highland Meadows. She presented a table summary of meeting location options that was included in the agenda packet. After some discussion, the Board decided that they would move the meeting location to Haines City Library, as well as moving the meeting time to 4:30 p.m. on the second Friday of the month.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Anderson, with all in favor, the New Meeting Time and Location on Second Fridays at 4:30 at Haines City Library, was approved. (MOTION RESCINDED)

The Board decided to wait to change the meeting schedule until the February meeting so that arrangements could be made at the library as well as not to change the meeting date for residents who would want to attend. Therefore, the next Board meeting will be on January 10, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. at Holiday Inn Winter Haven.

Ms. Adams added that they would review the schedule again during that meeting before making a motion to approve.

Mr. Rayl also noted that the new schedule of Fridays at 4:30 p.m. would not work for him because it would be going outside of his allotted hours per week.

E. Discussion of Parking Rules

Ms. Adams stated that the parking rules had been discussed at many different Board meetings in the past and were something that residents frequently provided input on. She noted that the District had adopted and amended parking rules that sequestered parking to one side of the public roadway. She added that the policies were a rule that the Board adopted, noting that the Board did have the ability to amend the rules with proper notice and a proper rule hearing. She added that they usually sent notices 2 months out due to legally required timing of notice publication in the paper.

Discussion ensued about the possibility of a “no parking zone”, at Sanderling as well as between Night Hawk and Woodlark Drive where there were visibility issues for drivers.

Mr. Vazquez suggested they put a mirror in that section to help with visibility.

Ms. Anderson suggested that it would also be beneficial to the District for people who don't use their garages and park on the street instead should start to use their garages.

Ms. Adams asked Mr. Rayl what his recommendation would be to fix the issues, and he responded that some options included signs stating, “no parking from here to corner”.

Mr. Smith responded that the area already had a multitude of signs for other reasons and suggested that they paint the curbs yellow as an alternative. The Board started to discuss painting the curbs 50 to 75 feet from the stop sign.

Ms. Adams also added that the District entered into an agreement with S&S towing, noting that she could bring that specific area to their attention as well. She also added that if the Board decided to go with either the signs or painting the curb, they would also have to amend the policy and map that also required the 30-day legal notice. She stated that they could set a rule hearing for the meeting in February or March.

Ms. Anderson asked if they would only have to notify residents in the phase 3 portion of the District since it was a smaller change, and Ms. Hammock responded that they would have to notice all residents within the District and hold a public rule hearing.

Mr. Lopez expressed his concern that the residents that own the houses by the curbs that would be painted would sue the District for defacing their property, and Mr. Rayl responded that it was a public right-of-way, so there wouldn't be an issue.

Ms. Hammock added that due to Sunshine laws, she recommended any discussion of hypothetical or potential lawsuits should be brought to her directly, as protection for the District, instead of discussing hypotheticals during a meeting.

Ms. Anderson asked if management could gather estimates for both the signage and painting the curb, as well as if they could reach out to the homes around the area and explain what the Board was considering.

Ms. Adams responded that as it relates to the parking rules, it sounded like there was early phase of discussion regarding the amending of the parking rules, adding that they could bring information back to the next month's meeting that included an exhibit with parking maps, costs for signage implementation or painting the curb, and after that the Board could decide whether or not they wanted to move forward with scheduling a parking rule hearing. She noted that she was concerned about setting the date and time during the current meeting because of the Board being in flux with their meeting schedule and location, therefore it would be best just to bring back that information at the next meeting and set the hearing date during that time.

Ms. Anderson noted that she didn't use her garage for her cars and instead used her driveway, but her concern was that when residents had guests that came to stay overnight, they wouldn't have a place to park if there was no overnight parking allowed at all. She asked if it would be a possibility if the Board could approve overnight parking in some areas of the community where it didn't cause an issue.

The Board discussed that it would not be a good idea to do so because they wanted to be fair to all residents but decided they would bring back different options instead at the next meeting.

Ms. Adams clarified that they would bring back an amended parking map exhibit with the additional "no parking" zones as well. She also asked that the District Engineer prepare the parking map as the current was a generational document that needed to be improved in order to clearly see the no parking zones.

Mr. Vazquez also requested that the District Engineer also bring back an enlarged parking map with the ability to still read the street names, and Mr. Rayl responded that he would.

Mr. Lopez also brought up Section I, 2 that discussed abandoned vehicles, expressing his concern that the rules for that were not being enforced. He added that there was one that he had seen sitting in the same spot for three months.

Ms. Adams requested that Mr. Lopez relay that information to her and that they could take care of the matter, adding that there was a parking violation notification that was approved by District Counsel that could be issued onto the abandoned vehicle.

F. Discussion of Temporary License Agreement with IFAS University of Florida

Ms. Adams stated that there was some property within the CDD with a CDD fence in the area. There is vegetation that has been encroaching on District property and residential property. The HOA in the area had contacted the District about the matter, and Ms. Adams found out that they would need to access the University of Florida property in order to properly maintain the fence.

Ms. Hammock presented the letter that was sent to the University of Florida in communications with their legal counsel. She added that she also sent them the easement agreement that was included in the agenda package. She noted that she was informed that their process would be a year or more to get that completed, so she asked them if a temporary license agreement would work better. They agreed but did not get the agreement to her in time for the meeting. She added that she followed up with the University of Florida before the meeting, and was told that it would be sent, but she still had not received it. She asked that the Board approve delegating authority to the Chair to execute so that the document could be signed outside of the meeting.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Anderson, with all in favor, the Temporary License Agreement with IFAS University of Florida and Delegating the Chair to Execute, was approved.

Ms. Adams noted that they would bring back the final form of the agreement for ratification by the entire Board at the next meeting.

G. Consideration of Contract Agreement with Polk County Property Appraiser

Ms. Adams stated that the CDD maintenance fees and the debt service fees were collected by utilizing the non-ad valorem section of the property tax bill. She presented the agreement, noting that it was with the Polk County Property Appraiser in order to allow them to administer the above-mentioned process. She added that this agreement would be for Fiscal Year 2023 for the tax bills that would come out the next year. She asked for a motion to approve.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Anderson, with all in favor, the Contract Agreement with Polk County Property Appraiser, was approved.

H. Consideration of 2023 Data Sharing and Usage Agreement with Polk County Property Appraiser

Ms. Adams presented the Data Sharing and Usage Agreement with Polk County Property Appraiser, noting that certain documents regarding certain individuals were exempt from being made public records, such as law enforcement officers and judges. She explained that the agreement stated that any exempt records that the county is exempting from public records request, the Board agreed that they would also hold exempt. She added that the agreement must be signed annually. She asked for a motion to approve.

On MOTION by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Galbraith, with all in favor, the 2023 Data Sharing and Usage Agreement with Polk County Property Appraiser, was approved.

FIFTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Approval of Minutes of the September 13, 2022 Board of Supervisors Meeting

Ms. Adams presented the minutes of the September 13, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting and asked for any questions, comments, or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, she asked for a motion of approval.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Anderson, with all in favor, the Minutes of the September 13, 2022 Board of Supervisors Meeting, were approved.

SIXTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Staff Reports

A. Attorney

Ms. Hammock stated she had the updated encroachment list from the District Engineer; therefore it gave her the ability to send letters specifically to individuals who had encroachments that were blocking access to District property. She added that she would start to send those letters out to those individuals with property encroaching on or blocking access to infrastructure that may need to be accessed in the future if the Board was in agreement. The Board agreed.

B. Engineer

Mr. Rayl reported that he had already presented the information regarding traffic calming earlier in the meeting, therefore he had nothing to report.

C. Field Manager's Report

Mr. Tindall presented the Field Manager's Report, noting that the shade structure just outside the dog park had blown off during the hurricane, and that the repairs to the trail fences would be completed as well. He noted that the repairs would be ongoing through early next year.

Mr. Vazquez asked who the fence repairs were being completed by, and Mr. Smith responded that they were being done by the maintenance staff. Mr. Vazquez then asked if they would be reinstalling the posts and studs as well, and Mr. Smith responded that they would be straightened as needed.

Mr. Vazquez and Mr. Lopez stated that they would like the District to use a vendor instead due to the condition and repetitive repair of the fencing, and Mr. Smith responded that he could return the supplies and get quotes from vendors in the area.

The Board also clarified that it was within the budget as well.

Mr. Lopez asked if the fencing pieces that had fallen off were because of wind or if it was from kids kicking it, and Mr. Smith responded that it was a mix of the two, but the ones that the kids mess with usually just pop back in to place.

Mr. Lopez recommended that they use Flexium to fix the issue, but the Board discussed that it wouldn't work and would most likely cause the posts to break.

Mr. Smith continued with his report, noting that there were some speed signs that were down in the neighborhood, and he had ordered new ones that would be back up soon. He added that the pool area was being maintained, as well as that the lift seemed to be working. He also had added a new foam pad due to the other one being damaged. He noted that Ms. Anderson had

reached out about the iron stains that were on the wall by the amenities, adding that they had been removed and the sprinklers had been fixed to where they wouldn't overspray onto the wall.

Mr. Vazquez suggested they put a sealant on the walls to fix the issue, and Ms. Anderson asked when the walls needed to be painted next.

Mr. Smith responded that they could start next year, noting that it would be expensive. He noted that he would bring back a proposal for the Board for painting as well as a long-term solution to fix the issue.

He also added that they had fixed the soccer gate after it had been vandalized as well as that he had received a replacement proposal for the shade structure from the playground slide vendor, coming in at an approximate total of \$15,510 for a total replacement. He recommended that they just have the maintenance crew fix it, and if that didn't work, they could look back at the proposal.

As far as the irrigation issue was concerned, Mr. Smith noted that there were adjustments that were made but due to a delay in parts, they expected to have it done in early January.

i. Review of Phase 3 Park Bench Options & Pricing

Mr. Tindall stated he wasn't sure exactly how many benches they needed yet, but that he included options in the agenda just in case the Board did decide to make a decision. The Board decided to wait to make a decision.

ii. Consideration of Proposal for Phase 3 Park Fencing – Fence Direct

Mr. Tindall noted that the Board would be considering and making an approval on the fencing even though the irrigation hadn't been put in the field just yet. He added he had received a quote from Fence Direct for aluminum fencing. Ms. Anderson asked for a motion to approve.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Anderson, with all in favor, of Proposal for Phase 3 Park Fencing from Fence Direct, was approved.
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Mr. Smith added that they would just have to make sure that the fencing wouldn't interfere with the irrigation installation.

Ms. Adams added that with this type of proposal where there would be workers onsite that would require maintenance of traffic or other issues that District Counsel prepares an agreement in favor of the District for indemnification, liability protections, and ensures that they are in compliance with Florida statutes. She noted the agreement would be prepared by District Counsel in accordance with the Board's action.

Mr. Lopez stated that in January, he would make a motion that they approve a \$9,000 donation from Mr. Lopez towards the park's development.

Ms. Hammock noted that she didn't recommend the donation due to it being a potential ethical issue. She added that if he was adamant about doing so, he would have to fill out the proper forms to keep on file as well as that Mr. Lopez would have to recuse himself from any votes approving accepting the donated items and recuse himself from conversations about those items as well as anything regarding those items.

Ms. Hammock also noted that she would present the bill of sale and the Board would make the decision to accept or reject that. She also added that the Board would have to have the bill of sale to formally accept the shade structure provided by Mr. Lopez as well as to add it to the District's inventory and insurance.

Mr. Smith noted that there was an engineer who was finalizing the engineer drawings that would go with the park, and he had passed away before completing it. He added that others were working on finishing it still.

Mr. Lopez asked if Mr. Smith could find him the meter address, to which Mr. Smith responded that he would.

Ms. Anderson asked if they could get a survey out to the 3 HOAs in the section that the park was being developed to see what they would like to have at the location, and Ms. Adams responded that they could do so. Ms. Anderson noted that she would bring back a proposal for a survey to the next meeting.

D. District Manager's Report

Ms. Adams stated she had included an exhibit in the agenda packet that was a visual aid to show where the District encroachments on residents' properties were. She explained that the Board had directed staff to send the document to the HOA companies, adding that she included the updated document for the Board members. She added that the District Engineer had prepared it

and presented it to District Management staff and District Counsel, so it was ready to go out the HOA companies before the end of the calendar year. There was no action required by the Board.

i. Approval of Check Register

Ms. Adams presented the check register from August 1st through November 30th to the Board which can be found in the agenda package. The total was \$208,995.02. She added that the detailed check run was also attached to the back as well. There being no questions, she asked for a motion of approval.

Mr. Lopez asked why the check written on August 4th for \$11,423 for a shade structure, and then voided. Ms. Adams responded that she would ask the accounting team what exactly happened but clarified that it had been voided. He also asked if the Board had got a copy of the insurance policy that was stated in the check register, to which Ms. Adams responded that she would get that out to the Board after the meeting.

Mr. Vazquez asked about another item on the check register, and Ms. Adams explained that sometimes when the check run summary is run, it only picks up the first line of a detailed invoice, so if there's any invoice that he wanted to see a copy of, she could provide the full invoice.

Mr. Tindall explained that the item Mr. Lopez was referring to was for various irrigation repairs.

Mr. Vazquez asked what was included in the \$16,000 cost for Prince Landscaping under "multi-business", and Mr. Tindall responded that the cost included mowing, detailing, and irrigation inspections. He further explained that detailing included trimming, pruning, and weed eating for the specific scope. He added that he would send Mr. Vazquez, as well as the other Board members, the agreement and that Prince had really good performance in the community.

Mr. Tindall also noted that fertilization was a separate item completed by True Green.

The Board had a discussion as to how the sprinkler replacement policy worked, and Mr. Tindall responded that Prince replaced any sprinkler head that was broken on their part as part of the included cost, and if it was broken by a resident, they would charge for the extra parts. Mr. Vazquez asked how they were certain that they could trust Prince Landscaping by being honest as to how they were broken, as well as how to make sure they were delivering on their part. Mr. Tindall responded that Field Services staff performed routine drives through the District to make sure that everything was in order, as well as that Prince has been a trustworthy company to the

District for several years. He also added that he would always be happy to answer any questions that they might have about landscaping at any time.

Mr. Vazquez then asked who maintained the pools, and Mr. Tindall responded that the company was Resort Pools. Mr. Vazquez then asked if they had ever considered turning the pool into a saltwater pool in order to save money on the chemicals, and Mr. Tindall responded that they had not because they used the expert opinion of the Resort Pool’s staff.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Anderson, with all in favor, the Check Register, was approved.

ii. Balance Sheet and Income Statement

Ms. Adams reviewed the unaudited financials, adding that they were in the packet for the Board’s review and no action is required from the Board.

Mr. Lopez asked about the \$1,000 expense under “Supervisor fees” on October 31st, when the Board didn’t have a meeting in October. Ms. Adams explained that the actual spending was \$0, but the item was still on there as part of the prorated amount.

Mr. Lopez made the request that they get a more current financial statement, and Ms. Adams explained that the reason they have the statements that they do was because of the timing and the meeting where the month falls. She added that they would include the previous month’s financials moving forward with the unaudited financials.

SEVENTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Supervisors Requests

Ms. Anderson brought up the concern from one of the residents regarding moving the drop-off area at the school from the main road over to the mailbox area, and Ms. Adams explained that the District did not have the ability to dictate the location of the drop-off area for school bus stops.

The Board discussed the meeting schedule again, with Mr. Lopez asking if the staff had the ability to be online for a meeting scheduled for Fridays from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Mr. Tindall responded that it could be an option, but Ms. Hammock added that from a legal perspective, if District Council was not present for the meetings, the Board’s actions taken at any meeting where counsel was not present, if challenged, would not be covered by the District’s insurance policy for lawsuits and most like the Directors’ and Officers’ insurance would not apply to any actions taken during the meeting.

Mr. Lopez expressed his concern about residents not being able to make it to the meetings due to scheduling conflicts, and Ms. Adams offered the suggestion of holding workshops, adding that no formal Board action could be taken during those workshops.

The Board decided to rescind the Friday meeting schedule, and Ms. Adams asked for a motion to approve.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Anderson, with all in favor, the Friday Meeting Schedule, was rescinded.

The Board then decided to direct staff to bring back a meeting schedule for the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m. at the Haines City Library.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Galbraith, with all in favor, the Approval of Staff to Bring Back Meeting Schedule for 2nd Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. at Haines City Library, was approved.

The Board also decided to look at holding a monthly virtual workshop, and it was decided that staff would bring back possible dates for that at the next meeting.

Ms. Hammock asked for clarification from Board members that were both part of the CDD Board and the HOA Boards. Two of the Board members noted that they both sat on the same HOA Board, as well as the CDD Board, and Ms. Hammock replied that the HOA meeting schedules and times would have to be added to the public notices and should be noticed as CDD workshops, not regular meetings of the Board. She explained that this was because HOA matters could come before the CDD, and therefore they were intertwined.

EIGHTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Public Comments

Ms. Adams opened the floor to audience comments. There being none, the next item followed.

NINTH ORDER OF BUSINESS

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

On MOTION by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Galbraith, with all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chairman/Vice Chairman

SECTION B

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jennifer Kilinski <jennifer@kelawgroup.com>

Date: Fri, Jan 27, 2023 at 3:36 PM

Subject: KE Law Group - Notice of Resignation

DO NOT REPLY TO ALL TO AVOID SUNSHINE LAW VIOLATIONS

Board of Supervisors,

This communication shall serve as notice of our Firms' resignation as counsel to the Highland Meadows II CDD effective February 6, 2023, at the close of your special meeting or sooner if circumstances should warrant. Our Firm grows increasingly concerned that the Board is unwilling to accept legal advice from your legal counsel, legal counsel that practices solely in representation of special districts and has sixty combined years of experience in this field. Until recently, we have very much enjoyed representing the District since its establishment and have valued the long working relationship. Our Firm does not feel that it can fulfill its ethical obligations to the District given the recent and continuing activities of a Board member and believe we have an ethical obligation under the rules governing the Florida bar to withdrawal from representation of the District. To the extent that activity ceases, we would welcome the opportunity in the future to return as counsel to the District.

We would like the opportunity to discuss our resignation individually with each of you prior to the next Board meeting. Please respond individually with your availability next week for a 15-minute call. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer

Jennifer Kilinski

Tallahassee Office

[2016 Delta Blvd., Suite 101](#)

[Tallahassee, Florida 32303](#)

Tampa Office

[138 E. Bloomingdale Ave, Suite 2](#)

[Brandon, FL 33511](#)

SECTION D



Governmental Management Services

Serving Florida's New Communities

January 31, 2023

Highland Meadows II Community Development District
Board of Supervisors

via email transmittal

Dear Board Members:

As you are aware, Governmental Management Services has tendered notice resigning from District Management Services with an effective date of March 5, 2023. However, given the current environment at Highland Meadows II Community Development District (the District), and the Board's desire to transition to new professional services, our firm is putting forward a new last date of service. Governmental Management Services is requesting the Board of Supervisor's consent to waive the remainder of the 60 day notice and have the last date of service February 6, 2023. As a courtesy to the District, no fees for District Management, Field Management, or Amenity Access services would be incurred by the District from February 1 to February 6, 2023.

I plan to discuss the matter with the Board of Supervisors at the upcoming Special Meeting February 6, 2023. As previously stated, GMS stands ready to aid in transitioning services to your new provider(s).

Sincerely,

Tricia L. Adams
District Manager

Cc: Meredith Hammock, KE Law

Orlando
219 E. Livingston St.
Orlando, FL 32801

Jacksonville
9655 Florida Mining Blvd.
W
Suite 305
Jacksonville, FL 32257

St. Augustine
475 West Town Place
Suite 114
St. Augustine, FL 32092

Ft. Lauderdale
5385 N. Nob Hill Rd.
Sunrise, FL 33351

Tampa
4648 Eagle Falls Pl
Tampa, FL 33619

Knoxville
1001 Bradford Way
Kingston, TN 37763

SECTION E

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR DISTRICT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR HIGHLAND MEADOWS II COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Highland Meadows II Community Development District, located in Polk County, Florida, (“**District**”), will accept proposals from qualified firms (“**Proposers**”) interested in providing district management services, including amenity access management and field management services for the District, in accordance with applicable law. The District is a local unit of special-purpose government established pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, for the purpose of maintaining certain public improvements, infrastructure, and facilities.

The District has an operating budget of approximately \$922,476.00 (operations & maintenance fund and capital reserve fund) and has issued eight series of bonds. The District’s Board of Supervisors (“**Board**”) presently meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 2:30 p.m., but regular Board meeting dates and times are subject to change to weekday evenings. From time to time, the District Board holds workshops on Saturdays. More information is available on the District’s website at <https://highlandmeadows2cdd.com/>.

In order to submit a proposal, each Proposer must be authorized to do business in Florida and hold all required state and federal licenses in good standing. Proposals shall include the following:

- Thorough description of the Proposer’s qualifications and services to be provided, including the ability and adequacy of professional personnel, Proposer’s past experience and performance, including but not limited to past experience as a District Manager for community development districts; and
- The identity of the specific individual(s) affiliated with the Proposer that is anticipated to handle District meetings, special assessment services, and other management tasks, including but not limited to amenity access control; and
- Full disclosure of all associated costs for performance of management services, including proposed fees and scope of services for the District; and
- Thorough description of the Proposer’s qualifications to provide field management services, including the ability and adequacy of professional personnel, Proposer’s past experience and performance, including but not limited to past experience as a Field Manager for community development districts; and
- Full disclosure of all associated costs for performance of field management services, including proposed fees and scope of services for the District; and
- The geographic location of the office anticipated to provide services to the District; and
- Any other information believed to be relevant to the selection.

Proposals shall be provided electronically to District Counsel, Meredith Hammock, at meredith@kelawgroup.com, no later than 12:00 p.m. (EST) on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. It is anticipated that proposals will be evaluated at the regular meeting of the District’s Board on February 14, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., at the Holiday Inn Winter Haven, 200 Cypress Gardens Boulevard, Winter Haven, Florida 33880. Please note that all Proposer’s should plan to attend the Board meeting on February 14, 2023, to present their proposals to the Board and participate in a question and answer session. Any and all questions relative to this request for proposals shall be directed in writing by e-mail only to District Counsel at meredith@kelawgroup.com.

THE DISTRICT EXPLICITLY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE SUCH AWARD TO OTHER THAN THE LOWEST PRICE PROPOSAL. THE DISTRICT HAS THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND WAIVE ANY TECHNICAL ERRORS, INFORMALITIES, OR IRREGULARITIES IF IT DETERMINES, IN ITS DISCRETION, IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE DISTRICT TO DO SO. THIS IS AN INFORMAL BID. NO PROTEST RIGHTS OR OTHER PROCUREMENT RIGHTS WILL BE AFFORDED TO ANY PROPOSER.

SECTION F



January 31, 2023

Highland Meadows II Community Development District
c/o Governmental Management Services – Central Florida
Attn: Tricia Adams, District Manager
219 East Livingston Street
Orlando, Florida 32801

RE: Agreement Between The Highland Meadows II Community Development District and Rayl Engineering & Surveying, LLC, for Professional Engineering Services

Dear Ms. Tricia Adams,

Please accept this letter as written notice that Rayl Engineering & Surveying, LLC is terminating our contract with Highland Meadows II Community Development District. In accordance with Section 28, relating to Termination, of the Agreement Between The Highland Meadows II Community Development District and Rayl Engineering & Surveying, LLC, for Professional Engineering Services, a 30 day written notice is required and makes the effective date of termination March 2, 2023.

Rayl Engineering & Surveying, LLC is requesting the Board of Supervisor's consent to waive the remainder of the 30 day notice and have the last date of service February 6, 2023. I will be available to discuss the matter with the Board of Supervisors at the upcoming Special Meeting on February 6, 2023.

Sincerely,

Engineering & Surveying, LLC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alan L. Rayl".

Alan L. Rayl, PE, PSM
Professional Engineer in FL, GA, & IN
Professional Surveyor & Mapper in FL

SECTION G

**AMENDED AND RESTATED
RULES OF PROCEDURE
HIGHLAND MEADOWS II COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

EFFECTIVE AS OF November 13, 2019

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Rule 1.0 General.

- (1) The Highland Meadows II Community Development District (the "District") was created pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes, and was established to provide for the ownership, operation, maintenance, and provision of various capital facilities and services within its jurisdiction. The purpose of these rules (the "Rules") is to describe the general operations of the District.
- (2) Definitions located within any section of these Rules shall be applicable within all other sections, unless specifically stated to the contrary.
- (3) Unless specifically permitted by a written agreement with the District, the District does not accept documents filed by electronic mail or facsimile transmission. Filings are only accepted during normal business hours.
- (4) A Rule of the District shall be effective upon adoption by affirmative vote of the District Board. After a Rule becomes effective, it may be repealed or amended only through the rulemaking procedures specified in these Rules. Notwithstanding, the District may immediately suspend the application of a Rule if the District determines that the Rule conflicts with Florida law. In the event that a Rule conflicts with Florida law and its application has not been suspended by the District, such Rule should be interpreted in the manner that best effectuates the intent of the Rule while also complying with Florida law. If the intent of the Rule absolutely cannot be effectuated while complying with Florida law, the Rule shall be automatically suspended.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.
Law Implemented: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

Rule 1.1 Board of Supervisors; Officers and Voting.

- (1) **Board of Supervisors.** The Board of Supervisors of the District (the "Board") shall consist of five (5) members. Members of the Board ("Supervisors") appointed by ordinance or rule or elected by landowners must be citizens of the United States of America and residents of the State of Florida. Supervisors elected or appointed by the Board to elector seats must be citizens of the United States of America, residents of the State of Florida and of the District and registered to vote with the Supervisor of Elections of the county in which the District is located and for those elected, shall also be qualified to run by the Supervisor of Elections. The Board shall exercise the powers granted to the District under Florida law.
 - (a) Supervisors shall hold office for the term specified by Section 190.006 of the Florida Statutes. If, during the term of office, any Board member(s) vacates their office, the remaining member(s) of the Board shall fill the vacancies by appointment for the remainder of the term(s). If three or more vacancies exist at the same time, a quorum, as defined herein, shall not be required to appoint replacement Board members.
 - (b) Three (3) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the purposes of conducting business, exercising powers and all other purposes. A Board member shall be counted toward the quorum if physically present at the meeting, regardless of whether such Board member is prohibited from, or abstains from, participating in discussion or voting on a particular item.
 - (c) Action taken by the Board shall be upon a majority vote of the members present, unless otherwise provided in the Rules or required by law. Subject to Rule 1.3(10), a Board member participating in the Board meeting by teleconference or videoconference shall be entitled to vote and take all other action as though physically present.
 - (d) Unless otherwise provided for by an act of the Board, any one Board member may attend a mediation session on behalf of the Board. Any agreement resulting from such mediation session must be approved pursuant to subsection (1)(c) of this Rule.
- (2) **Officers.** At the first Board meeting held after each election where the newly elected members take office, the Board shall select a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - (a) The Chairperson must be a member of the Board. If the Chairperson resigns from that office or ceases to be a member of the Board, the Board shall select a Chairperson. The Chairperson serves at the pleasure of the Board. The Chairperson shall be authorized to execute resolutions and contracts on the District's behalf. The Chairperson shall convene and conduct all meetings of the Board. In the event the Chairperson is unable

to attend a meeting, the Vice-Chairperson shall convene and conduct the meeting. The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson may delegate the responsibility of conducting the meeting to the District's manager ("District Manager") or District Counsel, in whole or in part.

- (b) The Vice-Chairperson shall be a member of the Board and shall have such duties and responsibilities as specifically designated by the Board from time to time. The Vice-Chairperson has the authority to execute resolutions and contracts on the District's behalf in the absence of the Chairperson. If the Vice-Chairperson resigns from office or ceases to be a member of the Board, the Board shall select a Vice-Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson serves at the pleasure of the Board.
- (c) The Secretary of the Board serves at the pleasure of the Board and need not be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the minutes of Board meetings and may have other duties assigned by the Board from time to time. An employee of the District Manager may serve as Secretary. The Secretary shall be bonded by a reputable and qualified bonding company in at least the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000), or have in place a fidelity bond, employee theft insurance policy, or a comparable product in at least the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) that names the District as an additional insured.
- (d) The Treasurer need not be a member of the Board but must be a resident of the State of Florida. The Treasurer shall perform duties described in Section 190.007(2) and (3) of the Florida Statutes, as well as those assigned by the Board from time to time. The Treasurer shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Treasurer shall either be bonded by a reputable and qualified bonding company in at least the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000), or have in place a fidelity bond, employee theft insurance policy, or a comparable product in at least the amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) that names the District as an additional insured.
- (e) In the event that both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are absent from a Board meeting and a quorum is present, the Board may designate one of its members or a member of District staff to convene and conduct the meeting. In such circumstances, any of the Board members present are authorized to execute agreements, resolutions, and other documents approved by the Board at such meeting. In the event that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson are both unavailable to execute a document previously approved by the Board, the Secretary or any Assistant Secretary may execute such document.

- (f) The Board may assign additional duties to District officers from time to time, which include, but are not limited to, executing documents on behalf of the District.
 - (g) The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and any other person authorized by District Resolution may sign checks and warrants for the District, countersigned by the Treasurer or other persons authorized by the Board.
- (3) Committees. The Board may establish committees of the Board, either on a permanent or temporary basis, to perform specifically designated functions. Committees may include individuals who are not members of the Board. Such functions may include, but are not limited to, review of bids, proposals, and qualifications, contract negotiations, personnel matters, and budget preparation.
- (4) Record Book. The Board shall keep a permanent record book entitled "Record of Proceedings," in which shall be recorded minutes of all meetings, resolutions, proceedings, certificates, and corporate acts. The Records of Proceedings shall be located at a District office and shall be available for inspection by the public.
- (5) Meetings. For each fiscal year, the Board shall establish a schedule of regular meetings, which shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the District is located and filed with the local general-purpose governments within whose boundaries the District is located. All meetings of the Board and Committees serving an advisory function shall be open to the public in accord with the provisions of Chapter 286 of the Florida Statutes.
- (6) Voting Conflict of Interest. The Board shall comply with Section 112.3143 of the Florida Statutes, so as to ensure the proper disclosure of conflicts of interest on matters coming before the Board for a vote. For the purposes of this section, "voting conflict of interest" shall be governed by the Florida Constitution and Chapters 112 and 190 of the Florida Statutes, as amended from time to time. Generally, a voting conflict exists when a Board member is called upon to vote on an item which would inure to the Board member's special private gain or loss or the Board member knows would inure to the special private gain or loss of a principal by whom the Board member is retained, the parent organization or subsidiary of a corporate principal, a business associate, or a relative including only a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law.
- (a) When a Board member knows the member has a conflict of interest on a matter coming before the Board, the member should notify the Board's Secretary prior to participating in any discussion with the Board on the matter. The member shall publicly announce the conflict of interest at the meeting. This announcement shall appear in the minutes.

If the Board member was elected at a landowner's election or appointed to fill a vacancy of a seat last filled at a landowner's election, the Board member may vote or abstain from voting on the matter at issue. If the Board member was elected by electors residing within the District, the Board member is prohibited from voting on the matter at issue. In the event that the Board member intends to abstain or is prohibited from voting, such Board member shall not participate in the discussion on the item subject to the vote.

The Board's Secretary shall prepare a Memorandum of Voting Conflict (Form 8B) which shall then be signed by the Board member, filed with the Board's Secretary, and provided for attachment to the minutes of the meeting within fifteen (15) days of the meeting.

- (b) If a Board member inadvertently votes on a matter and later learns he or she has a conflict on the matter, the member shall immediately notify the Board's Secretary. Within fifteen (15) days of the notification, the member shall file the appropriate Memorandum of Voting Conflict, which will be attached to the minutes of the Board meeting during which the vote on the matter occurred. The Memorandum of Voting Conflict shall immediately be provided to other Board members and shall be read publicly at the next meeting held subsequent to the filing of the Memorandum of Voting Conflict. The Board member's vote is unaffected by this filing.
- (c) It is not a conflict of interest for a Board member, the District Manager, or an employee of the District to be a stockholder, officer or employee of a landowner or of an entity affiliated with a landowner.
- (d) In the event that a Board member elected at a landowner's election or appointed to fill a vacancy of a seat last filled at a landowner's election, has a continuing conflict of interest, such Board member is permitted to file a Memorandum of Voting Conflict at any time in which it shall state the nature of the continuing conflict. Only one such continuing Memorandum of Voting Conflict shall be required to be filed for each term the Board member is in office.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.
Law Implemented: §§ 112.3143, 190.006, 190.007, Fla. Stat.

Rule 1.2 District Offices; Public Information and Inspection of Records; Policies; Service Contract Requirements; Financial Disclosure Coordination.

(1) **District Offices.** Unless otherwise designated by the Board, the official District office shall be the District Manager's office identified by the District Manager. If the District Manager's office is not located within the county in which the District is located, the Board shall designate a local records office within such county which shall at a minimum contain, but not be limited to, the following documents:

- (a) Agenda packages for prior 24 months and next meeting;
- (b) Official minutes of meetings, including adopted resolutions of the Board;
- (c) Names and addresses of current Board members and District Manager, unless such addresses are protected from disclosure by law;
- (d) Adopted engineer's reports;
- (e) Adopted assessment methodologies/reports;
- (f) Adopted disclosure of public financing;
- (g) Limited Offering Memorandum for each financing undertaken by the District;
- (h) Proceedings, certificates, bonds given by all employees, and any and all corporate acts;
- (i) District policies and rules;
- (j) Fiscal year end audits; and
- (k) Adopted budget for the current fiscal year.

The District Manager shall ensure that each District records office contains the documents required by Florida law.

(2) **Public Records.** District public records include all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, data processing software, or other material, regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, made or received in connection with the transaction of official business of the District. All District public records not otherwise restricted by law may be copied or inspected at the District Manager's office during regular business hours. Certain District records can also be inspected and copied at the District's local records office during regular business hours. All written public records requests shall be directed to the Secretary who by these rules is appointed

as the District's records custodian. Regardless of the form of the request, any Board member or staff member who receives a public records request shall immediately forward or communicate such request to the Secretary for coordination of a prompt response. The Secretary, after consulting with District Counsel as to the applicability of any exceptions under the public records laws, shall be responsible for responding to the public records request. At no time can the District be required to create records or summaries of records, or prepare opinions regarding District policies, in response to a public records request.

- (3) Service Contracts. Any contract for services, regardless of cost, shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws. The District Manager shall be responsible for initially enforcing all contract provisions related to a contractor's duty to comply with public records laws.

- (4) Fees; Copies. Copies of public records shall be made available to the requesting person at a charge of \$0.15 per page for one-sided copies and \$0.20 per page for two-sided copies if not more than 8 ½ by 14 inches. For copies of public records in excess of the sizes listed in this section and for outside duplication services, the charge shall be equal to the actual cost of reproduction. Certified copies of public records shall be made available at a charge of one dollar (\$1.00) per page. If the nature or volume of records requested requires extensive use of information technology resources or extensive clerical or supervisory assistance, the District may charge, in addition to the duplication charge, a special service charge that is based on the cost the District incurs to produce the records requested. This charge may include, but is not limited to, the cost of information technology resource, employee labor, and fees charged to the District by consultants employed in fulfilling the request. In cases where the special service charge is based in whole or in part on the costs incurred by the District due to employee labor, consultant fees, or other forms of labor, those portions of the charge shall be calculated based on the lowest labor cost of the individual(s) who is/are qualified to perform the labor, taking into account the nature or volume of the public records to be inspected or copied. The charge may include the labor costs of supervisory and/or clerical staff whose assistance is required to complete the records request, in accordance with Florida law. For purposes of this Rule, the word "extensive" shall mean that it will take more than 15 minutes to locate, review for confidential information, copy and re-file the requested material. In cases where extensive personnel time is determined by the District to be necessary to safeguard original records being inspected, the special service charge provided for in this section shall apply. If the total fees, including but not limited to special service charges, are anticipated to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), then, prior to commencing work on the request, the District will inform the person making the public records request of the estimated cost, with the understanding that the final cost may vary from that estimate. If the person making the public records request decides to proceed with the request, payment of the estimated cost is required in advance. Should the person fail to pay the estimate, the District is under no duty to produce

the requested records. After the request has been fulfilled, additional payments or credits may be due. The District is under no duty to produce records in response to future records requests if the person making the request owes the District for past unpaid duplication charges, special service charges, or other required payments or credits.

- (5) **Records Retention.** The Secretary of the District shall be responsible for retaining the District's records in accordance with applicable Florida law.
- (6) **Policies.** The Board may adopt policies related to the conduct of its business and the provision of services either by resolution or motion.
- (7) **Financial Disclosure Coordination.** Unless specifically designated by Board resolution otherwise, the Secretary shall serve as the Financial Disclosure Coordinator ("Coordinator") for the District as required by the Florida Commission on Ethics ("Commission"). The Coordinator shall create, maintain and update a list of the names, e-mail addresses, physical addresses, and names of the agency of, and the office or position held by, all Supervisors and other persons required by Florida law to file a statement of financial interest due to his or her affiliation with the District ("Reporting Individual"). The Coordinator shall provide this list to the Commission by February 1 of each year, which list shall be current as of December 31 of the prior year. Each Supervisor and Reporting Individual shall promptly notify the Coordinator in writing if there are any changes to such person's name, e-mail address, or physical address. Each Supervisor and Reporting Individual shall promptly notify the Commission in the manner prescribed by the Commission if there are any changes to such person's e-mail address.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

Law Implemented: §§ 112.31446(3), 112.3145(8)(a)1., 119.07, 119.0701, 190.006, Fla. Stat.

Rule 1.3 Public Meetings, Hearings, and Workshops.

- (1) Notice. Except in emergencies, or as otherwise required by statute or these Rules, at least seven (7) days, but no more than thirty (30) days public notice shall be given of any public meeting, hearing or workshop of the Board. Public notice shall be given by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the District and in the county in which the District is located. "General circulation" means a publication that is printed and published at least once a week for the preceding year, offering at least 25% of its words in the English language, qualifies as a periodicals material for postal purposes in the county in which the District is located, is for sale to the public generally, is available to the public generally for the publication of official or other notices, and is customarily containing information of a public character or of interest or of value to the residents or owners of property in the county where published, or of interest or of value to the general public. The annual meeting notice required to be published by Section 189.015 of the Florida Statutes, shall be published in a newspaper not of limited subject matter, which is published at least five days a week, unless the only newspaper in the county is published less than five days a week. Each Notice shall state, as applicable:
- (a) The date, time and place of the meeting, hearing or workshop;
 - (b) A brief description of the nature, subjects, and purposes of the meeting, hearing, or workshop;
 - (c) The District office address for the submission of requests for copies of the agenda, as well as a contact name and telephone number for verbal requests for copies of the agenda; and
 - (d) The following or substantially similar language: "Pursuant to provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this meeting/hearing/workshop is asked to advise the District Office at least forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting/hearing/workshop by contacting the District Manager at (407) 841-5524. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 1 (800) 955-8770 or 1 (800) 955-8771, who can aid you in contacting the District Office."
 - (e) The following or substantially similar language: "A person who decides to appeal any decision made at the meeting/hearing/workshop with respect to any matter considered at the meeting/hearing/workshop is advised that person will need a record of the proceedings and that accordingly, the person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based."

- (f) The following or substantially similar language: "The meeting [or hearing or workshop] may be continued in progress without additional notice to a time, date, and location stated on the record."
- (2) Mistake. In the event that a meeting is held under the incorrect assumption that notice required by law and these Rules has been given, the Board at its next properly noticed meeting shall cure such defect by considering the agenda items from the prior meeting individually and anew.
- (3) Agenda. The District Manager, under the guidance of District Counsel and the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, shall prepare an agenda of the meeting/hearing/workshop. The agenda and any meeting materials available in an electronic format, excluding any confidential and any confidential and exempt information, shall be available to the public at least seven days before the meeting/hearing/workshop, except in an emergency. Meeting materials shall be defined as, and limited to, the agenda, meeting minutes, resolutions, and agreements of the District that District staff deems necessary for Board approval. Inclusion of additional materials for Board consideration other than those defined herein as "meeting materials" shall not convert such materials into "meeting materials." For good cause, the agenda may be changed after it is first made available for distribution, and additional materials may be added or provided under separate cover at the meeting. The requirement of good cause shall be liberally construed to allow the District to efficiently conduct business and to avoid the expenses associated with special meetings.

The District may, but is not required to, use the following format in preparing its agenda for its regular meetings:

- Call to order
- Roll call
- Public comment
- Organizational matters
- Review of minutes
- Specific items of old business
- Specific items of new business
- Staff reports
 - (a) District Counsel
 - (b) District Engineer
 - (c) District Manager
 - 1. Financial Report
 - 2. Approval of Expenditures
- Supervisor's requests and comments
- Public comment
- Adjournment

- (4) **Minutes.** The Secretary shall be responsible for preparing and keeping the minutes of each meeting of the Board. Minutes shall be corrected and approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting. The Secretary may work with other staff members in preparing draft minutes for the Board's consideration.
- (5) **Special Requests.** Persons wishing to receive, by mail, notices or agendas of meetings, may so advise the District Manager or Secretary at the District Office. Such persons shall furnish a mailing address in writing and shall be required to pre-pay the cost of the copying and postage.
- (6) **Emergency Meetings.** The Chairperson, or Vice-Chairperson if the Chairperson is unavailable, upon consultation with the District Manager and District Counsel, if available, may convene an emergency meeting of the Board without first having complied with sections (1) and (3) of this Rule, to act on emergency matters that may affect the public health, safety, or welfare. Whenever possible, the District Manager shall make reasonable efforts to provide public notice and notify all Board members of an emergency meeting twenty-four (24) hours in advance. Reasonable efforts may include telephone notification. Notice of the emergency meeting must be provided both before and after the meeting on the District's website, if it has one. Whenever an emergency meeting is called, the District Manager shall be responsible for notifying at least one newspaper of general circulation in the District. After an emergency meeting, the Board shall publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the District, the time, date and place of the emergency meeting, the reasons why an emergency meeting was necessary, and a description of the action taken. Actions taken at an emergency meeting may be ratified by the Board at a regularly noticed meeting subsequently held.
- (7) **Public Comment.** The Board shall set aside a reasonable amount of time at each meeting for public comment and members of the public shall be permitted to provide comment on any proposition before the Board. The portion of the meeting generally reserved for public comment shall be identified in the agenda. Policies governing public comment may be adopted by the Board in accordance with Florida law.
- (8) **Budget Hearing.** Notice of hearing on the annual budget(s) shall be in accord with Section 190.008 of the Florida Statutes. Once adopted in accord with Section 190.008 of the Florida Statutes, the annual budget(s) may be amended from time to time by action of the Board. Approval of invoices by the Board in excess of the funds allocated to a particular budgeted line item shall serve to amend the budgeted line item.
- (9) **Public Hearings.** Notice of required public hearings shall contain the information required by applicable Florida law and by these Rules applicable to meeting notices and shall be mailed and published as required by Florida law. The District Manager shall ensure that all such notices, whether mailed or published, contain the information required by Florida law and these Rules and are mailed and

published as required by Florida law. Public hearings may be held during Board meetings when the agenda includes such public hearing.

- (10) Participation by Teleconference/Videoconference. District staff may participate in Board meetings by teleconference or videoconference. Board members may also participate in Board meetings by teleconference or videoconference if in the good judgment of the Board extraordinary circumstances exist; provided however, at least three Board members must be physically present at the meeting location to establish a quorum. Such extraordinary circumstances shall be presumed when a Board member participates by teleconference or videoconference, unless a majority of the Board members physically present determines that extraordinary circumstances do not exist.
- (11) Board Authorization. The District has not adopted Robert's Rules of Order. For each agenda item, there shall be discussion permitted among the Board members during the meeting. Unless such procedure is waived by the Board, approval or disapproval of resolutions and other proposed Board actions shall be in the form of a motion by one Board member, a second by another Board member, and an affirmative vote by the majority of the Board members present. Any Board member, including the Chairperson, can make or second a motion.
- (12) Continuances. Any meeting or public hearing of the Board may be continued without re-notice or re-advertising provided that:
 - (a) The Board identifies on the record at the original meeting a reasonable need for a continuance;
 - (b) The continuance is to a specified date, time, and location publicly announced at the original meeting; and
 - (c) The public notice for the original meeting states that the meeting may be continued to a date and time and states that the date, time, and location of any continuance shall be publicly announced at the original meeting and posted at the District Office immediately following the original meeting.
- (13) Attorney-Client Sessions. An Attorney-Client Session is permitted when the District's attorneys deem it necessary to meet in private with the Board to discuss pending litigation to which the District is a party before a court or administrative agency or as may be authorized by law. The District's attorney must request such session at a public meeting. Prior to holding the Attorney-Client Session, the District must give reasonable public notice of the time and date of the session and the names of the persons anticipated to attend the session. The session must commence at an open meeting in which the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson announces the commencement of the session, the estimated length of the session, and the names of the persons who will be attending the session. The discussion during the session is confined to settlement negotiations or strategy related to

litigation expenses or as may be authorized by law. Only the Board, the District's attorneys (including outside counsel), the District Manager, and the court reporter may attend an Attorney-Client Session. During the session, no votes may be taken and no final decisions concerning settlement can be made. Upon the conclusion of the session, the public meeting is reopened, and the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson must announce that the session has concluded. The session must be transcribed by a court-reporter and the transcript of the session filed with the District Secretary within a reasonable time after the session. The transcript shall not be available for public inspection until after the conclusion of the litigation.

- (14) **Security and Firesafety Board Discussions.** Portions of a meeting which relate to or would reveal a security or firesafety system plan or portion thereof made confidential and exempt by section 119.071(3)(a), Florida Statutes, are exempt from the public meeting requirements and other requirements of section 286.011, Florida Statutes, and section 24(b), Article 1 of the State Constitution. Should the Board wish to discuss such matters, members of the public shall be required to leave the meeting room during such discussion. Any records of the Board's discussion of such matters, including recordings or minutes, shall be maintained as confidential and exempt records in accordance with Florida law.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

Law Implemented: §§ 189.069(2)(a)16, 190.006, 190.007, 190.008, 286.0105, 286.011, 286.0113, 286.0114, Fla. Stat.

Rule 1.4 Internal Controls to Prevent Fraud, Waste and Abuse

- (1) Internal Controls. The District shall establish and maintain internal controls designed to:
- (a) Prevent and detect “fraud,” “waste” and “abuse” as those terms are defined in section 11.45(1), Florida Statutes; and
 - (b) Promote and encourage compliance with applicable laws, rules contracts, grant agreements, and best practices; and
 - (c) Support economical and efficient operations; and
 - (d) Ensure reliability of financial records and reports; and
 - (e) Safeguard assets.
- (2) Adoption. The internal controls to prevent fraud, waste and abuse shall be adopted and amended by the District in the same manner as District policies.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.
Law Implemented: § 218.33(3), Fla. Stat.

Rule 2.0 Rulemaking Proceedings.

- (1) Commencement of Proceedings. Proceedings held for adoption, amendment, or repeal of a District rule shall be conducted according to these Rules. Rulemaking proceedings shall be deemed to have been initiated upon publication of notice by the District. A “rule” is a District statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy, or describes the procedure or practice requirements of the District (“Rule”). Nothing herein shall be construed as requiring the District to consider or adopt rules unless required by Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes. Policies adopted by the District which do not consist of rates, fees, rentals or other monetary charges may be, but are not required to be, implemented through rulemaking proceedings.
- (2) Notice of Rule Development.
 - (a) Except when the intended action is the repeal of a Rule, the District shall provide notice of the development of a proposed rule by publication of a Notice of Rule Development in a newspaper of general circulation in the District before providing notice of a proposed rule as required by section (3) of this Rule. Consequently, the Notice of Rule Development shall be published at least twenty-nine (29) days prior to the public hearing on the proposed Rule. The Notice of Rule Development shall indicate the subject area to be addressed by rule development, provide a short, plain explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed rule, cite the specific legal authority for the proposed rule, and include a statement of how a person may promptly obtain, without cost, a copy of any preliminary draft, if available.
 - (b) All rules as drafted shall be consistent with Sections 120.54(1)(g) and 120.54(2)(b) of the Florida Statutes.
- (3) Notice of Proceedings and Proposed Rules.
 - (a) Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule other than an emergency rule, the District shall give notice of its intended action, setting forth a short, plain explanation of the purpose and effect of the proposed action, a reference to the specific rulemaking authority pursuant to which the rule is adopted, and a reference to the section or subsection of the Florida Statutes being implemented, interpreted, or made specific. The notice shall include a summary of the District’s statement of the estimated regulatory costs, if one has been prepared, based on the factors set forth in Section 120.541(2) of the Florida Statutes, and a statement that any person who wishes to provide the District with a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), must do so in writing within twenty-one (21) days after publication of the notice. The notice shall additionally include a statement that any affected person may request a public hearing

by submitting a written request within twenty-one (21) days after the date of publication of the notice. Except when intended action is the repeal of a rule, the notice shall include a reference to both the date on which and the place where the Notice of Rule Development required by section (2) of this Rule appeared.

- (b) The notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the District and each county in which the District is located not less than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the intended action. The proposed rule shall be available for inspection and copying by the public at the time of the publication of notice.
 - (c) The notice shall be mailed to all persons named in the proposed rule and to all persons who, at least fourteen (14) days prior to such mailing, have made requests of the District for advance notice of its rulemaking proceedings. Any person may file a written request with the District Manager to receive notice by mail of District proceedings to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule. Such persons must furnish a mailing address and may be required to pay the cost of copying and mailing.
- (4) Rule Development Workshops. Whenever requested in writing by any affected person, the District must either conduct a rule development workshop prior to proposing rules for adoption or the Chairperson must explain in writing why a workshop is unnecessary. The District may initiate a rule development workshop but is not required to do so.
- (5) Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking. All Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking proceedings must contain the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner, the specific action requested, the specific reason for adoption, amendment, or repeal, the date submitted, the text of the proposed rule, and the facts showing that the petitioner is regulated by the District or has a substantial interest in the rulemaking. Not later than sixty (60) calendar days following the date of filing a petition, the Board shall initiate rulemaking proceedings or deny the petition with a written statement of its reasons for the denial. If the petition is directed to an existing policy that the District has not formally adopted as a rule, the District may, in its discretion, notice and hold a public hearing on the petition to consider the comments of the public directed to the policy, its scope and application, and to consider whether the public interest is served adequately by the application of the policy on a case-by-case basis, as contrasted with its formal adoption as a rule. However, this section shall not be construed as requiring the District to adopt a rule to replace a policy.
- (6) Rulemaking Materials. After the publication of the notice referenced in section (3) of this Rule, the Board shall make available for public inspection and shall provide, upon request and payment of the cost of copies, the following materials:

- (a) The text of the proposed rule, or any amendment or repeal of any existing rules;
 - (b) A detailed written statement of the facts and circumstances justifying the proposed rule;
 - (c) A copy of the statement of estimated regulatory costs if required by Section 120.541 of the Florida Statutes; and
 - (d) The published notice.
- (7) **Hearing.** The District may, or, upon the written request of any affected person received within twenty-one (21) days after the date of publication of the notice described in section (3) of this Rule, shall, provide a public hearing for the presentation of evidence, argument, and oral statements, within the reasonable conditions and limitations imposed by the District to avoid duplication, irrelevant comments, unnecessary delay, or disruption of the proceedings. The District shall publish notice of the public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the District either in the text of the notice described in section (3) of this Rule or in a separate publication at least seven (7) days before the scheduled public hearing. The notice shall specify the date, time, and location of the public hearing, and the name, address, and telephone number of the District contact person who can provide information about the public hearing. Written statements may be submitted by any person prior to or at the public hearing. All timely submitted written statements shall be considered by the District and made part of the rulemaking record.
- (8) **Emergency Rule Adoption.** The Board may adopt an emergency rule if it finds that immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare exists which requires immediate action. Prior to the adoption of an emergency rule, the District Manager shall make reasonable efforts to notify a newspaper of general circulation in the District. Notice of emergency rules shall be published as soon as possible in a newspaper of general circulation in the District. The District may use any procedure which is fair under the circumstances in the adoption of an emergency rule as long as it protects the public interest as determined by the District and otherwise complies with these provisions.
- (9) **Negotiated Rulemaking.** The District may use negotiated rulemaking in developing and adopting rules pursuant to Section 120.54(2)(d) of the Florida Statutes, except that any notices required under Section 120.54(2)(d) of the Florida Statutes, may be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the District is located.
- (10) **Rulemaking Record.** In all rulemaking proceedings, the District shall compile and maintain a rulemaking record. The record shall include, if applicable:

- (a) The texts of the proposed rule and the adopted rule;
 - (b) All notices given for a proposed rule;
 - (c) Any statement of estimated regulatory costs for the rule;
 - (d) A written summary of hearings, if any, on the proposed rule;
 - (e) All written comments received by the District and responses to those written comments; and
 - (f) All notices and findings pertaining to an emergency rule.
- (11) Petitions to Challenge Existing Rules.
- (a) Any person substantially affected by a rule may seek an administrative determination of the invalidity of the rule on the ground that the rule is an invalid exercise of the District's authority.
 - (b) The petition seeking an administrative determination must state with particularity the provisions alleged to be invalid with sufficient explanation of the facts or grounds for the alleged invalidity and facts sufficient to show that the person challenging a rule is substantially affected by it.
 - (c) The petition shall be filed with the District. Within 10 days after receiving the petition, the Chairperson shall, if the petition complies with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, designate any member of the Board (including the Chairperson), District Manager, District Counsel, or other person as a hearing officer who shall conduct a hearing within 30 days thereafter, unless the petition is withdrawn or a continuance is granted by agreement of the parties. The failure of the District to follow the applicable rulemaking procedures or requirements in this Rule shall be presumed to be material; however, the District may rebut this presumption by showing that the substantial interests of the petitioner and the fairness of the proceedings have not been impaired.
 - (d) Within 30 days after the hearing, the hearing officer shall render a decision and state the reasons therefor in writing.
 - (e) Hearings held under this section shall be de novo in nature. The petitioner has a burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the existing rule is an invalid exercise of District authority as to the objections raised. The hearing officer may:
 - (i) Administer oaths and affirmations;

- (ii) Rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;
 - (iii) Regulate the course of the hearing, including any pre-hearing matters;
 - (iv) Enter orders; and
 - (v) Make or receive offers of settlement, stipulation, and adjustment.
- (f) The petitioner and the District shall be adverse parties. Other substantially affected persons may join the proceedings as intervenors on appropriate terms which shall not unduly delay the proceedings.
- (12) **Variations and Waivers.** A "variance" means a decision by the District to grant a modification to all or part of the literal requirements of a rule to a person who is subject to the rule. A "waiver" means a decision by the District not to apply all or part of a rule to a person who is subject to the rule. Variations and waivers from District rules may be granted subject to the following:
- (a) Variations and waivers shall be granted when the person subject to the rule demonstrates that the purpose of the underlying statute will be or has been achieved by other means by the person, and when application of the rule would create a substantial hardship or would violate principles of fairness. For purposes of this section, "substantial hardship" means a demonstrated economic, technological, legal, or other type of hardship to the person requesting the variance or waiver. For purposes of this section, "principles of fairness" are violated when the literal application of a rule affects a particular person in a manner significantly different from the way it affects other similarly situated persons who are subject to the rule.
 - (b) A person who is subject to regulation by a District Rule may file a petition with the District, requesting a variance or waiver from the District's Rule. Each petition shall specify:
 - (i) The rule from which a variance or waiver is requested;
 - (ii) The type of action requested;
 - (iii) The specific facts that would justify a waiver or variance for the petitioner; and
 - (iv) The reason why the variance or the waiver requested would serve the purposes of the underlying statute.
 - (c) The District shall review the petition and may request only that information needed to clarify the petition or to answer new questions

raised by or directly related to the petition. If the petitioner asserts that any request for additional information is not authorized by law or by Rule of the District, the District shall proceed, at the petitioner's written request, to process the petition.

(d) The Board shall grant or deny a petition for variance or waiver and shall announce such disposition at a publicly held meeting of the Board, within ninety (90) days after receipt of the original petition, the last item of timely requested additional material, or the petitioner's written request to finish processing the petition. The District's statement granting or denying the petition shall contain a statement of the relevant facts and reasons supporting the District's action.

(13) Rates, Fees, Rentals and Other Charges. All rates, fees, rentals, or other charges shall be subject to rulemaking proceedings. Policies adopted by the District which do not consist of rates, fees, rentals or other charges may be, but are not required to be, implemented through rulemaking proceedings.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), 190.035, Fla. Stat.

Law Implemented: §§ 190.011(5), 190.035(2), Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.0 Competitive Purchase.

- (1) **Purpose and Scope.** In order to comply with Sections 190.033(1) through (3), 287.055 and 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, the following provisions shall apply to the purchase of Professional Services, insurance, construction contracts, design-build services, goods, supplies, and materials, Contractual Services, and maintenance services.
- (2) **Board Authorization.** Except in cases of an Emergency Purchase, a competitive purchase governed by these Rules shall only be undertaken after authorization by the Board.
- (3) **Definitions.**
 - (a) “Competitive Solicitation” means a formal, advertised procurement process, other than an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, or Invitation to Negotiate, approved by the Board to purchase commodities and/or services which affords vendors fair treatment in the competition for award of a District purchase contract.
 - (b) “Continuing Contract” means a contract for Professional Services entered into in accordance with Section 287.055 of the Florida Statutes, between the District and a firm, whereby the firm provides Professional Services to the District for projects in which the costs do not exceed two million dollars (\$2,000,000), for a study activity when the fee for such Professional Services to the District does not exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000), or for work of a specified nature as outlined in the contract with the District, with no time limitation except that the contract must provide a termination clause (for example, a contract for general District engineering services). Firms providing Professional Services under Continuing Contracts shall not be required to bid against one another.
 - (c) “Contractual Service” means the rendering by a contractor of its time and effort rather than the furnishing of specific commodities. The term applies only to those services rendered by individuals and firms who are independent contractors. Contractual Services do not include auditing services, Maintenance Services, or Professional Services as defined in Section 287.055(2)(a) of the Florida Statutes, and these Rules. Contractual Services also do not include any contract for the furnishing of labor or materials for the construction, renovation, repair, modification, or demolition of any facility, building, portion of building, utility, park, parking lot, or structure or other improvement to real property entered into pursuant to Chapter 255 of the Florida Statutes, and Rules 3.5 or 3.6.

- (d) **“Design-Build Contract”** means a single contract with a Design-Build Firm for the design and construction of a public construction project.
- (e) **“Design-Build Firm”** means a partnership, corporation or other legal entity that:
 - (i) Is certified under Section 489.119 of the Florida Statutes, to engage in contracting through a certified or registered general contractor or a certified or registered building contractor as the qualifying agent; or
 - (ii) Is certified under Section 471.023 of the Florida Statutes, to practice or to offer to practice engineering; certified under Section 481.219 of the Florida Statutes, to practice or to offer to practice architecture; or certified under Section 481.319 of the Florida Statutes, to practice or to offer to practice landscape architecture.
- (f) **“Design Criteria Package”** means concise, performance-oriented drawings or specifications for a public construction project. The purpose of the Design Criteria Package is to furnish sufficient information to permit Design-Build Firms to prepare a bid or a response to the District’s Request for Proposals, or to permit the District to enter into a negotiated Design-Build Contract. The Design Criteria Package must specify performance-based criteria for the public construction project, including the legal description of the site, survey information concerning the site, interior space requirements, material quality standards, schematic layouts and conceptual design criteria of the project, cost or budget estimates, design and construction schedules, site development requirements, provisions for utilities, stormwater retention and disposal, and parking requirements applicable to the project. Design Criteria Packages shall require firms to submit information regarding the qualifications, availability, and past work of the firms, including the partners and members thereof.
- (g) **“Design Criteria Professional”** means a firm who holds a current certificate of registration under Chapter 481 of the Florida Statutes, to practice architecture or landscape architecture, or a firm who holds a current certificate as a registered engineer under Chapter 471 of the Florida Statutes, to practice engineering, and who is employed by or under contract to the District to provide professional architect services, landscape architect services, or engineering services in connection with the preparation of the Design Criteria Package.
- (h) **“Emergency Purchase”** means a purchase necessitated by a sudden unexpected turn of events (for example, acts of God, riot, fires, floods, hurricanes, accidents, or any circumstances or cause beyond the control of the Board in the normal conduct of its business), where the Board finds

that the delay incident to competitive purchase would be detrimental to the interests of the District. This includes, but is not limited to, instances where the time to competitively award the project will jeopardize the funding for the project, will materially increase the cost of the project, or will create an undue hardship on the public health, safety, or welfare.

- (i) "Invitation to Bid" is a written solicitation for sealed bids with the title, date, and hour of the public bid opening designated specifically and defining the commodity or service involved. It includes printed instructions prescribing conditions for bidding, qualification, evaluation criteria, and provides for a manual signature of an authorized representative. It may include one or more bid alternates.
- (j) "Invitation to Negotiate" means a written solicitation for competitive sealed replies to select one or more vendors with which to commence negotiations for the procurement of commodities or services.
- (k) "Negotiate" means to conduct legitimate, arm's length discussions and conferences to reach an agreement on a term or price.
- (l) "Professional Services" means those services within the scope of the practice of architecture, professional engineering, landscape architecture, or registered surveying and mapping, as defined by the laws of Florida, or those services performed by any architect, professional engineer, landscape architect, or registered surveyor and mapper, in connection with the firm's or individual's professional employment or practice.
- (m) "Proposal (or Reply or Response) Most Advantageous to the District" means, as determined in the sole discretion of the Board, the proposal, reply, or response that is:
 - (i) Submitted by a person or firm capable and qualified in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements, who has the integrity and reliability to assure good faith performance;
 - (ii) The most responsive to the Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation as determined by the Board; and
 - (iii) For a cost to the District deemed by the Board to be reasonable.
- (n) "Purchase" means acquisition by sale, rent, lease, lease/purchase, or installment sale. It does not include transfer, sale, or exchange of goods, supplies, or materials between the District and any federal, state, regional or local governmental entity or political subdivision of the State of Florida.

- (o) "Request for Proposals" or "RFP" is a written solicitation for sealed proposals with the title, date, and hour of the public opening designated and requiring the manual signature of an authorized representative. It may provide general information, applicable laws and rules, statement of work, functional or general specifications, qualifications, proposal instructions, work detail analysis, and evaluation criteria as necessary.
- (p) "Responsive and Responsible Bidder" means an entity or individual that has submitted a bid that conforms in all material respects to the Invitation to Bid and has the capability in all respects to fully perform the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance. "Responsive and Responsible Vendor" means an entity or individual that has submitted a proposal, reply, or response that conforms in all material respects to the Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation and has the capability in all respects to fully perform the contract requirements and the integrity and reliability that will assure good faith performance. In determining whether an entity or individual is a Responsive and Responsible Bidder (or Vendor), the District may consider, in addition to factors described in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, the following:
 - (i) The ability and adequacy of the professional personnel employed by the entity/individual;
 - (ii) The past performance of the entity/individual for the District and in other professional employment;
 - (iii) The willingness of the entity/individual to meet time and budget requirements;
 - (iv) The geographic location of the entity's/individual's headquarters or office in relation to the project;
 - (v) The recent, current, and projected workloads of the entity/individual;
 - (vi) The volume of work previously awarded to the entity/individual;
 - (vii) Whether the cost components of the bid or proposal are appropriately balanced; and
 - (viii) Whether the entity/individual is a certified minority business enterprise.

- (q) “Responsive Bid,” “Responsive Proposal,” “Responsive Reply,” and “Responsive Response” all mean a bid, proposal, reply, or response which conforms in all material respects to the specifications and conditions in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation document and these Rules, and the cost components of which, if any, are appropriately balanced. A bid, proposal, reply or response is not responsive if the person or firm submitting it fails to meet any material requirement relating to the qualifications, financial stability, or licensing of the bidder.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

Law Implemented: §§ 190.033, 255.20, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.1 Procedure Under the Consultants' Competitive Negotiations Act.

- (1) **Scope.** The following procedures are adopted for the selection of firms or individuals to provide Professional Services exceeding the thresholds herein described, for the negotiation of such contracts, and to provide for protest of actions of the Board under this Rule. As used in this Rule, "Project" means that fixed capital outlay study or planning activity when basic construction cost is estimated by the District to exceed the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FIVE, or for a planning study activity when the fee for Professional Services is estimated by the District to exceed the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 for CATEGORY TWO, as such categories may be amended or adjusted from time to time.
- (2) **Qualifying Procedures.** In order to be eligible to provide Professional Services to the District, a consultant must, at the time of receipt of the firm's qualification submittal:
 - (a) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (b) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
 - (c) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the consultant is a corporation; and
 - (d) Meet any qualification requirements set forth in the District's Request for Qualifications.

Evidence of compliance with this Rule may be submitted with the qualifications, if requested by the District. In addition, evidence of compliance must be submitted any time requested by the District.

- (3) **Public Announcement.** Except in cases of valid public emergencies as certified by the Board, the District shall announce each occasion when Professional Services are required for a Project or a Continuing Contract by publishing a notice providing a general description of the Project, or the nature of the Continuing Contract, and the method for interested consultants to apply for consideration. The notice shall appear in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the District and in such other places as the District deems appropriate. The notice must allow at least fourteen (14) days for submittal of qualifications from the date of publication. The District may maintain lists of consultants interested in receiving such notices. These consultants are encouraged to submit annually statements of qualifications and performance data. The District shall make reasonable efforts to provide copies of any notices to such consultants, but the failure to do so shall not give such consultants any bid protest or other rights or otherwise disqualify any otherwise valid procurement process. The Board has the

right to reject any and all qualifications, and such reservation shall be included in the published notice. Consultants not receiving a contract award shall not be entitled to recover from the District any costs of qualification package preparation or submittal.

(4) Competitive Selection.

- (a) The Board shall review and evaluate the data submitted in response to the notice described in section (3) of this Rule regarding qualifications and performance ability, as well as any statements of qualifications on file. The Board shall conduct discussions with, and may require public presentation by consultants regarding their qualifications, approach to the Project, and ability to furnish the required services. The Board shall then select and list the consultants, in order of preference, deemed to be the most highly capable and qualified to perform the required Professional Services, after considering these and other appropriate criteria:
- (i) The ability and adequacy of the professional personnel employed by each consultant;
 - (ii) Whether a consultant is a certified minority business enterprise;
 - (iii) Each consultant's past performance;
 - (iv) The willingness of each consultant to meet time and budget requirements;
 - (v) The geographic location of each consultant's headquarters, office and personnel in relation to the project;
 - (vi) The recent, current, and projected workloads of each consultant; and
 - (vii) The volume of work previously awarded to each consultant by the District.
- (b) Nothing in these Rules shall prevent the District from evaluating and eventually selecting a consultant if less than three (3) Responsive qualification packages, including packages indicating a desire not to provide Professional Services on a given Project, are received.
- (c) If the selection process is administered by any person or committee other than the full Board, the selection made will be presented to the full Board with a recommendation that competitive negotiations be instituted with the selected firms in order of preference listed.

(d) Notice of the rankings adopted by the Board, including the rejection of some or all qualification packages, shall be provided in writing to all consultants by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's ranking decisions under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

(5) Competitive Negotiation.

- (a) After the Board has authorized the beginning of competitive negotiations, the District may begin such negotiations with the firm listed as most qualified to perform the required Professional Services at a rate or amount of compensation which the Board determines is fair, competitive, and reasonable.
- (b) In negotiating a lump-sum or cost-plus-a-fixed-fee professional contract for more than the threshold amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FOUR, the firm receiving the award shall be required to execute a truth-in-negotiation certificate stating that "wage rates and other factual unit costs supporting the compensation are accurate, complete and current at the time of contracting." In addition, any professional service contract under which such a certificate is required, shall contain a provision that "the original contract price and any additions thereto, shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which the Board determines the contract price was increased due to inaccurate, incomplete, or noncurrent wage rates and other factual unit costs."
- (c) Should the District be unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with the firm determined to be the most qualified at a price deemed by the District to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, then negotiations with that firm shall be terminated and the District shall immediately begin negotiations with the second most qualified firm. If a satisfactory agreement with the second firm cannot be reached, those negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations with the third most qualified firm shall be undertaken.
- (d) Should the District be unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with one of the top three (3) ranked consultants, additional firms shall be selected by the District, in order of their competence and qualifications. Negotiations shall continue, beginning with the first-named firm on the list, until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.

- (6) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
- (7) Continuing Contract. Nothing in this Rule shall prohibit a Continuing Contract between a consultant and the District.
- (8) Emergency Purchase. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these Rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

Law Implemented: §§ 119.0701, 190.011(3), 190.033, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.2 Procedure Regarding Auditor Selection.

In order to comply with the requirements of Section 218.391 of the Florida Statutes, the following procedures are outlined for selection of firms or individuals to provide Auditing Services and for the negotiation of such contracts. For audits required under Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes but not meeting the thresholds of Chapter 218 of the Florida Statutes, the District need not follow these procedures but may proceed with the selection of a firm or individual to provide Auditing Services and for the negotiation of such contracts in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District.

(1) **Definitions.**

- (a) "Auditing Services" means those services within the scope of the practice of a certified public accounting firm licensed under Chapter 473 of the Florida Statutes, and qualified to conduct audits in accordance with government auditing standards as adopted by the Florida Board of Accountancy.
- (b) "Committee" means the auditor selection committee appointed by the Board as described in section (2) of this Rule.

(2) **Establishment of Auditor Selection Committee.** Prior to a public announcement under section (4) of this Rule that Auditing Services are required, the Board shall establish an auditor selection committee ("Committee"), the primary purpose of which is to assist the Board in selecting an auditor to conduct the annual financial audit required by Section 218.39 of the Florida Statutes. The Committee shall include at least three individuals, at least one of which must also be a member of the Board. The establishment and selection of the Committee must be conducted at a publicly noticed and held meeting of the Board. The Chairperson of the Committee must be a member of the Board. An employee, a chief executive officer, or a chief financial officer of the District may not serve as a member of the Committee; provided however such individual may serve the Committee in an advisory capacity.

(3) **Establishment of Minimum Qualifications and Evaluation Criteria.** Prior to a public announcement under section (4) of this Rule that Auditing Services are required, the Committee shall meet at a publicly noticed meeting to establish minimum qualifications and factors to use for the evaluation of Auditing Services to be provided by a certified public accounting firm licensed under Chapter 473 of the Florida Statutes, and qualified to conduct audits in accordance with government auditing standards as adopted by the Florida Board of Accountancy.

- (a) **Minimum Qualifications.** In order to be eligible to submit a proposal, a firm must, at all relevant times including the time of receipt of the proposal by the District:

- (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
- (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
- (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the proposer is a corporation; and
- (iv) Meet any pre-qualification requirements established by the Committee and set forth in the RFP or other specifications.

If requested in the RFP or other specifications, evidence of compliance with the minimum qualifications as established by the Committee must be submitted with the proposal.

- (b) **Evaluation Criteria.** The factors established for the evaluation of Auditing Services by the Committee shall include, but are not limited to:
 - (i) Ability of personnel;
 - (ii) Experience;
 - (iii) Ability to furnish the required services; and
 - (iv) Such other factors as may be determined by the Committee to be applicable to its particular requirements.

The Committee may also choose to consider compensation as a factor. If the Committee establishes compensation as one of the factors, compensation shall not be the sole or predominant factor used to evaluate proposals.

- (4) **Public Announcement.** After identifying the factors to be used in evaluating the proposals for Auditing Services as set forth in section (3) of this Rule, the Committee shall publicly announce the opportunity to provide Auditing Services. Such public announcement shall include a brief description of the audit and how interested firms can apply for consideration and obtain the RFP. The notice shall appear in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the District and the county in which the District is located. The public announcement shall allow for at least seven (7) days for the submission of proposals.
- (5) **Request for Proposals.** The Committee shall provide interested firms with a Request for Proposals ("RFP"). The RFP shall provide information on how proposals are to be evaluated and such other information the Committee

determines is necessary for the firm to prepare a proposal. The RFP shall state the time and place for submitting proposals.

- (6) Committee's Evaluation of Proposals and Recommendation. The Committee shall meet at a publicly held meeting that is publicly noticed for a reasonable time in advance of the meeting to evaluate all qualified proposals and may, as part of the evaluation, require that each interested firm provide a public presentation where the Committee may conduct discussions with the firm, and where the firm may present information, regarding the firm's qualifications. At the public meeting, the Committee shall rank and recommend in order of preference no fewer than three firms deemed to be the most highly qualified to perform the required services after considering the factors established pursuant to subsection (3)(b) of this Rule. If fewer than three firms respond to the RFP or if no firms respond to the RFP, the Committee shall recommend such firm as it deems to be the most highly qualified. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Committee may recommend that any and all proposals be rejected.

(7) Board Selection of Auditor.

- (a) Where compensation was not selected as a factor used in evaluating the proposals, the Board shall negotiate with the firm ranked first and inquire of that firm as to the basis of compensation. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with the first ranked firm at a price deemed by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, then negotiations with that firm shall be terminated and the Board shall immediately begin negotiations with the second ranked firm. If a satisfactory agreement with the second ranked firm cannot be reached, those negotiations shall be terminated and negotiations with the third ranked firm shall be undertaken. The Board may reopen formal negotiations with any one of the three top-ranked firms, but it may not negotiate with more than one firm at a time. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory agreement with any of the selected firms, the Committee shall recommend additional firms in order of the firms' respective competence and qualifications. Negotiations shall continue, beginning with the first-named firm on the list, until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.
- (b) Where compensation was selected as a factor used in evaluating the proposals, the Board shall select the highest-ranked qualified firm or document in its public records the reason for not selecting the highest-ranked qualified firm.
- (c) In negotiations with firms under this Rule, the Board may allow the District Manager, District Counsel, or other designee to conduct negotiations on its behalf.

- (d) Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board may reject any or all proposals. The Board shall not consider any proposal, or enter into any contract for Auditing Services, unless the proposed agreed-upon compensation is reasonable to satisfy the requirements of Section 218.39 of the Florida Statutes, and the needs of the District.
- (8) **Contract.** Any agreement reached under this Rule shall be evidenced by a written contract, which may take the form of an engagement letter signed and executed by both parties. The written contract shall include all provisions and conditions of the procurement of such services and shall include, at a minimum, the following:
- (a) A provision specifying the services to be provided and fees or other compensation for such services;
 - (b) A provision requiring that invoices for fees or other compensation be submitted in sufficient detail to demonstrate compliance with the terms of the contract;
 - (c) A provision setting forth deadlines for the auditor to submit a preliminary draft audit report to the District for review and to submit a final audit report no later than June 30 of the fiscal year that follows the fiscal year for which the audit is being conducted;
 - (d) A provision specifying the contract period, including renewals, and conditions under which the contract may be terminated or renewed. The maximum contract period including renewals shall be five (5) years. A renewal may be done without the use of the auditor selection procedures provided in this Rule but must be in writing.
 - (e) Provisions required by law that require the auditor to comply with public records laws.
- (9) **Notice of Award.** Once a negotiated agreement with a firm or individual is reached, or the Board authorizes the execution of an agreement with a firm where compensation was a factor in the evaluation of proposals, notice of the intent to award, including the rejection of some or all proposals, shall be provided in writing to all proposers by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests regarding the award of contracts under this Rule shall be as provided for in Rule 3.11. No proposer shall be entitled to recover any costs of proposal preparation or submittal from the District.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.
Law Implemented: §§ 119.0701, 218.33, 218.391, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.3 Purchase of Insurance.

- (1) **Scope.** The purchases of life, health, accident, hospitalization, legal expense, or annuity insurance, or all of any kinds of such insurance for the officers and employees of the District, and for health, accident, hospitalization, and legal expenses upon a group insurance plan by the District, shall be governed by this Rule. This Rule does not apply to the purchase of any other type of insurance by the District, including but not limited to liability insurance, property insurance, and directors and officers insurance. Nothing in this Rule shall require the District to purchase insurance.
- (2) **Procedure.** For a purchase of insurance within the scope of these Rules, the following procedure shall be followed:
 - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared a Notice of Invitation to Bid.
 - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District. The notice shall allow at least fourteen (14) days for submittal of bids.
 - (c) The District may maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid. The District shall make reasonable efforts to provide copies of any notices to such persons, but the failure to do so shall not give such consultants any bid protest or other rights or otherwise disqualify any otherwise valid procurement process.
 - (d) Bids shall be opened at the time and place noted in the Invitation to Bid.
 - (e) If only one (1) response to an Invitation is received, the District may proceed with the purchase. If no response to an Invitation to Bid is received, the District may take whatever steps are reasonably necessary in order to proceed with the purchase.
 - (f) The Board has the right to reject any and all bids and such reservations shall be included in all solicitations and advertisements.
 - (g) Simultaneously with the review of the submitted bids, the District may undertake negotiations with those companies that have submitted reasonable and timely bids and, in the opinion of the District, are fully qualified and capable of meeting all services and requirements. Bid responses shall be evaluated in accordance with the specifications and criteria contained in the Invitation to Bid; in addition, the total cost to the District, the cost, if any, to the District officers, employees, or their dependents, the geographic location of the company's headquarters and offices in relation to the District, and the ability of the company to guarantee premium stability may be considered. A contract to purchase

insurance shall be awarded to that company whose response to the Invitation to Bid best meets the overall needs of the District, its officers, employees, and/or dependents.

- (h) Notice of the intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, shall be provided in writing to all bidders by United States Mail, by hand delivery, or by overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's procurement of insurance under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.
Law Implemented: § 112.08, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.4 Pre-qualification

- (1) **Scope.** In its discretion, the District may undertake a pre-qualification process in accordance with this Rule for vendors to provide construction services, goods, supplies, and materials, Contractual Services, and maintenance services.
- (2) **Procedure.** When the District seeks to pre-qualify vendors, the following procedures shall apply:
 - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared a Request for Qualifications.
 - (b) For construction services exceeding the thresholds described in Section 255.20 of the Florida Statutes, the Board must advertise the proposed pre-qualification criteria and procedures and allow at least seven (7) days notice of the public hearing for comments on such pre-qualification criteria and procedures. At such public hearing, potential vendors may object to such pre-qualification criteria and procedures. Following such public hearing, the Board shall formally adopt pre-qualification criteria and procedures prior to the advertisement of the Request for Qualifications for construction services.
 - (c) The Request for Qualifications shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District and within the county in which the District is located. The notice shall allow at least seven (7) days for submittal of qualifications for goods, supplies and materials, Contractual Services, maintenance services, and construction services under two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000). The notice shall allow at least twenty-one (21) days for submittal of qualifications for construction services estimated to cost over two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) and thirty (30) days for construction services estimated to cost over five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).
 - (d) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Requests for Qualifications. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any pre-qualification determination or contract awarded in accordance with these Rules and shall not be a basis for a protest of any pre-qualification determination or contract award.
 - (e) If the District has pre-qualified vendors for a particular category of purchase, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies or

responses in response to the applicable Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

- (f) In order to be eligible to submit qualifications, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the qualifications:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
 - (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the vendor is a corporation; and
 - (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Request for Qualifications.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the qualifications if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the qualifications.

- (g) Qualifications shall be presented to the Board, or a committee appointed by the Board, for evaluation in accordance with the Request for Qualifications and this Rule. Minor variations in the qualifications may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature.
- (h) All vendors determined by the District to meet the pre-qualification requirements shall be pre-qualified. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the requirements contained in a Request for Qualifications, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of qualifications. For construction services, any contractor pre-qualified and considered eligible by the Department of Transportation to bid to perform the type of work the project entails shall be presumed to be qualified to perform the project.
- (i) The Board shall have the right to reject all qualifications if there are not enough to be competitive or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No vendor shall be entitled to recover any costs of qualification preparation or submittal from the District.

(j) Notice of intent to pre-qualify, including rejection of some or all qualifications, shall be provided in writing to all vendors by United States Mail, electronic mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's pre-qualification decisions under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11; provided however, protests related to the pre-qualification criteria and procedures for construction services shall be resolved in accordance with section (2)(b) of this Rule and Section 255.20(1)(b) of the Florida Statutes.

(3) Suspension, Revocation, or Denial of Qualification

(a) The District, for good cause, may deny, suspend, or revoke a prequalified vendor's pre-qualified status. A suspension, revocation, or denial for good cause shall prohibit the vendor from bidding on any District construction contract for which qualification is required, shall constitute a determination of non-responsibility to bid on any other District construction or maintenance contract, and shall prohibit the vendor from acting as a material supplier or subcontractor on any District contract or project during the period of suspension, revocation, or denial. Good cause shall include the following:

- i. One of the circumstances specified under Section 337.16(2), Fla. Stat., has occurred.
- ii. Affiliated contractors submitted more than one proposal for the same work. In this event the pre-qualified status of all of the affiliated bidders will be revoked, suspended, or denied. All bids of affiliated bidders will be rejected.
- iii. The vendor made or submitted false, deceptive, or fraudulent statements, certifications, or materials in any claim for payment or any information required by any District contract.
- iv. The vendor or its affiliate defaulted on any contract or a contract surety assumed control of financial responsibility for any contract of the vendor.
- v. The vendor's qualification to bid is suspended, revoked, or denied by any other public or semi-public entity, or the vendor has been the subject of a civil enforcement proceeding or settlement involving a public or semi-public entity.
- vi. The vendor failed to comply with contract or warranty requirements or failed to follow District direction in the performance of a contract.

- vii. The vendor failed to timely furnish all contract documents required by the contract specifications, special provisions, or by any state or federal statutes or regulations. If the vendor fails to furnish any of the subject contract documents by the expiration of the period of suspension, revocation, or denial set forth above, the vendor's pre-qualified status shall remain suspended, revoked, or denied until the documents are furnished.
 - viii. The vendor failed to notify the District within 10 days of the vendor, or any of its affiliates, being declared in default or otherwise not completing work on a contract or being suspended from qualification to bid or denied qualification to bid by any other public or semi-public agency.
 - ix. The vendor did not pay its subcontractors or suppliers in a timely manner or in compliance with contract documents.
 - x. The vendor has demonstrated instances of poor or unsatisfactory performance, deficient management resulting in project delay, poor quality workmanship, a history of payment of liquidated damages, untimely completion of projects, uncooperative attitude, contract litigation, inflated claims or defaults.
 - xi. An affiliate of the vendor has previously been determined by the District to be non-responsible, and the specified period of suspension, revocation, denial, or non-responsibility remains in effect.
 - xii. The vendor or affiliate(s) has been convicted of a contract crime.
 - 1. The term "contract crime" means any violation of state or federal antitrust laws with respect to a public contract or any violation of any state or federal law involving fraud, bribery, collusion, conspiracy, or material misrepresentation with respect to a public contract.
 - 2. The term "convicted" or "conviction" means a finding of guilt or a conviction of a contract crime, with or without an adjudication of guilt, in any federal or state trial court of record as a result of a jury verdict, nonjury trial, or entry of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere.
- (b) A denial, suspension, or revocation shall prohibit the vendor from being a subcontractor on District work during the period of denial, suspension, or revocation, except when a prime contractor's bid has used prices of a subcontractor who becomes disqualified after the bid, but before the request for authorization to sublet is presented.

- (c) The District shall inform the vendor in writing of its intent to deny, suspend, or revoke its pre-qualified status and inform the vendor of its right to a hearing, the procedure which must be followed, and the applicable time limits. If a hearing is requested within 10 days after the receipt of the notice of intent, the hearing shall be held within 30 days after receipt by the District of the request for the hearing. The decision shall be issued within 15 days after the hearing.
- (d) Such suspension or revocation shall not affect the vendor's obligations under any preexisting contract.
- (e) In the case of contract crimes, the vendor's pre-qualified status under this Rule shall be revoked indefinitely. For all violations of Rule 3.4(3)(a) other than for the vendor's conviction for contract crimes, the revocation, denial, or suspension of a vendor's pre-qualified status under this Rule shall be for a specific period of time based on the seriousness of the deficiency.

Examples of factors affecting the seriousness of a deficiency are:

- i. Impacts on project schedule, cost, or quality of work;
- ii. Unsafe conditions allowed to exist;
- iii. Complaints from the public;
- iv. Delay or interference with the bidding process;
- v. The potential for repetition;
- vi. Integrity of the public contracting process;
- vii. Effect on the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.
Law Implemented: §§ 190.033, 255.0525, 255.20, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.5 Construction Contracts, Not Design-Build.

- (1) **Scope.** All contracts for the construction or improvement of any building, structure, or other public construction works authorized by Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes, the costs of which are estimated by the District in accordance with generally accepted cost accounting principles to be in excess of the threshold amount for applicability of Section 255.20 of the Florida Statutes, as that amount may be indexed or amended from time to time, shall be let under the terms of these Rules and the procedures of Section 255.20 of the Florida Statutes, as the same may be amended from time to time. A project shall not be divided solely to avoid the threshold bidding requirements.
- (2) **Procedure.** When a purchase of construction services is within the scope of this Rule, the following procedures shall apply:
 - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.
 - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the District and in the county in which the District is located. The notice shall also include the amount of the bid bond, if one is required. The notice shall allow at least twenty-one (21) days for submittal of sealed bids, proposals, replies, or responses, unless the Board, for good cause, determines a shorter period of time is appropriate. Any project projected to cost more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be noticed at least thirty (30) days prior to the date for submittal of bids, proposals, replies, or responses. If the Board has previously pre-qualified contractors pursuant to Rule 3.4 and determined that only the contractors that have been pre-qualified will be permitted to submit bids, proposals, replies, and responses, the Notice of Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation need not be published. Instead, the Notice of Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be sent to the pre-qualified contractors by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service.
 - (c) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, and Competitive Solicitations. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.

- (d) If the District has pre-qualified providers of construction services, then, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies, or responses to Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, and Competitive Solicitations.
- (e) In order to be eligible to submit a bid, proposal, reply, or response, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the bids, proposals, replies, or responses:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
 - (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the bidder is a corporation; and
 - (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

Any contractor that has been found guilty by a court of any violation of federal labor or employment tax laws regarding subjects including but not limited to, reemployment assistance, safety, tax withholding, worker's compensation, unemployment tax, social security and Medicare tax, wage or hour, or prevailing rate laws within the past 5 years may be considered ineligible by the District to submit a bid, response, or proposal for a District project.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the bid, proposal, reply, or response, if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the bid, proposal, reply, or response.

- (f) Bids, proposals, replies, and responses, or the portions of which that include the price, shall be publicly opened at a meeting noticed in accordance with Rule 1.3, and at which at least one district representative is present. The name of each bidder and the price submitted in the bid shall be announced at such meeting and shall be made available upon request. Minutes should be taken at the meeting and maintained by the District. Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be evaluated in

accordance with the respective Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation and these Rules. Minor variations in the bids, proposals, replies, or responses may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature. Mistakes in arithmetic extension of pricing may be corrected by the Board. Bids and proposals may not be modified or supplemented after opening; provided however, additional information may be requested and/or provided to evidence compliance, make non-material modifications, clarifications, or supplementations, and as otherwise permitted by Florida law.

- (g) The lowest Responsive Bid submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder in response to an Invitation to Bid shall be accepted. In relation to a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, the Board shall select the Responsive Proposal, Reply, or Response submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Vendor which is most advantageous to the District. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the solicitation requirements contained in a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion, preparation, and revision of bids, proposals, replies, and responses.
- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No contractor shall be entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, response, or reply preparation or submittal from the District.
- (i) The Board may require potential contractors to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
- (j) — Notice of intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, proposals, replies, or responses, shall be provided in writing to all contractors by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's purchase of construction services under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

- (k) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase construction services or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may proceed with the procurement of construction services, in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the construction services without further competitive selection processes.

- (3) **Sole Source: Government.** Construction services that are only available from a single source are exempt from this Rule. Construction services provided by governmental agencies are exempt from this Rule. This Rule shall not apply to the purchase of construction services, which may include goods, supplies, or materials, that are purchased under a federal, state, or local government contract that has been competitively procured by such federal, state, or local government in a manner consistent with the material procurement requirements of these Rules. A contract for construction services is exempt from this Rule if state or federal law prescribes with whom the District must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the appropriation process.

- (4) **Contracts: Public Records.** In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.

- (5) **Emergency Purchases.** The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board Meeting.

- (6) **Exceptions.** This Rule is inapplicable when:
 - (a) The project is undertaken as repair or maintenance of an existing public facility;
 - (b) The funding source of the project will be diminished or lost because the time required to competitively award the project after the funds become available exceeds the time within which the funding source must be spent;
 - (c) The District has competitively awarded a project and the contractor has abandoned the project or the District has terminated the contract; or
 - (d) The District, after public notice, conducts a public meeting under Section 286.011 of the Florida Statutes, and finds by a majority vote of the Board that it is in the public's best interest to perform the project using its own services, employees, and equipment.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

Law Implemented: §§ 119.0701, 189.053, 190.033, 255.0518, 255.0525, 255.20, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.6 Construction Contracts, Design-Build.

- (1) **Scope.** The District may utilize Design-Build Contracts for any public construction project for which the Board determines that use of such contract is in the best interest of the District. When letting a Design-Build Contract, the District shall use the following procedure:
- (2) **Procedure.**
 - (a) The District shall utilize a Design Criteria Professional meeting the requirements of Section 287.055(2)(k) of the Florida Statutes, when developing a Design Criteria Package, evaluating the proposals and qualifications submitted by Design-Build Firms, and determining compliance of the project construction with the Design Criteria Package. The Design Criteria Professional may be an employee of the District, may be the District Engineer selected by the District pursuant to Section 287.055 of the Florida Statutes, or may be retained pursuant to Rule 3.1. The Design Criteria Professional is not eligible to render services under a Design-Build Contract executed pursuant to the Design Criteria Package.
 - (b) A Design Criteria Package for the construction project shall be prepared and sealed by the Design Criteria Professional. If the project utilizes existing plans, the Design Criteria Professional shall create a Design Criteria Package by supplementing the plans with project specific requirements, if any.
 - (c) The Board may either choose to award the Design-Build Contract pursuant to the competitive proposal selection process set forth in Section 287.055(9) of the Florida Statutes, or pursuant to the qualifications-based selection process pursuant to Rule 3.1.
 - (i) **Qualifications-Based Selection.** If the process set forth in Rule 3.1 is utilized, subsequent to competitive negotiations, a guaranteed maximum price and guaranteed completion date shall be established.
 - (ii) **Competitive Proposal-Based Selection.** If the competitive proposal selection process is utilized, the Board, in consultation with the Design Criteria Professional, shall establish the criteria, standards and procedures for the evaluation of Design-Build Proposals based on price, technical, and design aspects of the project, weighted for the project. After a Design Criteria Package and the standards and procedures for evaluation of proposals have been developed, competitive proposals from qualified firms shall be solicited pursuant to the design criteria by the following procedure:

1. A Request for Proposals shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the District is located. The notice shall allow at least twenty-one (21) days for submittal of sealed proposals, unless the Board, for good cause, determines a shorter period of time is appropriate. Any project projected to cost more than five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) must be noticed at least thirty (30) days prior to the date for submittal of proposals.
2. The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Requests for Proposals. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.
3. In order to be eligible to submit a proposal, a firm must, at the time of receipt of the proposals:
 - a. Hold the required applicable state professional licenses in good standing, as defined by Section 287.055(2)(h) of the Florida Statutes;
 - b. Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;
 - c. Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the proposer is a corporation;
 - d. Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Request for Proposals and Design Criteria Package.

Any contractor that has been found guilty by a court of any violation of federal labor or employment tax laws regarding subjects including but not limited to reemployment assistance, safety, tax withholding, worker's compensation, unemployment tax, social security and Medicare tax, wage or hour, or prevailing rate laws within the past 5 years may

be considered ineligible by the District to submit a bid, response, or proposal for a District project.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the proposal if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the proposal.

4. The proposals, or the portions of which that include the price, shall be publicly opened at a meeting noticed in accordance with Rule 1.3, and at which at least one district representative is present. The name of each bidder and the price submitted in the bid shall be announced at such meeting and shall be made available upon request. Minutes should be taken at the meeting and maintained by the District. In consultation with the Design Criteria Professional, the Board shall evaluate the proposals received based on evaluation criteria and procedures established prior to the solicitation of proposals, including but not limited to qualifications, availability, and past work of the firms and the partners and members thereof. The Board shall then select no fewer than three (3) Design-Build Firms as the most qualified.
5. The Board shall have the right to reject all proposals if the proposals are too high, or rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No vendor shall be entitled to recover any costs of proposal preparation or submittal from the District.
6. If less than three (3) Responsive Proposals are received, the District may purchase design-build services or may reject the proposals for lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Proposals are received, the District may proceed with the procurement of design-build services in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the design-build services without further competitive selection processes.
7. Notice of the rankings adopted by the Board, including the rejection of some or all proposals, shall be provided in writing to all consultants by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the

Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's rankings under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.

8. The Board shall negotiate a contract with the firm ranking the highest based on the evaluation standards and shall establish a price which the Board determines is fair, competitive and reasonable. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the second most qualified firm, based on the ranking by the evaluation standards. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the second most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the third most qualified firm. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm considered to be the third most qualified at a price considered by the Board to be fair, competitive, and reasonable, negotiations with that firm must be terminated. Should the Board be unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the selected firms, the Board shall select additional firms in order of their rankings based on the evaluation standards and continue negotiations until an agreement is reached or the list of firms is exhausted.
 9. After the Board contracts with a firm, the firm shall bring to the Board for approval, detailed working drawings of the project.
 10. The Design Criteria Professional shall evaluate the compliance of the detailed working drawings and project construction with the Design Criteria Package and shall provide the Board with a report of the same.
- (3) Contracts; Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
 - (4) Emergency Purchase. The Board may, in case of public emergency, declare an emergency and immediately proceed with negotiations with the best qualified

Design-Build Firm available at the time. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

- (5) Exceptions. This Rule is inapplicable when:
- (a) The project is undertaken as repair or maintenance of an existing public facility;
 - (b) The funding source of the project will be diminished or lost because the time required to competitively award the project after the funds become available exceeds the time within which the funding source must be spent;
 - (c) The District has competitively awarded a project and the contractor has abandoned the project or the District has terminated the contractor; or
 - (d) The District, after public notice, conducts a public meeting under Section 286.011 of the Florida Statutes, and finds by a majority vote of the Board that it is in the public's best interest to perform the project using its own services, employees, and equipment.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

Law Implemented: §§ 119.0701, 189.053, 190.033, 255.0518, 255.0525, 255.20, 287.055, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.7 Payment and Performance Bonds.

- (1) **Scope.** This Rule shall apply to contracts for the construction of a public building, for the prosecution and completion of a public work, or for repairs upon a public building or public work and shall be construed in addition to terms prescribed by any other Rule that may also apply to such contracts.
- (2) **Required Bond.** Upon entering into a contract for any of the services described in section (1) of this Rule in excess of \$200,000, the Board should require that the contractor, before commencing the work, execute and record a payment and performance bond in an amount equal to the contract price. Notwithstanding the terms of the contract or any other law, the District may not make payment to the contractor until the contractor has provided to the District a certified copy of the recorded bond.
- (3) **Discretionary Bond.** At the discretion of the Board, upon entering into a contract for any of the services described in section (1) of this Rule for an amount not exceeding \$200,000, the contractor may be exempted from executing a payment and performance bond.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.
Law Implemented: § 255.05, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.8 Goods, Supplies, and Materials.

- (1) **Purpose and Scope.** All purchases of goods, supplies, or materials exceeding the amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FOUR, shall be purchased under the terms of this Rule. Contracts for purchases of "goods, supplies, and materials" do not include printing, insurance, advertising, or legal notices. A contract involving goods, supplies, or materials plus maintenance services may, in the discretion of the Board, be treated as a contract for maintenance services. However, a purchase shall not be divided solely in order to avoid the threshold bidding requirements.
- (2) **Procedure.** When a purchase of goods, supplies, or materials is within the scope of this Rule, the following procedures shall apply:
 - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.
 - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District and within the county in which the District is located. The notice shall also include the amount of the bid bond, if one is required. The notice shall allow at least seven (7) days for submittal of bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
 - (c) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitations. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.
 - (d) If the District has pre-qualified suppliers of goods, supplies, and materials, then, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
 - (e) In order to be eligible to submit a bid, proposal, reply, or response, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the bids, proposals, replies, or responses:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;

- (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the vendor is a corporation; and
- (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the bid, proposal, reply or response if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the bid, proposal, reply, or response.

Any firm or individual whose principal place of business is outside the State of Florida must also submit a written opinion of an attorney at law licensed to practice law in that foreign state, as to the preferences, if any or none, granted by the law of that foreign state to business entities whose principal places of business are in that foreign state, in the letting of any or all public contracts. Failure to submit such a written opinion or submission of a false or misleading written opinion may be grounds for rejection of the bid, proposal, reply, or response.

- (f) Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be publicly opened at the time and place noted on the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation. Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be evaluated in accordance with the respective Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, and this Rule. Minor variations in the bids, proposals, replies, or responses may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature. Mistakes in arithmetic extension of pricing may be corrected by the Board. Bids and proposals may not be modified or supplemented after opening; provided however, additional information may be requested and/or provided to evidence compliance, make non-material modifications, clarifications, or supplementations, and as otherwise permitted by Florida law.
- (g) The lowest Responsive Bid, after taking into account the preferences provided for in this subsection, submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder in response to an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be accepted. If the lowest Responsive Bid is submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder whose principal place of business is located in a foreign state which does not grant a preference in competitive purchase to businesses whose principal place of business are in that foreign state, the

lowest Responsible and Responsive Bidder whose principal place of business is in the State of Florida shall be awarded a preference of five (5) percent. If the lowest Responsive Bid is submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder whose principal place of business is located in a foreign state which grants a preference in competitive purchase to businesses whose principal place of business are in that foreign state, the lowest Responsible and Responsive Bidder whose principal place of business is in the State of Florida shall be awarded a preference equal to the preference granted by such foreign state.

To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the solicitation requirements contained in an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion, preparation, and revision of bids, proposals, replies, and responses.

- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No vendor shall be entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, reply, or response preparation or submittal from the District.
- (i) The Board may require bidders and proposers to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
- (j) Notice of intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, proposals, replies, or responses shall be provided in writing to all vendors by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's purchase of goods, supplies, and materials under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.
- (k) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase goods, supplies, or materials, or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may proceed with the procurement of goods, supplies, and materials, in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct

purchase of the goods, supplies, and materials without further competitive selection processes.

- (3) Goods, Supplies, and Materials included in a Construction Contract Awarded Pursuant to Rule 3.5 or 3.6. There may be occasions where the District has undergone the competitive purchase of construction services which contract may include the provision of goods, supplies, or materials. In that instance, the District may approve a change order to the contract and directly purchase the goods, supplies, and materials. Such purchase of goods, supplies, and materials deducted from a competitively purchased construction contract shall be exempt from this Rule.
- (4) Exemption. Goods, supplies, and materials that are only available from a single source are exempt from this Rule. Goods, supplies, and materials provided by governmental agencies are exempt from this Rule. A contract for goods, supplies, or materials is exempt from this Rule if state or federal law prescribes with whom the District must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the appropriation process. This Rule shall not apply to the purchase of goods, supplies or materials that are purchased under a federal, state, or local government contract that has been competitively procured by such federal, state, or local government in a manner consistent with the material procurement requirements of these Rules.
- (5) Renewal. Contracts for the purchase of goods, supplies, and/or materials subject to this Rule may be renewed for a maximum period of five (5) years.
- (6) Emergency Purchases. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

Law Implemented: §§ 189.053, 190.033, 287.017, 287.084, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.9 Maintenance Services.

- (1) **Scope.** All contracts for maintenance of any District facility or project shall be set under the terms of this Rule if the cost exceeds the amount provided in Section 287.017 of the Florida Statutes, for CATEGORY FOUR. A contract involving goods, supplies, and materials plus maintenance services may, in the discretion of the Board, be treated as a contract for maintenance services. However, a purchase shall not be divided solely in order to avoid the threshold bidding requirements.
- (2) **Procedure.** When a purchase of maintenance services is within the scope of this Rule, the following procedures shall apply:
 - (a) The Board shall cause to be prepared an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.
 - (b) Notice of the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation shall be advertised at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the District and within the county in which the District is located. The notice shall also include the amount of the bid bond, if one is required. The notice shall allow at least seven (7) days for submittal of bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
 - (c) The District may maintain lists of persons interested in receiving notices of Invitations to Bid, Requests for Proposals, Invitations to Negotiate, and Competitive Solicitations. The District shall make a good faith effort to provide written notice, by electronic mail, United States Mail, hand delivery, or facsimile, to persons who provide their name and address to the District Manager for inclusion on the list. However, failure of a person to receive the notice shall not invalidate any contract awarded in accordance with this Rule and shall not be a basis for a protest of any contract award.
 - (d) If the District has pre-qualified suppliers of maintenance services, then, at the option of the District, only those persons who have been pre-qualified will be eligible to submit bids, proposals, replies, and responses.
 - (e) In order to be eligible to submit a bid, proposal, reply, or response, a firm or individual must, at the time of receipt of the bids, proposals, replies, or responses:
 - (i) Hold all required applicable state professional licenses in good standing;
 - (ii) Hold all required applicable federal licenses in good standing, if any;

- (iii) Hold a current and active Florida corporate charter or be authorized to do business in the State of Florida in accordance with Chapter 607 of the Florida Statutes, if the vendor is a corporation; and
- (iv) Meet any special pre-qualification requirements set forth in the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation.

Evidence of compliance with these Rules must be submitted with the bid, proposal, reply, or response if required by the District. Failure to submit evidence of compliance when required may be grounds for rejection of the bid, proposal, reply, or response.

- (f) Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be publicly opened at the time and place noted on the Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation. Bids, proposals, replies, and responses shall be evaluated in accordance with the respective Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, and these Rules. Minor variations in the bids, proposals, replies, and responses may be waived by the Board. A variation is minor if waiver of the variation does not create a competitive advantage or disadvantage of a material nature. Mistakes in arithmetic extension of pricing may be corrected by the Board. Bids and proposals may not be modified or supplemented after opening; provided however, additional information may be requested and/or provided to evidence compliance, make non-material modifications, clarifications, or supplementations, and as otherwise permitted by Florida law.
- (g) The lowest Responsive Bid submitted in response to an Invitation to Bid by a Responsive and Responsible Bidder shall be accepted. In relation to a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate or Competitive Solicitation the Board shall select the Responsive Proposal, Reply, or Response submitted by a Responsive and Responsible Vendor which is most advantageous to the District. To assure full understanding of the responsiveness to the solicitation requirements contained in a Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, discussions may be conducted with qualified vendors. Vendors shall be accorded fair treatment prior to the submittal date with respect to any opportunity for discussion, preparation, and revision of bids, proposals, replies, or responses.
- (h) The Board shall have the right to reject all bids, proposals, replies, or responses because they exceed the amount of funds budgeted for the purchase, if there are not enough to be competitive, or if rejection is determined to be in the best interest of the District. No Vendor shall be

entitled to recover any costs of bid, proposal, reply, or response preparation or submittal from the District.

- (i) The Board may require bidders and proposers to furnish bid bonds, performance bonds, and/or other bonds with a responsible surety to be approved by the Board.
 - (j) Notice of intent to award, including rejection of some or all bids, proposals, replies, or responses shall be provided in writing to all vendors by United States Mail, hand delivery, facsimile, or overnight delivery service. The notice shall include the following statement: "Failure to file a protest within the time prescribed in Rule 3.11 of the Rules of the District shall constitute a waiver of proceedings under those Rules," or wording to that effect. Protests of the District's procurement of maintenance services under this Rule shall be in accordance with the procedures set forth in Rule 3.11.
 - (k) If less than three (3) Responsive Bids, Proposals, Replies, or Responses are received, the District may purchase the maintenance services or may reject the bids, proposals, replies, or responses for a lack of competitiveness. If no Responsive Bid, Proposal, Reply, or Response is received, the District may proceed with the procurement of maintenance services, in the manner the Board determines is in the best interests of the District, which may include but is not limited to a direct purchase of the maintenance services without further competitive selection processes.
- (3) Exemptions. Maintenance services that are only available from a single source are exempt from this Rule. Maintenance services provided by governmental agencies are exempt from this Rule. A contract for maintenance services is exempt from this Rule if state or federal law prescribes with whom the District must contract or if the rate of payment is established during the appropriation process.
- (4) Renewal. Contracts for the purchase of maintenance services subject to this Rule may be renewed for a maximum period of five (5) years.
- (5) Contracts: Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract entered into pursuant to this Rule shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.
- (6) Emergency Purchases. The District may make an Emergency Purchase without complying with these rules. The fact that an Emergency Purchase has occurred or is necessary shall be noted in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), 190.033, Fla. Stat.
Law Implemented: §§ 119.0701, 190.033, 287.017, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.10 Contractual Services.

- (1) Exemption from Competitive Purchase. Pursuant to Section 190.033(3) of the Florida Statutes, Contractual Services shall not be subject to competitive purchasing requirements. If an agreement is predominantly for Contractual Services, but also includes maintenance services or the purchase of goods and services, the contract shall not be subject to competitive purchasing requirements. Regardless of whether an advertisement or solicitation for Contractual Services is identified as an Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Negotiate, or Competitive Solicitation, no rights or remedies under these Rules, including but not limited to protest rights, are conferred on persons, firms, or vendors proposing to provide Contractual Services to the District.

- (2) Contracts: Public Records. In accordance with Florida law, each contract for Contractual Services shall include provisions required by law that require the contractor to comply with public records laws.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.
Law Implemented: §§ 119.0701, 190.011(3), 190.033, Fla. Stat.

Rule 3.11 Protests with Respect to Proceedings under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, and 3.9.

The resolution of any protests with respect to proceedings under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, and 3.9 shall be in accordance with this Rule.

(1) Filing.

- (a) With respect to a protest regarding qualifications, specifications, documentation, or other requirements contained in a Request for Qualifications, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Bid, or Competitive Solicitation issued by the District, the notice of protest shall be filed in writing within seventy-two (72) calendar hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) after the first advertisement of the Request for Qualifications, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Bid, or Competitive Solicitation. A formal protest setting forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based shall be filed within seven (7) calendar days (including Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) after the initial notice of protest was filed. For purposes of this Rule, wherever applicable, filing will be perfected and deemed to have occurred upon receipt by the District. Failure to file a notice of protest shall constitute a waiver of all rights to protest the District's intended decision. Failure to file a formal written protest shall constitute an abandonment of the protest proceedings and shall automatically terminate the protest proceedings.
- (b) Except for those situations covered by subsection (1)(a) of this Rule, any firm or person who is affected adversely by a District's ranking or intended award under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, or 3.9 and desires to contest the District's ranking or intended award, shall file with the District a written notice of protest within seventy-two (72) calendar hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) after receipt of the notice of the District's ranking or intended award. A formal protest setting forth with particularity the facts and law upon which the protest is based shall be filed within seven (7) calendar days (including Saturdays, Sundays, and state holidays) after the initial notice of protest was filed. For purposes of this Rule, wherever applicable, filing will be perfected and deemed to have occurred upon receipt by the District. Failure to file a notice of protest shall constitute a waiver of all rights to protest the District's ranking or intended award. Failure to file a formal written protest shall constitute an abandonment of the protest proceedings and shall automatically terminate the protest proceedings.
- (c) If the requirement for the posting of a protest bond and the amount of the protest bond, which may be expressed by a percentage of the contract to be awarded or a set amount, is disclosed in the District's competitive solicitation documents for a particular purchase under Rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3,

3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.8, or 3.9, any person who files a notice of protest must post the protest bond. The amount of the protest bond shall be determined by District staff after consultation with the Board and within the limits, if any, imposed by Florida law. In the event the protest is successful, the protest bond shall be refunded to the protestor. In the event the protest is unsuccessful, the protest bond shall be applied towards the District's costs, expenses, and attorney's fees associated with hearing and defending the protest. In the event the protest is settled by mutual agreement of the parties, the protest bond shall be distributed as agreed to by the District and protestor.

(d) The District does not accept documents filed by electronic mail or facsimile transmission. Filings are only accepted during normal business hours.

- (2) Contract Execution. Upon receipt of a notice of protest which has been timely filed, the District shall not execute the contract under protest until the subject of the protest is resolved. However, if the District sets forth in writing particular facts and circumstances showing that delay incident to protest proceedings will jeopardize the funding for the project, will materially increase the cost of the project, or will create an immediate and serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, the contract may be executed.
- (3) Informal Proceeding. If the Board determines a protest does not involve a disputed issue of material fact, the Board may, but is not obligated to, schedule an informal proceeding to consider the protest. Such informal proceeding shall be at a time and place determined by the Board. Notice of such proceeding shall be sent via facsimile, United States Mail, or hand delivery to the protestor and any substantially affected persons or parties not less than three (3) calendar days prior to such informal proceeding. Within thirty (30) calendar days following the informal proceeding, the Board shall issue a written decision setting forth the factual, legal, and policy grounds for its decision.
- (4) Formal Proceeding. If the Board determines a protest involves disputed issues of material fact or if the Board elects not to use the informal proceeding process provided for in section (3) of this Rule, the District shall schedule a formal hearing to resolve the protest. The Chairperson shall designate any member of the Board (including the Chairperson), District Manager, District Counsel, or other person as a hearing officer to conduct the hearing. The hearing officer may:
 - (a) Administer oaths and affirmations;
 - (b) Rule upon offers of proof and receive relevant evidence;
 - (c) Regulate the course of the hearing, including any pre-hearing matters;

- (d) Enter orders; and
- (e) Make or receive offers of settlement, stipulation, and adjustment.

The hearing officer shall, within thirty (30) days after the hearing or receipt of the hearing transcript, whichever is later, file a recommended order which shall include a caption, time and place of hearing, appearances entered at the hearing, statement of the issues, findings of fact and conclusions of law, separately stated, and a recommendation for final District action. The District shall allow each party fifteen (15) days in which to submit written exceptions to the recommended order. The District shall issue a final order within sixty (60) days after the filing of the recommended order.

- (5) Intervenors. Other substantially affected persons may join the proceedings as intervenors on appropriate terms which shall not unduly delay the proceedings.
- (6) Rejection of all Qualifications, Bids, Proposals, Replies and Responses after Receipt of Notice of Protest. If the Board determines there was a violation of law, defect, or an irregularity in the competitive solicitation process, the Bids, Proposals, Replies, and Responses are too high, or if the Board determines it is otherwise in the District's best interest, the Board may reject all qualifications, bids, proposals, replies, and responses and start the competitive solicitation process anew. If the Board decides to reject all qualifications, bids, proposals, replies, and responses and start the competitive solicitation process anew, any pending protests shall automatically terminate.
- (7) Settlement. Nothing herein shall preclude the settlement of any protest under this Rule at any time.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.
Law Implemented: § 190.033, Fla. Stat.

Rule 4.0 Effective Date.

These Rules shall be effective November 13, 2019, except that no election of officers required by these Rules shall be required until after the next regular election for the Board.

Specific Authority: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

Law Implemented: §§ 190.011(5), 190.011(15), Fla. Stat.

SECTION H

SECTION I

RESOLUTION 2021-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE HIGHLAND MEADOWS II COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT MANAGER TO ESTABLISH AN ACCOUNT WITH THE STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION; APPOINTING THE DISTRICT MANAGER AS ITS LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE WITH RESPECT TO SAID ACCOUNT(S) AND PROVIDING FOR THE DURATION OF SAID AUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, the Highland Meadows II Community Development District (the "District") is a local unit of special purpose government created and existing under Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, and situated entirely within the City of Davenport and unincorporated Polk County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District finds that from time to time has funds on hand in excess of current needs; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest District and its landowners that said excess funds be invested to return the highest yield consistent with proper safeguards and the Districts currently adopted policies regarding the deposit of public funds.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE HIGHLAND MEADOWS II COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

1. That the District Manager, Governmental Management Services-Central Florida, LLC, ("GMS") and its designee, as legal representative(s) of the District is hereby authorized to act as the administrator(s) for funds held at the State Board of Administration.
2. The District Manager and/or its designee shall have the authority to establish an account(s) on behalf of the District with the State Board of Administration, withdraw funds from or transmit funds to said account(s) at the State Board of Administration, establish funds transfer instructions, name designee(s), and initiate changes to this information via the Investment Pool Input Document.
3. That this authorization shall be continuing in nature until revoked by District or until a new legal representative is appointed.

THIS RESOLUTION INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED by the District at its regularly scheduled meeting this 16th day of February 2021.

ATTEST:

**HIGHLAND MEADOWS II
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT**


Secretary/Assistant Secretary


Chairman/Vice Chairman

SECTION K

RESOLUTION 2023-03

A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE HIGHLAND MEADOWS II COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DESIGNATING THE LOCATION OF THE LOCAL DISTRICT RECORDS OFFICE AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Highland Meadows II Community Development District (the "District") is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, being situated entirely within the Polk County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District is statutorily required to designate a local district records office location for the purposes of affording citizens the ability to access the District's records, promoting the disclosure of matters undertaken by the District, and ensuring that the public is informed of the activities of the District in accordance with Chapter 119 and Section 190.006(7), *Florida Statutes*; and

WHEREAS, District records are available for public review and inspection at _____ with an address of _____.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE HIGHLAND MEADOWS II COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT:

SECTION 1. The District's local records office shall be located at: _____.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 20____.

ATTEST:

HIGHLAND MEADOWS II COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

SECTION L

RESOLUTION 2023-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE HIGHLAND MEADOWS II COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT DIRECTING _____, TO ESTABLISH A LOCAL BANK ACCOUNT AT _____ FOR THE DISTRICT AND APPOINT _____ AND _____ AS SIGNORS ON THE ACCOUNT AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Hicks Ditch Community Development District (the "District") is a local unit of special-purpose government created and existing pursuant to Chapter 190, *Florida Statutes*, and situated entirely within the City of Eustis, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Supervisors desires to establish a local bank account for the District and appoint _____ and _____ as signors on the account.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE HIGHLAND MEADOWS II COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT THAT:

SECTION 1. _____ is directed to establish a local bank account at _____ for the District.

SECTION 2. _____ and _____ shall be appointed as signors on the account.

SECTION 3. This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and shall remain in effect unless rescinded or repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 20____.

ATTEST:

HIGHLAND MEADOWS II COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

Secretary/Assistant Secretary

Chairperson, Board of Supervisors