

5.7.13 #16

TO: The Honorable Chairman and Members of the  
Board of County Commissioners

FROM: James L. Bennett, County Attorney *JB*

SUBJECT: Authority to Advertise a Public Hearing on a Proposed Ordinance Establishing a  
Surface Water Utility in the Unincorporated Area of Pinellas County

DATE: May 7, 2013

RECOMMENDATION: I RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ("BOARD") AUTHORIZE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A SURFACE WATER UTILITY IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF PINELLAS COUNTY. A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN INITIAL ASSESSMENT FOR SURFACE WATER UTILITY WILL BE HEARD AT THAT TIME IN THE EVENT THE ORDINANCE IS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD.

DISCUSSION: On April 30, 2013, the Board participated in a work session regarding the establishment of a Surface Water Utility. Staff provided to the Board at that time an extensive review of the surface water conditions existing in Pinellas County and the need for additional funding to improve those conditions. Staff recommended the establishment of a Surface Water Utility to create a source of funding for the improvement of existing conditions. The establishment of an Ordinance creating a Surface Water Utility requires a public hearing that is appropriately advertised. An Initial Assessment Resolution must also be established in order to give effect to the Surface Water Utility. This Resolution will be presented at the hearing if the Ordinance is adopted by the Board. The Board will need to set the date for public hearing during the month of June.

JLB:DWM:sme

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