

Information for Town Council Meeting on March 14, 2023

TO: Mayor and Town Council

VIA: Kirk W. Blouin, Town Manager

VIA: Robert Miracle, CPA, Deputy Town Manager, Finance and Administration

FROM: Dean Mealy, II, CPPO, Town Procurement and Contract Manager

RE: Resolution No. 027-2023, Approving the Award of ITB No. 2023-15 for Beach Maintenance Services to BeachKeeper, Inc. in the amount of \$82,160, establish a project budget of \$200,000 and establish a five-year award based on satisfactory performance and budget authorization in the amount of \$1,000,000

DATE: March 22, 2023

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Town Council approve Resolution No. 027-2023, Approving the Award of ITB No. 2023-15 for Beach Maintenance Services to BeachKeeper, Inc. in the amount of \$82,160, establish a project budget of \$200,000 and establish a five-year award based on satisfactory performance and budget authorization in the amount of \$1,000,000.

SUMMARY EXPLANATION/BACKGROUND

Town Procurement and Contract Management issued ITB No. 2023-15 for Beach Maintenance Services on January 26, 2023, as the existing five-year award no additional option years.

The Town advertised through DemandStar to 314 firms. In addition, Procurement and Contract Management sent invitations to 73 suppliers to participate in the solicitation. The Town received two submissions that were noted to be responsive to the bid solicitation scope. BeachKeeper, Inc. is being recommended for award based on their submission and reference checks. The incumbent vendor, Universal Beach Service Corporation did not bid for this solicitation.

2023 is expected to be a record year for sargassum washing ashore on the beaches of Florida. This is expected to impact our beaches through the summer months and into the fall. With the Town's current 5-year beach maintenance services contract expiring in May, the Town resolicited with a flexible scope of work in order to best accommodate the increased sargassum concern. The lowest responsive bid received for ITB 2023-15, Beach Maintenance Services, was from Beachkeeper, Inc. This firm has performed beach raking for many private residences and condominiums in the Town for a number of years and has a good working relationship with the Town's sea turtle nesting monitor.

The annual budget and previous beach maintenance services supported beach cleaning activities

twice-a-week, generally Mondays and Fridays, along the Town's public beaches in both Mid-Town and Phipps. The new contract with BeachKeeper will have the ability to increase the weekly cleaning frequency from twice-a-week to anything more to keep up with the demand should the volume of sargassum warrant. The new contract will also include the beaches at the north end of the Town. Although these beaches are private, this area is unique to the other beaches of the Town as the inlet jetty tends to trap large volumes of sargassum in this area.

The beach maintenance services scope with BeachKeeper includes picking up trash and debris before raking the beaches. Consistent with previous years, raked sargassum will be buried in the wet beach.

Should the volume of sargassum reach a point that burying in the wet beach becomes unsustainable, the Town has been working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to come up with a pilot project of alternative actions to take that are mindful to sea turtle nesting. These alternatives include placing the sargassum along the inlet jetty and covering with sand (to create a buffer for turtles from getting caught in the jetty) or excavating deep holes in the dry beach within our nourishment areas and burying the sargassum with at least 3 feet of sand. Any of these activities are outside of the typical procedures for handling sargassum. The Town has committed to additional sea turtle nesting monitoring if it becomes necessary to take these actions. Such monitoring could track what influence these actions have on nesting and whether statewide policies can be adjusted based on the monitoring results. In order to accomplish these added tasks, the Town performed a solicitation in late 2022 to have contractors pre-qualified for sargassum and debris removal.

FUNDING IMPACT/FUNDING SOURCE

The funding for this project is from the Coastal Fund.

USER DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE

The Public Works Department is in full concurrence with this recommendation.

TOWN ATTORNEY REVIEW

This format has been utilized by the Town in previous recommendations and was approved by the Town Attorney.

cc: H. Paul Brazil, P.E., Director of Public Works
Patricia Strayer, P.E., Town Engineer
Robert Weber, Coastal Program Manager