

BEFORE THE
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 120172-WS

APPLICATION FOR STAFF-
ASSISTED RATE CASE IN
HIGHLANDS COUNTY BY
COUNTRY CLUB UTILITIES,
INC.

_____ /

PROCEEDINGS: COMMISSION CONFERENCE AGENDA
ITEM NO. 5

COMMISSIONERS
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN ART GRAHAM
COMMISSIONER LISA POLAK EDGAR
COMMISSIONER RONALD A. BRISÉ
COMMISSIONER EDUARDO E. BALBIS
COMMISSIONER JULIE I. BROWN

DATE: Thursday, March 13, 2014

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center
Room 148
4075 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: JANE FAUROT, RPR
Official FPSC Reporter
(850) 413-6732

P R O C E E D I N G S

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2 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Okay. We're moving on to
3 Item Number 5.

4 Staff.

5 **MR. MAUREY:** Good morning, Chairman,
6 Commissioners.

7 Item 5 relates to the application for a
8 staff-assisted rate case for Country Club Utilities in
9 Docket Number 120172. Based on staff's evaluation of
10 the documented levels of utility-related investment and
11 operating costs, it was determined that the resulting
12 revenue requirement would not support a rate increase at
13 this time.

14 We are very near the end of the 15-month
15 statutory clock for processing this application. Staff
16 is bringing a recommendation to dismiss the
17 staff-assisted rate case and close the docket.

18 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Thank you, staff.

19 Commissioner Balbis.

20 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
21 I'm just wondering, is Mr. Harris still on the
22 phone?

23 **MR. HARRIS:** I am.

24 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Mr. Harris, I have a few
25 questions about this. You indicated for the last item

1 that you have some of the lowest rates in the state and
2 you don't have the revenues to cover your expenses. Are
3 you anticipating continuing with or proceeding with the
4 staff-assisted rate case or any other filing in order to
5 address your revenues?

6 **MR. HARRIS:** It's my understanding that that
7 won't even be considered until my RAFs are paid.

8 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Okay. Assuming the RAFs
9 will be paid or there is sort of settlement agreement,
10 you would then move forward with another staff-assisted
11 rate case?

12 **MR. HARRIS:** Yes, sir.

13 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** In talking with staff
14 during my briefings, we had a lot of discussions about
15 the reasons for staff's recommending this. And one of
16 the reasons that was mentioned earlier was the fact that
17 we're up against the 15-month deadline. And what I
18 would hate to see is we move forward with staff's
19 recommendation only to have Mr. Harris file again, pay
20 another filing fee, et cetera. And I was wondering,
21 Mr. Harris, would you be willing to waive the 15-month
22 time frame so that we can keep this open, so after you
23 hopefully pay your RAFs we can proceed with addressing
24 your rates?

25 **MR. HARRIS:** Yes, sir.

1 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Okay. That might be a
2 better option. At least it would save the application
3 fees, et cetera. But I'll look to my fellow colleagues.

4 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Further discussion,
5 Commissioners?

6 **COMMISSIONER BRISÉ:** If Mr. Harris and the
7 utility is willing to work on that, I think that that
8 may be a suitable solution so that the \$2,000 that would
9 go towards applying again could go towards the RAFs, and
10 we can continue to move forward.

11 **MR. HARRIS:** I appreciate that.

12 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Further discussion from
13 Commissioners? Commissioner Balbis, is that in the form
14 of a motion -- I mean, an amendment?

15 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Yes, I can turn that
16 into a motion, and I believe the appropriate way would
17 be to move to deny staff's recommendation on Issue 1.

18 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** It has been moved and
19 seconded to deny staff recommendation on Issue Number 1,
20 which is the only issue on Item Number 5. Any further
21 discussion? I see our advising attorney reaching for a
22 microphone.

23 **MS. HELTON:** I was just going to suggest, you
24 may want to acknowledge the waiver of the statutory time
25 frame so that that can also be part of the decision.

1 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** I think Commissioner Balbis
2 may find that as a friendly amendment.

3 **COMMISSIONER BALBIS:** Yes, and I could restate
4 it. Based solely on Mr. Harris committing to waive the
5 15-month time frame, I move to deny staff's
6 recommendation on Issue 1, which is the only issue in
7 this docket.

8 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** It has been moved and
9 seconded.

10 **MR. KISER:** Mr. Chairman?

11 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Yes, Mr. Kiser.

12 **MR. KISER:** I'm okay with moving ahead with
13 the verbal acknowledgment, but I think it would also be
14 safer for him to follow that up in writing that he has
15 agreed to waive that.

16 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Okay.

17 Commissioner Edgar.

18 **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 And I'm comfortable with the direction that
20 we're going. I did wonder if, before we took a vote, we
21 might want to give some additional direction or
22 requests. I think that's in keeping with that.

23 So if I may, Mr. Harris, would you be able to
24 submit in writing your waiver of the time clock within,
25 say, the next ten days?

1 **MR. HARRIS:** Yes, ma'am.

2 **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** All right. Then I would
3 ask, Mr. Harris, that you do so. That that ten-day time
4 frame be noted for the record, and that we direct our
5 staff to proceed timely, and that if this is not moving
6 along that you bring it back before us.

7 **MR. HARRIS:** Yes, ma'am.

8 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Okay. If that was an
9 amendment, I assume that's a friendly amendment. And I
10 see Commissioner Balbis nodding his head yes. Any
11 further discussion?

12 Seeing none, all in favor say aye.

13 (Vote taken.)

14 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Any opposed?

15 By your action you have approved the Balbis
16 amendment to Item Number 5.

17 Okay.

18 **MR. HARRIS:** Thank you, Commissioners.

19 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Thank you, Mr. Harris.

20 Anything else before the Commission? Seeing
21 none, thank you all for coming. I hope y'all make it
22 back safely to your offices and to your homes, and we
23 are adjourned.

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STATE OF FLORIDA)

: CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

COUNTY OF LEON)

I, JANE FAUROT, RPR, Chief, Hearing Reporter Services Section, FPSC Division of Commission Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the same has been transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this transcript constitutes a true transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED THIS 20th day of March, 2014.



JANE FAUROT, RPR
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