

April 22, 2024

To the Commission Clerk and Martin S. Friedman

The on-going attempts to install a central sewer system here on Little Gasparilla Island has not been proved as to why it is necessary. There has been no environmental impact study done and no evidence of large-scale leakage from failing or damaged sewer mounds. The current chemical pollutants in the surrounding waters are a result of agricultural and industrial run-off into the waterways flowing into Placida and Charlotte harbors. Where are the guarantees that this same individual / corporation would not sell his, once approved, rights to the central sewer system to an unknown entity for a profit therefore increasing the final cost to each homeowner? Has the individual/corporation had any experience installing a sewer system of this magnitude in a fragile eco-system? Where are the guarantees for long term and timely maintenance? After completion where is the capital needed to execute major repairs in the event of serious widespread damage caused by a future hurricane? How will the sewage be transferred to the mainlandby pipe under a busy waterway? What contingency plans and equipment are in place in the event of a failure in the pipe be it due to poor installation and/ or damage by a vessel>

The only possible way I could possibly support a central sewer system here is after the discovery of evidence of pollution caused by the many existing sewage mounds here on island. And the contractor and long-term maintenance can only be done by Charlotte County as they not only have the experience to install these systems but also the resources to provide future maintenance and to be able to spread the cost across the entire tax base of the county making it affordable to most owners on a fixed income here.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely,
Harry Bourke
9520 Jolly Roger Trail, LGI

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