

## For Immediate Release

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## **Indiantown Council Agrees to Purchase Indiantown Company**

Decision will lead to improved water-wastewater system

**Indiantown, FL** – The Village of Indiantown Council unanimously voted on Thursday, June 25, 2020, to seek federal and state grants and loans to acquire the Indiantown Company Inc. (ICI) and upgrade the Village's outdated water-wastewater facility. The plant has not been upgraded since 1957. The Village Council agreed to issue up to \$20 million in temporary revenue bonds to jumpstart the program.

"Acquisition is just the first step in the process," said Village Manager Howard W. Brown Jr. "The resolution allows the Village to apply for grants and forgivable loans to acquire the operation, upgrade the wastewater plant and collection system, and restore the potable water plant. Eventually, the Village hopes to expand the service area."

The Village is seeking a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) State Revolving Fund (SRF) low-interest loan, in the amount of \$8.5 million, to acquire ICI's plant and facilities. Once acquired, the Village would still need to spend an estimated \$3.8 million to upgrade its wastewater operation and \$6 million for potable water improvements.

An analysis of the wastewater operation found several issues including leaking, undersized pipes, and lift station problems. The potable water system also requires several upgrades including the installation of a new membrane filtration system, that would eliminate iron deposits in the water supply, the replacement of older cast iron pipes with new less corrosive ones and increasing pipe sizes to eliminate low-flow fire safety issues. If the Village issues these bonds, the debt service would be tied directly to water and sewer rates. Alternatively, the bonds could be retired early if the necessary grants and loans are approved.

For more information on the project facilities study and frequently asked questions, please visit Indiantown Company frequently asked questions or contact Village Manager Howard Brown at hbrown@indiantownfl.gov.

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Indiantown is a rural community in Florida's Treasure Coast. First established in the early 1900s, then incorporated on December 31, 2017, Florida's youngest municipality hosts a diverse population of roughly 6,000 residents. While it may be small, its resident engagement is exemplary and its potential for community building and new business opportunity is large. The Village mission seeks to enable economic prosperity and business while building pride and cohesion through hands-on self-governance.