

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager

From: Isaac Brownman, Public Works Director
Sue Smith, Finance Director

Report date: January 21, 2021

Meeting date: February 1, 2021

Subject: Resolution 2021-03, Amending the FY21 Budget, in the Amount of \$35,000 for the Australian Pine Program Special Revenue Fund and Budget

Recommended Action

Pass Resolution 2021-03.

Background

At the December 4, 2017 Regular Meeting the Town Commission passed Resolution 2017-26, reinstating the Town's Australian Pine (A-Pine) Removal Program originally established via Resolution 2005-04. At the April 6, 2020 Regular Meeting the Town Commission passed Resolution 2020-07 approving a Budget Transfer of \$60,000 from the General Fund Contingency to the Australian Pine Program Special Revenue Fund and Budget to replenish the program.

The program provides incentives to qualifying property owners for the removal of Australian Pines demonstrating a threat to roadways, buildings, overhead and/or underground utilities. Reimbursement thresholds are offered up to \$1,800 for eligible trees that may impact Gulf of Mexico Drive and up to \$1,250 for those that may impact all other roadways, habitable structures, and/or utilities. Town staff evaluates and authorizes incentive distribution dependent on applicant qualifications and proof of existing Australian Pines with the potential to cause these negative impacts. All funds are released on a first come, first served basis.

To date, the program has successfully released incentives to approximately twenty-eight (28) qualifying applicants in the amount of \$102,009.25 resulting in the removal of ninety one (91) hazardous A-Pine since FY18. The program currently has outstanding qualified applicants pending removal of approved trees in the amount of \$30,100.00.

The fund began FY21 on October 1, 2020 with a balance of \$25,740, and has a remaining balance of \$18,491.00. To further stimulate interest in the program, staff requests an additional \$35,000.00 to replenish the fund to a FY21 total of approximately \$60,000 consistent with prior annual funding.

Article V, Section 9 (d), of the Town Charter, requires Town Commission approval for budget amendments which require the use of Fund Balance or increases the fund budgets in total.

Resolution 2021-03 provides for amendment of the General Fund and the A-Pine Special Revenue Fund adopted budgets by transferring \$35,000.00 from unappropriated General Fund Contingency to the A-Pine Tree Removal Assistance Line as shown below.

A-Pine Tree Removal Special Revenue Fund:

115-00-00-381.0001 IF TRANSFER / GENERAL FUND	<u>\$35,000.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$35,000.00
115-30-22-582-8212 AUSTRALIAN PINE TREE REMOVAL GRANT	<u>\$35,000.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$35,000.00

The amount available for program distributions after this transfer is \$53,491.00.

General Fund:

001-90-22-581.0115 IF TRANSFER / AUSTRALIAN PINE	\$35,000.00
001-10-31-599.9901 GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY	(\$35,000.00)

The amount remaining in General Fund Contingency after this transfer is \$190,000.00.

Resolution 2020-03 is being presented at your February 1, 2021 Regular Meeting for discussion and formal action.

Staff Recommendation

Pass Resolution 2021-03.

Attachments

Resolution 2021-03 (Available from Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item