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2525 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, Fla. 33931 / www.fmbgov.com

Council approves \$1 million land purchase for a future building to house upland services for the Mooring Field

Town of Fort Myers Beach, FL – At the Town Council meeting on Monday, Jan. 24, 2022, Councilors approved a resolution authorizing the Mayor, Town Manager, and Town Attorney to close the purchase of two parcels of property for \$1 million owned by Gordon Zeng.

These parcels, at 166 Chapel Street and 99 Tropical Shores Way, are about a half acre combined. They are adjacent to Town Hall in the back and face each other on both sides of the canal that connects to Estero Bay.

Their purchase provides the opportunity to expand service facilities as determined by Town Council, including a future building to house upland services for the Matanzas Pass Mooring Field. Upland services for the Mooring Field are currently leased through the Harbour House on San Carlos Boulevard in the Downtown District.

“The Town's Comprehensive Plan states that the Town should acquire property to perform the functions of a municipality and to also acquire waterfront property,” said Roger Hernstadt, Town Manager.

To assist in this purchase and construction costs, the Town will pursue State and other grants that are available for improvements to land, according to Hernstadt. He also said that the final build out net costs will be in the form of a "mortgage" to the marina operations, replacing the current monthly rent.

The Town will use contingency funds (\$400,000); loan reimbursement (\$300,000); and a reduction in other capital projects (\$300,00) to purchase the properties.

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The Town of Fort Myers Beach is on Estero Island off the southwest Florida coast facing the Gulf of Mexico and backed by Estero Bay. Known for white sugar sand and spectacular sunsets and shell finds, the Gulf beach stretches for seven miles. Incorporated since 1995, the Town has a variety of unique parks, recreation, cultural facilities, shops, and restaurants.