

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Glenn Heran | Oct 2013

The Sale to FPL is NOT yet final

The voters of Vero Beach have been overwhelmingly clear. In March 2013, 64% of the voters said "Sell Vero Electric to FPL under terms substantially similar to the asset purchase and sale agreement".

Yet the sale is far from complete. The final obstacle is the Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) and the disposition of our FMPA entitlement assets. Plan A, as part of the sale agreement, has been submitted and rejected by the FMPA. FPL and the City are working on Plan B. Regardless, it is a certainty that the future City of Vero Beach Council will be required to vote on changes to the sales contract.

For this reason, the voters must know what the 2013 City of Vero Beach candidate positions are regarding their commitment to fulfilling the will of the voters. Opposition to the sale has lately been posturing that "It's a done deal", "Nothing can stop the sale" and "It's out of City Council hands". That is precisely what those opposed to the sale want you to think. It only takes 3 votes on City Council to delay or kill the sale. Check the candidates voting history as council members. Review the candidates' public statements regarding their desire to sell Vero's inefficient and costly electric utility. Not all candidates in the upcoming election share similar views on this important issue that benefits us all.

The deal is not complete and we must be vigilant. We have spent five years and come so far. We must see this issue through and hold our elected officials accountable to make this a reality for our residents. We must identify those candidates who will guide and vote in favor of the sale process that will bring us FPL rates. The greatest economic opportunity this community has must not be defeated or delayed. The Board of County Commissioners (BCC), by a vote of 5-0, understood the importance of this issue and that the public must be protected. By investing needed resources to assist in the sale process, the BCC is doing their part. Vero Beach voters must identify those candidates who are proactive and committed to the will expressed in the referendum. Contrary to opposition spin, the sale is not a "done deal" and it certainly rests in the hands of a future council.

On Wednesday, October 16th, join the Taxpayers' Association, as we host the 2013 City of Vero Beach Council Candidate luncheon forum. Listen carefully to the candidates and ask them questions. The sale to FPL remains the single most important issue that must be secured for the future of Vero Beach.

The election is on Tuesday, November 5th and it is important that we all vote. Why is this election important? Because the sale to FPL is not yet final.

Glenn Heran