

GIS WORKSHOP OCTOBER 6, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:29 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were Mayor Paul, Vice-Mayor Starkey and Councilmembers Caletka, Hattan and Luis. Also present were Town Administrator Shimun, Mr. Rayson, and Assistant Town Clerk Roig recording the meeting.

3. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM [GIS] SOFTWARE

David Holstock, CEO of Geographic Technologies Group [GTG] described the Town's Intranet Browser solution, which had been in use for a couple of years and was very successful. He said as they were implementing the GIS strategic planner over the last three years they had also deployed some innovative tools that would allow them to map information for citizens. Mr. Holstock said the Town had already purchased the GIS software that was integrated with new ERP systems. He stated that they were in charge of building an enterprise solution that enabled all departments to access information, improve efficiency, and reduce costs.

Mr. Holstock acknowledged that they were mindful of hazard mitigation during hurricane season, and that preparedness, response and recovery from hurricanes was very important. He introduced Michael Dawson, Project Manager, to discuss the Mobile Damage Assessment Recovery Tool [DART] and the Command Center Image Operations Center. Mr. Dawson described how the Town had handled disaster management in the past, using manual forms that were later compiled, which resulted in inaccurate information. He stated GTG had worked with the Town to create this Mobile DART product that worked in conjunction with their Command Center GIS Configuration to enable live data views.

Mr. Dawson displayed screenshots of the application showing FEMA reports and different configurations of the Command Center. He explained the system was synchronizable in the field, provided Internet was available. It avoided the use of paper, which was time consuming, difficult and inaccurate. He noted that it could be customized to the Town's workflow processes.

Mr. Dawson said they performed automated field collection from the current GIS data, which allowed for quicker data entry and more accurate data. He noted the tool could be configured specific to departmental needs.

Mr. Dawson displayed more screenshots depicting how the tool worked in the field and what the forms looked like. He stated there were over 26 tools available, including assessments and debris removal, which worked in real time. Mr. Holstock explained that by the time the next hurricane came through, they should have the technology to make damage assessment reports to FEMA immediately. Mr. Dawson said the system could be configured to handle any disaster, such as a hurricane, a tornado or a plane crash.

Vice-Mayor Starkey was worried about technical glitches and manual mistakes and asked about backup that would cover this. Mr. Dawson explained that each field laptop stored its own data locally and would be backed up by the Town's IT backup processes. If mistakes were made, they could be modified with standard GIS or an editing tool. Mr. Dawson said synchronization was a two-way street, when one laptop was synchronized, all new changes were sent to the server and other data was updated to the laptop from the server. If the technology were available, synchronization would be done in the field; users did not need to come to a central area of the Town.

Mayor Paul asked if this could be implemented during the current hurricane season. Mr. Holstock said there was more testing to be done and the system would be ready for the next hurricane season. As of now, the mapping function was usable.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Approved _____

Mayor/Councilmember

Town Clerk