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1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to the West Villages Improvement 3 District, City of North Port, Sarasota County; 4 providing a short title; providing a district charter; 5 creating an independent special district; providing a 6 district boundary; providing for amendment only by 7 special act; providing powers, functions, and duties; 8 providing for a governing board, elections, 9 qualifications, terms of office, staggering terms of office, removal from office, and filling vacancies; 10 providing for election of a chair, vice chair, and 11 12 secretary-treasurer; providing a quorum; providing 13 requirements for meetings and notice; providing 14 requirements for reports, budgets, and audits; 15 providing for liberal construction; authorizing the 16 levy of non-ad valorem assessments; specifying method 17 of collection and enforcement of non-ad valorem assessments; authorizing property appraiser's and tax 18 19 collector's fees or commissions; providing for 20 collection and enforcement of fees, costs, and 21 expenses; providing for issuance of revenue bonds, assessment bonds, bond anticipation notes, and general 22 obligation bonds; providing for the applicability of 23 provisions of chapters 189 and 298, Florida Statutes, 24 and other general laws; providing for severability; 25 26 providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. <u>Popular name.--This act may be cited as the "West Villages Improvement District Act."</u>

Section 2. <u>District; creation, jurisdiction, and</u> purpose.--

- (1) The West Villages Improvement District, herein referred to as the "district," is hereby created and incorporated as an independent special district, pursuant to chapter 189, Florida Statutes, to be known as the West Villages Improvement District, in the City of North Port, Sarasota County, which independent special district shall be a public body corporate and politic.
- (2) The district's territorial boundary shall embrace and include that real property described in following section 17.
- (3) The district is created for all purposes as shall be liberally construed from and set forth in this act, under sections 189.401-189.429, Florida Statutes, provided that section 189.4045(2), Florida Statutes, is specifically excluded and not applicable to the district or the City of North Port, and chapter 298, Florida Statutes, as the same may be amended from time to time, and may perform such acts as shall be necessary, convenient, incidental, or proper for the provision, acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of those public infrastructure works and services authorized herein, including all facilities necessary and incidental thereto.
- (4) The district charter created by this act may be amended only by special act of the Legislature. Any expansion of the powers or the boundaries of the district within the City of

- North Port shall require prior approval of the City of North

  Port Commission or its designee.
  - (5) The definition of terms and phrases shall be as set forth in chapters 189 and 298, Florida Statutes, unless otherwise herein defined.
    - Section 3. District powers, functions, and duties.--
  - (1) In addition to any powers, functions, and duties set forth in this act, the district shall have the authority to exercise such powers, functions, and duties as may be set forth in chapter 298, Florida Statutes.
  - (2) The district is hereby authorized and empowered as follows:
  - (a) To adopt by resolution bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business.
  - (b) To adopt by resolution rules as necessary for implementation, regulation, and enforcement as are consistent with the purposes of the district and this act.
  - (c) To adopt an official seal reflecting the name and nature of the district.
  - (d) To acquire by grant, loan, purchase, gift, transfer, exchange, dedication, lease, devise, or, when reasonably necessary for the implementation of district-authorized public infrastructure works, facilities, or services by means of the exercise of the right of eminent domain pursuant to the laws of the state and in accordance with section 12 of this act, all property, real or personal, or any easement, license, estate, or interest therein necessary, desirable, or convenient for the purposes of this act, and to sell, convey, transfer, gift,

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lease, rent, dedicate, forfeit, abandon, exchange, or assign all or any part thereof to or with other entities, including governmental entities and agencies, and to exercise all of its powers and authority with respect thereto. The district shall not have the right of eminent domain outside of the boundaries of the district. Notwithstanding anything contained herein, the district shall not obtain fee simple title to any real property within the district except by dedication on an approved plat, with the approval of the City of North Port Commission or its designee, or if otherwise required by another governmental entity or agency. Any property interests owned by the district which are used for nonpublic or private commercial purposes shall be subject to all ad valorem taxes, intangible personal property taxes, or non-ad valorem assessments, as would be applicable if said property were privately owned. To finance, plan (consistent with City of North Port Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, equip, upgrade, reclaim, replace, extend, renovate, mitigate, and maintain canals, swales, outfalls, dams, control structures, pumps and pumping systems, aerators, seawalls, berms, ditches, telemetry and monitoring equipment, retention areas, holding basins, marshes, wetlands, uplands, drains, levees, lakes, ponds, and other works or elements for modern comprehensive water management drainage, environmental, mitigation preservation, erosion, quality, and control purposes, and further that the district shall agree, at the request of the City of North

Port Commission or its designee, subject to a developer's

agreement with the City of North Port (neither party's consent to said developer's agreement shall be unreasonably withheld), to donate and turn over operation of all or any portion of said water management system to the City of North Port.

- (f) To regulate, modify, control, and redirect the supply and level of water within the district if consistent with City of North Port and Southwest Florida Water Management District rules and regulations, including the division of waters from one area, lake, pond, river, stream, basin, or water control facility to another; to control and restrict the development and use of natural or artificial streams or bodies of water, lakes, or ponds; and to take of measures determined by the board to be necessary or desirable to prevent or alleviate land erosion, flooding, or water quality problems or issues, provided all such activity shall be carried out in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local government rules and regulations.
- (g) To finance the implementation of appropriate studies, whether by the district or in conjunction with other agencies or entities, to assist in implementing the district's powers, authorities, and purposes as set forth herein and to facilitate the orderly management of the district and its works and facilities.
- (h) To finance, plan (consistent with City of North Port Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain irrigation works, machinery, plants, and appurtenances.

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To finance, plan (consistent with City of North Port Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain roadways; and to include either as a component of such roads or independently by themselves, parkways, bridges, landscaping, irrigation, bicycle and jogging paths, street lighting, entry features, traffic signals, road striping, and all other customary elements or appurtenances of a modern road system for the exclusive use and benefit of the district, a unit of development, and/or its landowners, residents, and invitees in order to control ingress and egress; to finance and maintain said roads and their associated elements and components as a part of a plan of improvements; to construct and maintain security structures to control the use of said roads; to make provision for access by fire, police, and emergency vehicles and personnel for the protection of life and property; to include, in the annual assessment of non-ad valorem assessments as authorized, sufficient funds to finance and maintain said roads as a part of a plan of improvements, and to adopt, by resolution of the board, rules and regulations for the control of traffic, noise levels, crime, and the use of the roads by those authorized. Provided that in the event the district should construct all or any portion of a major thoroughfare or transportation route as identified in section 163.3177(6)(b), Florida Statutes, the district will not be permitted to limit said thoroughfare or transportation route for the exclusive use and benefit of the district, a unit of development, and/or its residents without

the written consent of the applicable local general government.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, construction of roads by the district shall not be in conflict with City of

North Port rules, master plans, plans, specifications, or regulations. The district shall agree, at the request of the City of North Port Commission or its designee, subject to applicable impact fee ordinances and a developer's agreement with the City of North Port (neither party's consent to said developer's agreement shall be unreasonably withheld), to donate and turn over operation of all or any portion of any public roadway system to the City of North Port.

- (j) To finance, plan (consistent with City of North Port
  Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances, studies, and
  plans), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, equip,
  upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain entry features,
  garages, parking facilities, district offices, buildings,
  facilities, and structures.
- (k) To finance, plan (consistent with City of North Port Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, reclaim, mitigate, protect, remove exotics, and maintain improvements, works, landscaping, systems, structures, buildings, and facilities for community or public preserves, uplands, wetlands, playgrounds, parks, gymnasiums, stadiums, ballfields, greenways, waterways, and facilities for indoor and outdoor recreational, sport, cultural, and educational uses.

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To finance, plan (consistent with City of North Port Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, set, and charge by resolution access, user, or connection fees and charges, equip, upgrade, replace, store, extend, renovate, and maintain water plants and systems, plus appurtenances, to produce, desalinate, purify, sell, and distribute water for consumption, irrigation, or other purposes; provided that the exercise of such construction, operation, fee establishment, and production powers by the district shall require the prior approval of the City of North Port Commission or its designee, and further that the district shall agree, at the request of the City of North Port Commission or its designee, subject to a utility developer's agreement with the City of North Port (neither party's consent to said developer's agreement shall be unreasonably withheld), to donate and turn over operation of all or any portion of said water system to the City of North Port.

(m) To finance, plan (consistent with City of North Port Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, set, and charge by resolution access, user, or connection fees and charges, equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain sewer systems, plus appurtenances, for the collection, disposal, and reuse of effluent, waste, residue, or other byproducts of such system, prevent pollution, and improve water quality; provided that the exercise of such construction, operation, and fee establishment powers by the district shall require the prior approval of the City of North Port Commission or its designee, and

further that the district shall agree, at the request of the City of North Port Commission or its designee, subject to a utility developer's agreement with the City of North Port (neither party's consent to said developer's agreement shall be unreasonably withheld), to donate and turn over operation of all or any portion of said wastewater system to the City of North Port.

- (n) To finance, plan (if not inconsistent with other responsible agencies or authorities), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain improvements and facilities for and take measures to control mosquitoes or other insects and arthropods of public health importance.
- (o) To finance, plan (consistent with City of North Port Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain lands, works, systems, landscaping, and facilities for preservation areas, conservation areas, environmental areas, mitigation areas, and wildlife habitat or sanctuaries, including the maintenance of any plant or animal species, and any related interest in real or personal property. The district shall allow the City of North Port access to all such improvements and shall allow access by the public when appropriate.
- (p) To finance, plan (consistent with City of North Port Comprehensive Plan and implementing ordinances, studies, and plans), design, acquire, construct, install, operate, equip, upgrade, replace, extend, renovate, and maintain additional systems and facilities for school buildings and related

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structures which may be donated to a public school district,
subject to a developer's agreement (neither party's consent to
said developer's agreement shall be unreasonably withheld), for
use in the educational system; provided that donation of any
land and the exercise of such construction powers by the
district shall require the prior approval of the School Board of
Sarasota County and the City of North Port City Commission or
its designee.

- (q) To levy non-ad valorem assessments; prescribe, fix, establish, and collect rates, fees, rentals, fares, or other charges, and to revise the same from time to time, for property, facilities, and services made available, furnished, or to be furnished by the district; and to recover the cost of making or authorizing the connection to any district facility or system or installing works or improvements on or within district property interests. However, no rates, fares, charges, or fees shall be established until after a public hearing of the board at the district at which all affected persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard.
- (r) To provide for the discontinuance of service and reasonable penalties, including reasonable attorney's fees, against any user or property for any such rates, fees, rentals, fares, or other charges that become delinquent and require collection.
- (s) To enter into agreements with any person, firm, entity, partnership, or corporation (public, private, or governmental) for the furnishing by such person, firm, entity, partnership, or corporation of any facilities and services of

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the type provided for, authorized, or necessarily implied as being authorized in this act.

- (t) To borrow money and issue negotiable or other bonds of said district as hereinafter provided; and to borrow money, from time to time, and issue negotiable or other notes of said district therefore, bearing interest at not exceeding the maximum interest allowable by law, in anticipation of the collection of levies, fees, penalties, charges, fares, and assessments or revenues of said district, and to pledge or hypothecate such non-ad valorem assessments, levies, assessments, and revenues to secure such bonds, notes, or obligations, and to sell, discount, negotiate, and dispose of the same.
- (u) To provide for safety enhancements, including, but not limited to, security, guardhouses, fences, and gates, and electronic intrusion detection systems; except that the district shall not be authorized or empowered to exercise any police power, but may contract with the appropriate local general purpose government agencies for an increased level of such service. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, nothing herein shall allow the district to limit the level of law enforcement provided by federal, state, or local governmental agencies.
- (v) To provide, at the request of local general purpose governments consistent with the plans of the local general purpose government, systems and facilities for fire prevention and control and emergency medical services, including the construction or purchase of fire stations, water mains and

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plugs, fire trucks, and other vehicles and equipment consistent with any adopted local general purpose government ordinances, rules, or regulations and, further, that the district shall agree, at the request of the local general purpose government, subject to a developer's agreement with the City of North Port (neither party's consent to said developer's agreement shall be unreasonably withheld), to donate and turn over operation of all or any portion of said facilities to the local general purpose government.

- (w) To submit for and obtain permits, plus make and enter into contracts and agreements as are necessary or incidental to the performance of the duties imposed and the execution of the powers granted under this act, and to employ such consulting and other engineers, superintendents, managers, administrators, construction and financial experts, attorneys, and such employees and agents as may, in the judgment of the district, be necessary, and to fix their compensation.
- (x) To require any individual or entity desiring to construct any structure in, over, under, upon, or occupying district property or right-of-way or connecting to or utilizing the works of the district to first obtain written authorization from the district and comply with all City of North Port and district plans, rules, regulations, policies, and specifications, provided that said written authorization shall be issued upon compliance with such applicable City of North Port and district plans, rules, regulations, policies, and specifications. The board of supervisors shall be permitted the discretion to deny or revoke any written authorization or

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application for same if they find that the matter for which the authorization is sought or granted does not comply with the City of North Port and district plans, rules, regulations, or policies. All fees and costs, including construction, review, inspection, copying, engineering, legal, and administrative expenses of the district, shall be paid by the applicant seeking the authorization. Any such district written authorization shall not be deemed or construed as being an alternative to or in place of the applicant's obligation to also obtain all other governmental building and construction permits and approvals. Any conflict between City of North Port and district plans, rules, regulations, policies, and specifications shall be resolved in favor of the City of North Port. To include in a plan of improvements, the engineer's report, or the authorizing and implementing documents under chapter 170, Florida Statutes, which shall include, but are not limited to, all applicable resolutions, assessment maps, and/or assessment rolls (the "chapter 170 authorizing documents"), all or one or more of the various powers and functions, including individual parts or components thereof, of the district or any combination of same and to construct and finance said individual or combination of such powers and functions, including individual parts or components thereof. It is the intent of this section that a plan of improvements, the engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents may provide for a single benefit to the land authorized by the laws pertaining to the district or one or more of all of said benefits or combination

thereof as long as there are benefits accruing to the land.

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To provide in a plan of improvements, the engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents that in assessing the benefits and damages to be incurred by lands of the district from the implementation, provision, or construction of a plan of improvements or improvements or services pursuant to chapter 170 authorizing documents, the varying types of existing or proposed land uses of the land within the unit or affected by such construction or implementation, as the case may be, may be considered and be entitled to so assess the benefits and damages. The district may levy non-ad valorem assessments based upon the benefits assessed in such manner, taking into account the varying existing or proposed land uses of the land affected by such construction as shall provide for the equitable apportionment of such assessments. Such assessments may be levied on the basis of lots, units, acreage, parcels, equivalent connection, or uses or as otherwise set forth in the engineer's report or in the chapter 170 authorizing documents. To establish and create such departments, committees,

(aa) To establish and create such departments, committees, boards, or other agencies, including a public relations committee, as from time to time the board of supervisors may deem necessary or desirable in the performance of the acts or other things necessary to the exercise of the powers provided in this act, and to delegate to such departments, committees, boards, or other agencies such administrative duties and other powers as the board of supervisors may deem necessary and to exercise all other powers necessary convenient or proper in connection with any of the powers or duties of said district stated in this act by and through the board of supervisors.

Notwithstanding anything contained herein, no such departments,

committees, boards, or other agencies shall have the power or

authority to supersede any powers or authorities of the City of

North Port.

- (bb) Notwithstanding any authority contained within this section, the development, operation, or maintenance of any district facilities or services shall comply with the adopted comprehensive plan, unified land development code, zoning code, and any other city codes of the City of North Port.
- (cc) To establish, or otherwise make available, a plan for retirement, disability, dental, death, hospitalization, and other appropriate benefits for employees of the district.
- (dd) To invest surplus funds of the district consistent with the Investment of Local Government Surplus Funds Act, part IV, chapter 218, Florida Statutes.
- (ee) To submit to the City of North Port the plan of improvement for major government infrastructure capital elements that may eventually be dedicated or donated to the City of North Port so that the city can rely on and incorporate said plan of improvement into the City's Capital Improvement Plan.
- other entities consistent with the powers of the district; provided, however, that district shall coordinate with and obtain timely authorization from the City of North Port Commission or its designee prior to the submittal of any grant application.
- (gg) Following methodology consistent with the county's concurrency management regulations, and notwithstanding any

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419 authority contained within this section, the district shall not 420 construct any improvements within the district, pursuant to any development order, where that development would cause the level 421 422 of service on any concurrency regulated facility in 423 unincorporated Sarasota County to drop below the level of 424 service adopted as of the effective date of this act, or 425 subsequently reduced level of service, in the Sarasota County 426 Comprehensive Plan pursuant to chapter 163, Florida Statutes, 427 without paying its fair share contribution to improving that 428 facility, and Sarasota County shall have the right under section 429 163.3215, Florida Statutes, to contest any such development 430 order on the basis that it fails to require the district to pay 431 its fair share contribution. The fair share contribution shall 432 include both the contribution to the county from the fair share 433 collected by the City of North Port pursuant to the county's 434 impact fee ordinance and interlocal agreements between Sarasota 435 County and the City of North Port, as well as direct contributions made to the county by the district. Nothing 436 437 contained herein shall be construed as limiting the obligations 438 of the district or property owners therein as set forth in 439 Florida Statutes and applicable rules. 440 (hh) The district shall have the power to collect fair 441 share contributions from Sarasota County should Sarasota County 442 approve any development order in unincorporated Sarasota County 443 that creates impacts to concurrency regulated facilities within 444 the district, which would cause the level of service on any 445 concurrency regulated facility in the district to drop below the 446 level of service adopted by the City of North Port for such

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<u>facility as of the effective date of this act, or subsequently reduced level of service.</u>

(3) To include in a plan of improvements, the engineer's report , chapter 170 authorizing documents, or otherwise provide, for the exercise of the district's powers, services, facilities, and improvements beyond the territorial boundaries of the district, when necessary and appropriate in order to provide a benefit on behalf of lands located within the district and pursuant to an approved plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents. Any such construction must be in accordance with the city's master plans and requirements. Any such construction within unincorporated Sarasota County must be in accordance with the county's comprehensive plan, master plans, and thoroughfare plan. The West Villages Improvement District shall cooperate and coordinate its activities with the units of general-purpose local government in which it is located, including the City of North Port and Sarasota County. The district is authorized to enter into interlocal agreements with the City of North Port, Sarasota County, the Englewood Water District, or any other units of government. Whenever the district intends to utilize its powers to construct or cause to be constructed infrastructure projects or programs within the district, the district shall provide copies of all plans and infrastructure permit applications to the Sarasota County Planning Director and Development Services Business Center at such time as the district submits such plans or permit applications to the City of North Port or other permitting authority but in any event no less than 30 days before the City

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of North Port or other permitting authority issues permits for those projects. The district shall allow the county 20 days from submittal to the county to comment on those plans and permit applications, but as to construction or improvements that are not within unincorporated Sarasota County, the county's approval is not required for the district to proceed with the project. Sarasota County shall not unduly interfere with the district's exercise of its powers conferred by this act.

- Section 4. <u>Board of supervisors; election, organization,</u> powers, duties, and terms of office.--
- (1) There is hereby created a Board of Supervisors of the West Villages Improvement District, which shall be the governing body of said district.
- (2) Said board of supervisors shall consist of five persons who, except as herein otherwise provided, shall each hold office for terms of 5 years each and until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified.
- (3) The first board of supervisors of the district shall be composed of five persons, one of whom shall hold office for 6 years, one of whom shall hold office for 5 years, one of whom shall hold office for 4 years, one of whom shall hold office for 3 years, and one of whom shall hold office for 2 years, which terms shall terminate in June of their applicable final year. Within 120 days after this act becomes a law, a special meeting of landowners of the West Villages Improvement District shall be held for the purpose of electing the first board of supervisors for the West Villages Improvement District as herein provided. Notice of such special meeting of landowners shall be given by

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causing publication thereof to be made once a week for 2 consecutive weeks prior to such meeting in the newspaper of general paid circulation that the City of North Port publishes notices of city meetings, and prior to the meeting, provision of 2 weeks advance written notice to the City of North Port City Manager including the agenda and any backup material. Such special meeting of landowners shall be held in a public place in the City of North Port, and the place, date, and hour of holding such meeting and the purpose thereof shall be stated in the notice. The landowners when assembled shall organize by electing a chair who shall preside at the meeting and a vice chair, secretary, and treasurer. At such meeting, each and every acre, or any fraction thereof, of land in the district shall represent one vote and each owner shall be entitled to one vote in person or by written proxy for every acre of land, or any fraction thereof, owned by such owner in the district. Candidates must be citizens of the United States and shall be nominated prior to commencement of the initial election. The landowners shall first vote for the supervisor who is to hold office for that seat with an initial term of 6 years as herein provided, and the person receiving the highest number of votes for such supervisor office shall be declared and elected as the supervisor for said seat. The landowners shall next vote for the supervisor who is to hold office for that seat with a term of 5 years as provided herein, and the person receiving the highest number of votes for such supervisor shall be declared and elected as such supervisor for said seat. Said landowners shall continue to so vote for each remaining seat until the supervisor who is to hold office for

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the term of 2 years as herein provided is elected for said seat.

The landowners present or voting by proxy at the meeting shall constitute a quorum.

- (4) Each year during the month of June, beginning with June of the second year following the first election, a supervisor shall be elected, as hereinafter provided, by the landowners of said district to take the place of the retiring supervisor. All vacancies or expirations on said board shall be filled as provided by this act. All supervisors of the district shall be citizens of the United States. Following the initial election of supervisors in order to be eliqible for election, a candidate for an office of supervisor shall be required to file a written notice of intention to be a candidate in said office of the district at least 30 calendar days but not earlier than 90 calendar days before but not including the day of the annual meeting of the landowners. In case of a vacancy in the office of any supervisor, the remaining supervisors within 90 calendar days of the vacancy shall fill such vacancy until the expiration of that seat's outstanding term when a successor shall be elected by the landowners.
- (5) As soon as practicable after their election and the taking of oaths of office, the board of supervisors of the district shall organize by choosing a chair and vice chair of the board of supervisors and by electing some suitable persons secretary and treasurer, who may or may not be members of the board. The board of supervisors shall adopt a seal which shall be the seal of the district.

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- (6) Each supervisor shall hold office until his or her successor shall be elected and qualified. Whenever any election shall be authorized or required by this act to be held by the landowners at any particular or stated time or day, and if for any reason such election shall not or cannot be held at such time or on such day, then in such event and in all and every such event, the power or duty to hold such election shall not cease or lapse, but such election shall be held thereafter as soon as practicable and consistent with this act.
- (7) The supervisors shall not receive any compensation for their services.

## Section 5. Meetings of landowners. --

(1) Each year during the month of June, a meeting of the landowners of the district shall be held, when necessary, for the purpose of electing a supervisor and hearing reports of the board of supervisors and considering any matters upon which the board of supervisors may request the advice and views of the landowners. The board of supervisors shall have the power to call special meetings of the landowners at any time to consider and act upon any matter upon which the board of supervisors may request action, direction, or advice. Notice of all meetings of the landowners shall be given by the board of supervisors by causing publication thereof to be made for 2 consecutive weeks prior to such meeting in the newspaper of general paid circulation that the City of North Port publishes notices of city meetings, and prior to the meeting, provision of 2 weeks advance written notice to the City of North Port City Manager including the agenda and any backup material. The meetings of

the landowners shall be held in a public place in the City of North Port, and the place, day, and hour of holding such meetings shall be stated in the notice. The landowners when assembled shall organize by electing a chair who shall preside at the meeting. The secretary of the board of supervisors shall be the secretary of such meeting. At all such meetings each and every acre, or any fraction thereof, of land in the district shall represent one vote, and each owner shall be entitled to one vote in person or by written proxy for every acre, or any fraction thereof, of land owned by such owner in the district. The person receiving the highest number of votes for a supervisor position shall be declared and elected as such supervisor. Those landowners present or voting by proxy at the meeting, including the initial meeting, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the landowners.

- (2) Guardians may represent their wards, and personal representatives may represent the estates of deceased persons. Trustees may represent lands by them in trust, and private and municipal corporations may be represented by their officers or duly authorized agents. Guardians, personal representatives, trustees, and corporations may vote by proxy.
- Section 6. <u>Installment assessments, levied and</u> apportioned, and the collection thereof.--
- (1) The board of supervisors shall determine, order, and levy the amount of the annual installments of the non-ad valorem assessments levied under section 298.305, Florida Statutes, which shall become due and collected during each year at the same time that county taxes are due and collected, which levy

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Shall be evidenced to and certified by the board to the Tax Collector of Sarasota County, pursuant to sections 197.3631, 197.3632, and 197.3635, Florida Statutes. Said non-ad valorem assessments shall be extended by the county tax collector on the tax roll and shall be collected by the tax collector and the net proceeds thereof paid to said district. Said non-ad valorem assessments shall be a lien until paid on the property against which it is assessed, and enforceable in like manner as county taxes.

(2) As an alternative, in addition to, or in combination with the above levy and assessment procedure for non-ad valorem assessments, the district shall have, and the board of supervisors may exercise, the power to determine, order, levy, impose, collect, and enforce special assessments pursuant to chapter 170, Florida Statutes. Such special assessments may, in the discretion of the district, be collected and enforced pursuant to the provisions of sections 197.3631, 197.3632, and 197.3635, Florida Statutes, chapter 170, Florida Statutes, or as otherwise determined by the board.

## Section 7. Maintenance assessment. --

(1) In lieu of any maintenance assessment provision of chapter 298, Florida Statutes, when in order to operate, maintain, and preserve the improvements made, constructed, installed, acquired, or received pursuant to this act and to repair, upgrade, replace, extend, and restore the same, when needed, and for the purpose of defraying the expenses, including administration, of the district, the board of supervisors may levy annually an assessment on specified property in the

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district, to be known as a "maintenance assessment." Said
maintenance assessment shall be evidenced to and certified by
the board to the Tax Collector of Sarasota County, in the same
fashion and manner of other district non-ad valorem assessments
and shall be collected by the tax collector in the same manner
and time as county taxes and the proceeds therefrom paid to said
district. Said assessments shall be a lien until paid on the
property against which assessed and enforceable in like manner
as county taxes.

(2) Provisions may be made for the financing, acquisition, replacement, and maintenance of capital improvements necessary for the operation of the district as a part of the maintenance assessment.

Section 8. <u>Compensation of property appraiser and tax</u> <u>collector.--The property appraiser and tax collector shall be entitled to compensation for services performed in connection with assessments of said district as provided by general law.</u>

Section 9. Acreage assessment for payment of initial formation and organization expenses.—There is hereby authorized by the Legislature upon each and every acre of land within the territorial boundary of the district, the authority through its said board of supervisors and for the purpose of paying expenses incurred or to be incurred in organizing the district, the authority to levy such non-ad valorem assessments as may be determined by said board of supervisors, before said board of supervisors shall otherwise be able to obtain funds under the provisions of this act or the general laws of the state. Such organizing assessments shall become due and payable as

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determined by the board of supervisors and shall become delinquent 90 days thereafter. Said assessment shall be a lien upon the lands in said district from the date of the enactment of this act and may be collected in the same manner as the annual installment of non-ad valorem assessments or as otherwise determined by the board of supervisors. If it shall appear to the board of supervisors to be necessary to obtain funds to pay any expenses incurred or to be incurred in organizing said district, preparing a plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents, or other expenses of the conduct and operation of the district before a sufficient sum can be obtained by the collection of the organization assessment authorized by this section of this act, said board of supervisors may also borrow a sufficient sum of money for any of said purposes at a statutory lawful rate of the interest and may issue negotiable notes or bonds therefor and may pledge any and all assessments of the formation assessment that may be levied under the provisions of this section for the repayment thereof. Section 10. Bonds may be issued, sale and disposition of proceeds; interest; levy to pay bonds; bonds and duties of treasurer.--(1) The provision of this section shall constitute full and complete authority for the issuance of bonds by the district. (2) Provided that any and all loans or bonds of the district are non-recourse as to the City of North Port, the board of supervisors may issue bonds not to exceed 90 percent of

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the total amount of the non-ad valorem assessments levied under

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the provisions of section 298.305, Florida Statutes, or equal to the total amount levied under chapter 170, Florida Statutes, bearing interest from date at a rate not to exceed the statutory lawful maximum per annum, payable annually or semiannually, to mature at annual intervals within 40 years commencing after a period of not later than 10 years, to be determined by the board of supervisors, with both principal and interest payable at some convenient place designated by the board of supervisors to be named in said bonds, which bonds shall be signed by the chair of the board of supervisors, attested with the seal of the district and by the signature of the secretary of the board. All of said bonds shall be executed and delivered to the district or its agent, which shall sell the same in such quantities and at such dates as the board of supervisors may deem necessary to meet the payments for the works, services, and improvements in and of the district. A sufficient amount of the non-ad valorem assessment shall be appropriated by the board of supervisors for the purpose of paying the principal, premium, if any, and interest of said bonds, and the same shall, when collected, be preserved in a separate fund for that purpose and no other. All bonds not paid at maturity shall bear interest at a rate of not to exceed the statutory lawful maximum per annum from maturity until paid, or until sufficient funds have been deposited at the place of payment, and said interest shall be appropriated by the board of supervisors out of the penalties and interest collected on delinquent assessments or other available funds of the district. Provided, however, that it may, in the discretion of said board, be provided that at any time, after such date as shall be fixed

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by the said board, said bonds may be redeemed before maturity at the option of said board, or their successors in office, by being made callable prior to maturity at such times and upon such prices and terms and other conditions as said board shall determine. If any bond so issued subject to redemption before maturity shall not be presented when called for redemption, it shall cease to bear interest from and after the date so fixed for redemption.

(3) The board of supervisors of said district shall have authority to issue refunding bonds to take up any outstanding bonds and any interest accrued thereon when, in the judgment of said board, it shall be for the best interest of said district so to do. The said board is hereby authorized and empowered to issue refunding bonds to take up and refund all bonds of said district outstanding that are subject to call and prior redemption, and all interest accrued to the date of such call or prior redemption, and all bonds of said district that are not subject to call or redemption, together with all accrued interest thereon, where the surrender of said bonds can be procured from the holders thereof at prices satisfactory to the board or can be exchanged for such outstanding bonds with the consent of the holder thereof. Such refunding bonds may mature at any time or times in the discretion of said board, not later, however, than 40 years from the date of issuance of said refunding bonds. Said refunding bonds shall bear such date of issue and such other details as the board shall determine, and may, in the discretion of said board, be made callable prior to maturity at such times and upon such prices and terms and other

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conditions as said board shall determine. All the other applicable provisions of this act not inconsistent therewith shall apply fully to said refunding bonds and the holders thereof shall have all the rights, remedies, and security of the outstanding bonds refunded, except as may be provided otherwise in the resolution of the board authorizing the issuance of such refunding bonds. Any funds available in the sinking fund for the payment of the principal, premium, if any, and interest of outstanding bonds may be retained in the fund to be used for the payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest of the refunding bonds, in the discretion of the board of supervisors. Any expenses incurred in buying any or all bonds authorized under the provisions of this section and the interest thereon and a reasonable compensation for paying same, shall be paid out of the funds in the hands of the district, and collected for the purpose of meeting the expenses of administration. It shall be the duty of the said board of supervisors in making the annual non-ad valorem assessment levy as heretofore provided to take into account the maturing bonds and interest on all bonds and expenses and to make provisions in advance for the payment of same.

(4) In addition to the other powers provided the district, and not in limitation thereof, the district shall have the power, at any time, and from time to time after the issuance of any bonds of the district shall have been authorized, to borrow money for the purposes for which such bonds are to be issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of the sale of such bonds and to issue bond anticipation notes in a principal sum

not in excess of the authorized maximum amount of such bond issue.

- bonds from time to time without limitation as to amount for the purpose of financing its systems and facilities. Such revenue bonds may be secured by, or payable from, the gross or net pledge of the revenues to be derived from any project or combination of projects; from the rates, fees, or other charges to be collected from the users of any project or projects; from any revenue-producing undertaking or activity of the district; from special assessments; or from any other source or pledged security. Such bonds shall not constitute an indebtedness of the district, and the approval of qualified electors shall not be required unless such bonds are additionally secured by the full faith and credit and assessing power of the district.
- (6) Prior to the issuance of bonds under the provisions of this act, the board of supervisors may from time to time issue warrants or negotiable notes or other evidences of debt of the district, all of which shall be termed "floating indebtedness" in order to distinguish the same from the bonded debt provided for. The notes or other evidences of indebtedness shall be payable at such times and shall bear interest at a rate not exceeding the lawful statutory maximum per annum, and may be sold or discounted at such price or on such terms as the board may deem advisable. The board shall have the right, in order to provide for the payment thereof, to pledge the whole or any part of the assessments or revenues provided for in this act, whether the same shall be theretofore or thereafter levied, and said

board shall have the right to provide that the floating debt
shall be payable from the proceeds arising from the sale of
bonds, or from the proceeds of any such assessment, or both.

After the issuance of any bonds of the district under the
provisions of this act, the power to create such floating debt
and pledge the assessments or revenue therefor shall continue.

(7)(a) Pursuant to this act, the district shall have the

power from time to time to issue general obligation bonds to finance or refinance capital projects or to refund outstanding bonds in an aggregate principal amount of bonds outstanding at any one time not in excess of 35 percent of the assessed value of the taxable property within the district as shown on the pertinent property appraiser valuation records at the time of the authorization of the general obligation bonds for which the full faith and credit of the district is pledged. Except for refunding bonds, no general obligation bonds shall be issued unless the bonds are issued to finance or refinance a capital project and the issuance has been approved at an election held in accordance with the requirements for such election as prescribed by the State Constitution. Such elections shall be called to be held in the district with the expenses of calling and holding an election to be at the expense of the district.

(b) The district may pledge its full faith and credit for the payment of the principal and interest on such general obligation bonds and for any reserve funds provided therefor and met unconditionally and irrevocably pledge its assessments or revenues on all taxable property within the district, to the

extent necessary for the payment thereof, without limitations as to greater amount.

- (c) If the board determines to issue general obligation bonds for more than one capital project, the approval of the issuance of the bonds for each and all such projects may be submitted to the electorate on one and the same ballot. The failure of the electors to approve the issuance of bonds for any one or more of the capital projects shall not defeat the approval of bonds for any capital project which has been approved by the electors.
- (d) In arriving at the amount of general obligation bonds permitted to be outstanding at any one time pursuant to paragraph (a), there shall not be included any general obligation bonds which are additionally secured by the pledge of:
- 1. Special assessments levied in the amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest on a general obligation bond so additionally secured, which assessments have been equalized and confirmed by resolution or ordinance of the board pursuant to section 170.08, Florida Statutes.
- 2. Water revenues, sewer revenues, or water and sewer revenues of the district to be derived from user fees that have been approved by the City of North Port Commission or its designee and in an amount sufficient to pay the principal and interest on the general obligation bond so additionally secured.
- 3. Any combination of assessments and revenues described in subparagraphs 1 and 2.

- (8) In case the proceeds of the original assessment and levy made under the provisions of section 298.305, Florida

  Statutes, or chapter 170, Florida Statutes, is not sufficient to pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest of all bonds issued, then the board of supervisors shall make such additional levy or levies upon the benefits assessed as are necessary for this purpose, and under no circumstances shall any levies be made that will in any manner or to any extent impair the security of said bonds or the fund available for the payment of the principal and interest of the same.
- (9) After the several bonds are paid and retired as herein provided, they shall be returned and canceled and an appropriate record thereof made in a book to be kept for that purpose, which record of paid and canceled bonds shall be kept at the office of the treasurer and shall be open for inspection by any bondholder at any time.
- agreement by and between the district and a corporate trustee or trustees, which may be any trust company or bank having the powers of a trust company within or without the state. The resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or such trust agreement may pledge the revenues to be received from any projects of the district and may contain such provisions for protecting and enforcing the rights and remedies of the bondholders as the board may approve, including, without limitation, covenants setting forth the duties of the district in relation to the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, maintenance, repair, operation, and insurance of

any projects; the fixing and revising of the rates, fees, and charges; and the custody, safeguarding, and application of all moneys and for the employment of consulting engineers in connection with such acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, maintenance, repair, or operation.

- interest at such rate or rates, including variable rates, which interest may be tax exempt or taxable for federal income tax purposes; shall mature at such time or times from their date or dates; and may be made redeemable before maturity at such price or prices and under such terms and conditions as may be determined by the board.
- (12) No bonds issued by the district shall be required to be validated under chapter 75, Florida Statutes, or other provision of law.
- Section 11. <u>Unit development; powers of supervisors to</u>

  <u>designate units of development and adopt systems of progressive</u>

  <u>development by units; plan of improvements and financing</u>

  <u>assessments, for each unit.</u>
- (1) Upon written petition signed by the owners of 51 percent of the acreage in any area, the board of supervisors of the district shall have the power and is hereby authorized in its discretion to exercise such powers authorized in this act, the lands in said designated area or part of the district to be called a "unit." The units into which said district may be so divided shall be given appropriate numbers or names by said board of supervisors, so that said units may be readily identified and distinguished. The board of supervisors shall

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have the power to fix and determine the location, area, and boundaries of and lands to be included in each and all such units with the consent of the owners of 51 percent of the acreage in any area, and the method of carrying on the work in each unit. If the board of supervisors shall determine that it is advisable to conduct the work of the district by units, as authorized by this section, said board shall, by resolution duly adopted and entered upon its minutes, declare its purpose to conduct such work accordingly and, upon petition of the owners of 51 percent of the acreage in any area, shall at the same time and manner fix the number, location, and boundaries of and description of lands within such unit or units and give appropriate numbers or names, which unit or units may overlay or overlap one or more other units. As soon as practicable after the adoption and recording of a resolution as to any unit, said board of supervisors shall publish a notice once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in the newspaper of general paid circulation that the City of North Port publishes notices of city meetings, and by provision of 2 weeks advance written notice to the City of North Port City Manager, briefly describing the unit or units into which the district has been divided and the lands embraced in each unit, giving the name, number, or other designation of such units, requiring all owners of lands in the district to show cause in writing before said board of supervisors at a time and place to be stated in such notice why such division of said district into such unit or units should not be approved, and why the proceedings and powers authorized by this section of this act should not be had, taken, and exercised. At the time and

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place stated in said notice, said board of supervisors shall hear all objections or causes of objection, all of which shall be in writing, of any landowner in the district to the matters mentioned and referred to in such notice, and if no objections are made, or if said objections, if made, shall be overruled by said board, then said board shall enter in its minutes its finding and order confirming said resolution and may thereafter proceed with the development of the district by unit or units pursuant to such resolution and to the provisions of this act. If, however, said board of supervisors shall find as a result of such objections, or any of them, or the hearing thereon, that the division of the district into such unit or units as aforesaid should not be approved, or that the proceedings and powers authorized by this section of this act should not be had, taken, or exercised, or that any other matter or thing embraced in said resolution would not be in the best interest of the landowners of said unit or units or would be unjust or unfair to any landowner therein or otherwise inconsistent with fair and equal protection and enforcement of the rights of every landowner in said unit or units, then the board of supervisors shall not proceed further under such resolution, but said board of supervisors may, as a result of such hearing, modify or amend said resolution so as to meet such objections so made, and thereupon said board may confirm said resolution as so modified or amended and may thereafter proceed accordingly. If said board of supervisors shall overrule or refuse to sustain any such objections in whole or in part made by any landowner in the district, or if any such landowner shall deem himself or herself

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aggrieved by any action of the board of supervisors in respect to any objections so filed, such landowner may, within 10 days after the ruling of said board, file his or her complaint in the Circuit Court for Sarasota County, against said district, praying an injunction or other appropriate relief against the action or any part of such action proposed by such resolution or resolutions of said board, and such suits shall be conducted like other suits, except that said suits shall have preference over all other pending actions except criminal actions and writs of habeas corpus. Upon the hearing of said cause, the circuit court shall have the power to hear the objections and receive the evidence thereon of all parties to such cause and approve or disapprove said resolutions and action of the board in whole or in part, and to render such decree in such cause as right and justice require.

(2) When said resolutions creating said unit or units shall be confirmed by the board of supervisors (or by the Circuit Court for Sarasota County, if such proposed action shall be challenged by a landowner by the judicial proceedings hereinabove authorized), the board of supervisors may adopt a plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents for and in respect to any or all such units, and to have the benefits and damages resulting therefrom assessed and apportioned as is provided by law in regard to a plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents for and assessments for benefits and damages of the entire district. With respect to the plan of improvements, notices, appointment of engineer to prepare a report assessing the benefits and

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1004 damages, the engineer's report and notice and confirmation 1005 thereof, the levy of assessments, including maintenance 1006 assessments, the issuance of bonds, the exercise or use of 1007 chapter 170, Florida Statutes, proceedings and all other 1008 proceedings as to each and all of such units, said board shall 1009 follow and comply with the same procedure as is provided by law 1010 with respect to the entire district; and said board of 1011 supervisors shall have the same powers in respect to each and 1012 all of such units as is vested in them with respect to the entire district. All the provisions of this act shall apply to 1013 1014 the improvement of each, any, and all of such units, and the 1015 enumeration of or reference to specific powers or duties of the 1016 supervisors or any other officers or other matters in this act 1017 as hereinabove set forth, shall not limit or restrict the 1018 application of any and all of the proceedings and powers herein 1019 for such units as fully and completely as if such unit or units 1020 were specifically and expressly named in every section and 1021 clause of this act where the entire district is mentioned or 1022 referred to. All assessments, levies, bonds, and other 1023 obligations made, levied, assessed, or issued for or in respect 1024 to any such unit or units shall be a lien and charge solely and 1025 only upon the lands in such unit or units, respectively, for the 1026 benefit of which the same shall be levied, made, or issued, and 1027 not upon the remaining units or lands in the district. The board 1028 of supervisors, upon an affirmative vote of a simple majority of 1029 qualified electors, as defined in chapter 189, Florida Statutes, 1030 within said unit voting in a referendum, or upon approval of the 1031 landowners of 51 percent of the acreage in said unit if there

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1032 are no residents in said unit, may at any time amend its resolutions by changing the location and description of lands in any such unit or units and provided, further, that if the location or description of lands located in any such unit or units is so changed, notice of such change shall be published as hereinabove required in this section for notice of the formation or organization of such unit or units; provided, however, that no lands against which benefits shall have been assessed may be detached from any such unit after the final adoption of the engineer's report of benefits or chapter 170 authorizing document, in such unit or units or the issuance of bonds or other obligations which are payable from assessments for benefits levied upon the lands within such unit or units. (3) Provided, however, that if, after adoption of the engineer's report of benefits chapter 170, authorizing document, in such unit or units, or the issuance of bonds or other obligations which are payable from assessments for benefits levied upon lands within such unit or units, the board of supervisors finds the plan of improvements, the engineer's report , or chapter 170 authorizing documents for any such unit or units insufficient or inadequate for efficient development, same may be amended or changed as provided in this act, chapter 170 or chapter 298, Florida Statutes, and the unit or units may be amended or changed as provided in this section, by changing the location and description of lands in any such unit or units, by detaching lands therefrom or by adding land thereto, upon the approval of at least 51 percent of the landowners according to acreage, in any such unit, and provided that in such event all

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assessments, levies, fees, bonds, and other obligations made, levied, assessed, incurred, or issued for or in respect to any such unit or units may be allocated and apportioned to the amended unit or units in proportion to the benefits assessed by the engineer's report, for the amended plan of improvements and said report shall specifically provide for such allocation and apportionment. The landowners shall file their approval of or objections to such amended plan of improvements within the time provided in section 298.301, Florida Statutes, or, when used such applicable deadline provision, if any, of chapter 170, Florida Statutes, and shall file their approval of or objections to the amendment of such unit as provided in this section.

(4) No assessable lands shall be detached from any unit after the issuance of bonds or other obligations for such unit except upon the consent of a majority the holders, based on face value of the outstanding bonds, of such bonds or other obligations. In the event of the change of the boundaries of any unit as provided herein and the allocation and apportionment to the amended unit or units of assessments, levies, fees, bonds, and other obligations in proportion to the benefits assessed, the holder of the bonds or other obligations heretofore issued for the original unit who consents to such allocation and apportionment shall be entitled to all rights and remedies against any lands added to the amended unit or units as fully and to the same extent as if such added lands had formed and constituted a part of the original unit or units at the time of the original issuance of such bonds or other obligations, and regardless of whether the holders of such bonds or other

obligations are the original holders thereof or the holders from time to time hereafter, and the rights and remedies of such holders against the lands in the amended unit or units, including any lands added thereto, under such allocation and apportionment, shall constitute vested and irrevocable rights and remedies to the holders from time to time of such bonds or other obligations as fully and to the same extent as if such bonds or other obligations had been originally issued to finance the improvements in such amended unit or units.

- (5) Upon the formation of a unit, the board is authorized to levy a one-time organizational special assessment tax per acre on the lands in a unit sufficient to prepare a plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents and have the benefits assessed as provided herein.
- (6) The territorial limits of a unit may be expanded to include additional land by agreement between the district and all of the landowners of the land to be included in the unit, provided that at the time of the execution of the agreement, the additional land is contained within the jurisdictional boundaries of the district. Land included in the unit by agreement shall thereafter be subject to the payment of all assessments or fees levied by the district in the unit and shall be subject to the provisions of all laws under which the district operates. The agreement shall be in recordable form and filed in the official records.
  - (7) The district shall not amend any plan of improvement for any unit in which any real property has been sold to the general public at large for residential and non-commercial

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purposes, in such a way that said amendment results in any

1117 increase in the principal amount of debt then authorized for 1118 that unit, without an affirmative vote of a simple majority of 1119 qualified electors, as so defined in chapter 189, Florida 1120 Statutes, within said unit voting in a referendum. 1121 Section 12. Eminent domain. -- The said board of supervisors is hereby authorized and empowered when reasonably necessary for 1122 1123 the implementation of district authorized public infrastructure 1124 works, facilities, or services, to exercise within the district 1125 with prior approval by resolution of the governing body of the 1126 district and the municipality or outside the district's 1127 territorial boundaries and within the City of North Port with 1128 prior approval, by resolution, of the City of North Port City 1129 Commission, (which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld), 1130 the right and power of eminent domain, pursuant to the provisions of chapters 73 and 74, Florida Statutes, over any 1131 1132 property within the district and the City of North Port, except municipal, county, state, and federal property, for the uses and 1133 1134 purposes of the district relating solely to water, sewer, 1135 district roads, and water management, specifically including, 1136 without limitation, the power for the taking of easements for 1137 the drainage of the land of one person over and through the land 1138 of another. 1139 Section 13. Definition of 51 percent of acreage in any 1140 area. -- When the consent of 51 percent of the acreage is required 1141 in any described geographical area for any purpose, in 1142 determining the acreage in the area, the lands and rights-of-way 1143 of the district and all lands which are or will be exempt or

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excluded from payment of the district assessments shall not be included in the acreage to determine the 51 percent consent requirements.

Section 14. Amending plan of improvements, engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents.—In addition and as an alternative to the provisions of chapters 298 and 170, Florida Statutes, a plan of improvements, the engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing document may be amended, modified, corrected and changed from time to time in the following manner:

- (1) The intent of this section, in part, is to give the board of supervisors power with broad latitude to make additional and such other improvements to the plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents which the board of supervisors considers appropriate to implement the purpose and intent of the plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents and which, in the opinion of the board, results in a benefit to the land and will not increase the cost in excess of the total benefits assessed as provided herein. The district may accept for operation maintenance additional facilities which are within or outside its boundaries and supplement a plan of improvements or chapter 170 authorizing documents.
- (2) As an alternate procedure, the board of supervisors shall have the power to change, alter, or amend a previously approved or adopted plan of improvements, engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents by duly adopted resolution; provided the district engineer certifies that all land subject to the previously approved or adopted plan of improvements or

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chapter 170 authorizing documents will receive the same or greater benefits as previously assessed and that the estimated cost of constructing the plan of improvements, including the changes or amendments to it, the engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents do not exceed the total benefits assessed. Said resolution shall be filed with the secretary of the district and shall be binding upon the owners of lands subject to the plan of improvements, the engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing documents, as applicable, including their successors and assigns.

- (3) When a plan of improvements, engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing document is amended, modified, or changed by any authorized procedure, the approval or consent of the holders of the bonds issued in respect to such plan, engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing document shall not be required and amendments, modifications, and changes may be made to the plan of improvements, engineer's report, or chapter 170 authorizing document without bondholders' approval or consent.
- (4) The district shall not amend any plan of improvement for any unit in which any real property has been sold to the general public at large for residential and non-commercial purposes, in such a way that said amendment results in any increase in the principal amount of debt then authorized for that unit, without an affirmative vote of a simple majority of qualified electors, as so defined in chapter 189, Florida Statutes, within said unit voting in a referendum.

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1199 Section 15. Meetings and notices. -- Except as otherwise 1200 specifically set forth in the act, the board of supervisors 1201 shall hold their meetings pursuant to sections 189.416 and 1202 189.417, Florida Statutes. 1203 Section 16. Reports, budgets, audits. -- The district shall 1204 prepare and submit reports, budgets, and audits as provided in 1205 sections 189.415 and 189.418, Florida Statutes. 1206 Section 17. Territorial boundaries. -- The territorial 1207 boundaries of the district shall be as follows, to wit: 1208 1209 LANDS LOCATED IN TOWNSHIP 39 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST, 1210 SARASOTA COUNTY, 1211 FLORIDA: 1212 1213 That part of Section 21, lying Southwesterly of County 1214 Road No. 777 (West River Road). All that part of 1215 Section 28, lying West of County Road No. 777 (West 1216 River Road). All of Section 29, less and except the 1217 following: Right-of-way for U. S. Highway No. 41 (State Road No. 45). All of Section 30, less and 1218 1219 except the following: Right-of-way for U. S. Highway 1220 No. 41 (State Road No. 45); That portion conveyed to 1221 Florida Power and Light Company consisting of 1222 approximately 4.66 acres in the SW1/4 as described in Official Record Book 1036, Page 802, Public Records of 1223 1224 Sarasota County, Florida; That portion lying West of 1225 lands described in Official Record Book 1036, Page 1226 802, South of the westerly extension of the North line

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1227 of said lands described in Official Records Book 1036, 1228 Page 802, and North of the northerly Right of Way line 1229 of U.S. Highway No.41. All of Section 31, less and 1230 except the following: Right-of-way of U. S. Highway 1231 No. 41 (State Road No. 45). All of Section 32, less 1232 and except the following: Right-of-way of U.S. 1233 Highway No. 41 (State Road No. 45); That portion 1234 conveyed in Official Record Book 2785, Page 634 of the 1235 Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida, (Sarasota 1236 County Hospital Board); That portion conveyed in 1237 Official Record Book 1571, Page 2172 of the Public 1238 Records of Sarasota County, Florida, (Manatee 1239 Community College); Right-of-way for Pine Street 1240 Extension as recorded in Official Record Book 2536, 1241 pages 811-974 of The Public Records of Sarasota 1242 County, Florida; That portion conveyed in Official 1243 Record Book 2785, Page 641 of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida, (120' wide perpetual Non-1244 1245 Exclusive easement); That portion lying South of lands conveyed in Official Record Book 1571, Page 2172 and 1246 1247 East of lands described in Official Record Book 2785, 1248 Page 641, Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. 1249 That portion of Section 33, lying North of U.S. 1250 Highway No. 41 (State Road No.45) and West of County Road #777 (West River Road); also that portion of 1251 1252 Section 33, lying South of U.S. Highway No. 41 (State 1253 Road No. 45), West of a 200 ft. wide access easement 1254 described in Official Records Book 2389, Page 528,

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1255 Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida, and North 1256 of lands conveyed in Official Records Book 1571, Page 2172, Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida; 1257 1258 also that portion of Section 33, lying South of U.S. 1259 Highway No. 41 (State Road No. 45), described as 1260 follows: COMMENCE at the East Quarter Corner of 1261 Section 33, Township 39 South, Range 20 East, Sarasota 1262 County Florida; thence S.00°16'02"W., along the East 1263 line of said Section 33, a distance of 289.08 feet to 1264 a point on the Southerly Right of Way Line of U.S. Highway No.41, (State Road No. 45) per Florida 1265 1266 Department of Transportation Right of Way Map Section 1267 17010-2508, same being a point on a curve to the right 1268 having a radius of 3011.73 feet, a central angle of 1269 24°58'49", a chord bearing of N.66°51'56"W., and a 1270 chord length of 1032.71 feet; thence along the arc of 1271 said curve and said Southerly Right of Way of U.S. No. 1272 41, an arc length of 1313.08 feet to the point of 1273 tangency of said curve; thence N.54°22'31"W., along 1274 said southerly Right of Way, a distance of 66.57 feet 1275 to the POINT OF BEGINNING, same being the Northwest 1276 corner of Lands described in Official Records 1277 Instrument No.1998166153, per Public Records of 1278 Sarasota County, Florida; thence along the Westerly 1279 line of said Lands described in Official Records 1280 Instrument No.1998166153 the following three (3) 1281 courses and distances; (1) S.35°37'26"W., a distance 1282 of 161.93 feet to the point of curvature of a curve to

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1283 the right having a radius of 559.97 feet, a central 1284 angle of 29°49'56", a chord bearing of S.50°32'24"W., 1285 and a chord length of 288.28 feet; (2) thence along 1286 the arc of said curve an arc length of 291.56 feet to 1287 the end of said curve; (3) thence S.00°01'27"W., a 1288 distance of 1074.23 feet; thence N.48°24'50"W., 1289 leaving said Westerly Line, a distance of 2914.38 feet 1290 to the Northeast corner of Lands described as Manatee 1291 Community College per Official Records Book 1571, Page 1292 2172, same being the point of curvature of a curve to 1293 the left having a radius of 4577.37 feet, a central 1294 angle of 06°20'23", a chord bearing of N.60°40'02"W., 1295 and a chord length of 506.22 feet; thence along the 1296 arc of said curve and Northerly Line of Lands 1297 described as Manatee Community College, an arc length 1298 of 506.48 feet to the end of said curve, same being 1299 the Southeast corner of lands described in Official 1300 Records Book 2389, Page 529, Public Records of 1301 Sarasota County, Florida; thence N.65°18'18"E., along 1302 the Easterly Line of said lands, a distance of 188.09 1303 feet; thence continue N.00°00'19"W., along said 1304 Easterly Line, a distance of 144.96 feet to the 1305 Northeast corner of said Lands; thence N.65°21'46"W 1306 along the Northerly Line of said Lands, a distance of 1307 400.68 feet to the Northwest corner of said Lands, 1308 same being a point on the Easterly Line of a 200 foot 1309 wide access Easement per Official Records Book 1571, 1310 Pages 2172 through 2175 and Official Records Book

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1311 2389, Pages 528 through 530, Public Records of 1312 Sarasota County, Florida; thence N.00°30'25"E., along the Easterly Line of said 200 foot wide access 1313 Easement, a distance of 786.89 feet to the Southerly 1314 1315 Right of Way of U.S. No. 41, same being a point on a 1316 curve to the right having a radius of 5597.58 feet, a 1317 central angle of 03°08'33", a chord bearing of 1318 S.69°13'16"E., and a chord length of 306.97 feet; 1319 thence along the arc of said curve an arc length of 1320 307.01 feet to the end of said curve; thence continue along said Southerly Right of Way Line the following 1321 1322 fourteen (14) courses and distances; (1) 1323 S.22°19'13"W., a distance of 10.00 feet to the point 1324 of curvature of a curve to the right having a radius 1325 of 5587.58 feet, a central angle of 00°45'15", a chord bearing of S.67°16'21"E., and a chord length of 73.55 1326 1327 feet; (2) thence along the arc of said curve an arc 1328 length of 73.55 feet; (3) thence N.23°06'16"E., a 1329 distance of 10.00 feet to the point of curvature of a 1330 curve to the right having a radius of 5597.58 feet, a 1331 central angle of 08°17'44", a chord bearing of 1332 S.62°44'52"E., and a chord length of 809.74 feet; (4) 1333 thence along the arc of said curve an arc length of 1334 810.45 feet; (5) thence S.31°08'57"W., a distance of 1335 10.00 feet to the point of curvature of a curve to the 1336 right having a radius of 5587.58 feet, a central angle 1337 of 00°45'12", a chord bearing of S.58°13'22"E., and a 1338 chord length of 73.47 feet; (6) thence along the arc of

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1339 said curve an arc length of 73.47 feet; (7) thence 1340 N.32°24'25"E., a distance of 10.00 feet to the point 1341 of curvature of a curve to the right having a radius of 5597.58 feet, a central angle of 03°28'13", a chord 1342 1343 bearing of S.56°06'38"E., and a chord length of 338.98 1344 feet; (8) thence along the arc of said curve an arc 1345 length of 339.03 feet to the end of said curve; thence 1346 (9) S.56°35'34"E.; a distance of 155.08 feet; (10) 1347 thence S.54°22'31"E., a distance of 1102.52 feet; (11) thence S.51°00'40"E., a distance of 101.66 feet; 1348 1349 (12) thence S.54°20'43"E., a distance of 199.02 feet; 1350 (13) thence S.48°43'03"E., a distance of 100.71 feet; (14) thence S.54°22'31"E., a distance of 447.75 feet 1351 1352 to the POINT OF BEGINNING. That portion of the North 1353 Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 34, lying West of River Road (County Road 1354 1355 No.777); also that portion of the Southeast Quarter of 1356 Section 34, lying West of the Myakka River, South of 1357 the South line of lands described in Official Record 1358 Instrument No. 2000002794, Public Records of Sarasota 1359 County, Florida (River Road Office Park, Inc.), and 1360 easterly of the maintained right of way line of a 1361 paved road running from River Road to the South line 1362 of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 34, (Old River Road), less and except the following: That 1363 1364 portion described in Official Record Instrument No. 1365 1999111833, Public Records of Sarasota County, 1366 Florida, (Right of Way for County Road No. 777). All of

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1367	Section 35 lying West of the Myakka River. Also, a
1368	portion of Sections 32, 33 and 34, Township 39 South,
1369	Range 20 East, Sarasota County, Florida, being more
1370	particularly described as follows: BEGIN at the
1371	Southeast corner of Section 32, Township 39 South,
1372	Range 20 East; thence N.89°04'43"W., along the South
1373	line of said Section 32, a distance of 410.14 feet to
1374	the Southeast corner of the lands described in
1375	Official Records Book 2785 at Page 634, of the Public
1376	Records of Sarasota County, Florida; thence
1377	N.00°30'25"E., along the East line of said lands
1378	described in Official Records Book and Page, same
1379	being the West line of a 120.00 foot wide Perpetual
1380	Non-exclusive Easement per Official Records Book 2785
1381	at Page 641, a distance of 1400.76 feet to a point on
1382	the westerly extension of the southerly boundary line
1383	of lands described in Official Records Book 1571 at
1384	Page 2172, of the Public Records of Sarasota County,
1385	Florida; thence along the westerly extension and
1386	boundary of said lands described in Official Records
1387	Book 1571, at Page 2172 the following two (2) courses:
1388	(1) S.89°29'35"E., a distance of 1960.21 feet; (2)
1389	thence N.00°30'25"E., a distance of 2062.70 feet to
1390	the Northeast corner of said lands; thence
1391	S.48°24'50"E., a distance of 2914.38 feet to the
1392	Southwest corner of lands described in Official
1393	Records Instrument 1998166154, of the Public Records
1394	Sarasota County, Florida; thence along the boundary of

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1395 said lands described in Official Records Instrument 1396 1998166154 the following three (3) courses: (1) 1397 S.89°58'33"E., a distance 676.50 feet; (2) thence 1398 N.00°01'27"E., a distance of 752.33 feet; (3) thence 1399 N.28°06'22"E., a distance of 362.06 feet to a point on 1400 the southerly right of way line of U.S. Highway No. 1401 41, as per Florida Department of Transportation Right 1402 of Way Map, Section 17010-2508, said point being on a 1403 curve concave to the northeast and having a radius of 1404 3011.73 feet, a central angle of 14°28'18", a chord 1405 bearing of S.72°07'12"E. and a chord distance of 1406 758.67 feet; thence in an easterly direction, along 1407 the arc of said curve, an arc distance of 760.69 feet 1408 to a point on the West line of Section 34, Township 1409 39 South, Range 20 East, Sarasota County, Florida; thence S.00°16'02"W., along the West line of said 1410 1411 Section 34, and leaving said southerly right of way line, a distance of 379.82 feet; thence S.89°37'27"E., 1412 1413 a distance of 1329.90 feet to a point on the westerly 1414 right of way line of County Road #777 (South River 1415 Road) as per Florida Department of Transportation 1416 Right of Way Map, Section 17550-2601; thence along 1417 said westerly right of way line, the following six (6) courses; (1) S.00°07'30"W., a distance of 5.48 feet; 1418 (2) thence S.89°23'52"E., a distance of 9.74 feet; (3) 1419 1420 thence S.36°39'07"E., a distance of 64.18 feet to the 1421 point of curvature of a circular curve to the right, 1422 having a radius of 5599.32 feet, a central angle of

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1 400	00000154"
1423	02°00'54", a chord bearing of S.35°38'40"E. and a
1424	chord distance of 196.90 feet; (4) thence
1425	southeasterly, along the arc of said curve, an arc
1426	distance of 196.91 feet to the end of said curve; (5)
1427	thence N.55°21'47"E., radial to the last described
1428	curve, a distance of 20.00 feet to a point on a curve
1429	concentric with the last described curve and having a
1430	radius of 5619.32 feet, a central angle of 15°31'30",
1431	a chord bearing of S.26°52'28"E. and a chord distance
1432	of 1517.98 feet; (6) thence in a southerly direction
1433	along the arc of said curve, an arc distance of
1434	1522.64 feet to the Northeast corner of lands
1435	described in Official Records Instrument 2000002794,
1436	of the Public Records Sarasota County, Florida; thence
1437	S.78°41'04"W., along the northerly line of said lands
1438	described in Official Records Instrument 2000002794, a
1439	distance of 2240.20 feet to the Southeast corner of
1440	Section 33, Township 39 South, Range 20 East, Sarasota
1441	County, Florida; thence N.89°39'52"W., along the South
1442	line of said Section 33, a distance of 5318.90 feet to
1443	the POINT OF BEGINNING.
1444	
1445	LANDS LOCATED IN TOWNSHIP 40 SOUTH, RANGE 20 EAST,
1446	SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA:
1447	
1448	All of Section 3, less and except the following: That
1449	portion conveyed in Order of Taking recorded in
1450	Official Record Book 2679, Page 2750-2754, of the

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1451	Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida (County
1452	Road No 777); That portion conveyed in Official Record
1453	Instrument No. 2000002794 of the Public Records of
1454	Sarasota County, Florida, (River Road Office Park,
1455	Inc.); The maintained right-of-way of County Road
1456	No.777 (South River Road). All of Section 4, Less and
1457	except the following: That portion described in
1458	Official Record Instrument No. 2000002794, of the
1459	Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida, (River
1460	Road Office Park, Inc.). All of Section 5, less and
1461	except the following: Right-of-way conveyed for Pine
1462	Street Extension recorded in Official Record Book
1463	2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota
1464	County, Florida. All of Section 6, less and except the
1465	following: Right-of-way conveyed for Pine Street
1465 1466	following: Right-of-way conveyed for Pine Street  Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page
1466	Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page
1466 1467	Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County,
1466 1467 1468	Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. All of Section 7, less and except the
1466 1467 1468 1469	Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. All of Section 7, less and except the following: Right-of-way conveyed for Pine Street
1466 1467 1468 1469 1470	Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. All of Section 7, less and except the following: Right-of-way conveyed for Pine Street Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page
1466 1467 1468 1469 1470	Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. All of Section 7, less and except the following: Right-of-way conveyed for Pine Street Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County,
1466 1467 1468 1469 1470 1471 1472	Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. All of Section 7, less and except the following: Right-of-way conveyed for Pine Street Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. All of Section 8. All of Section 9. All of
1466 1467 1468 1469 1470 1471 1472	Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. All of Section 7, less and except the following: Right-of-way conveyed for Pine Street Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. All of Section 8. All of Section 9. All of Section 10, less and except the following: The
1466 1467 1468 1469 1470 1471 1472 1473	Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. All of Section 7, less and except the following: Right-of-way conveyed for Pine Street Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. All of Section 8. All of Section 9. All of Section 10, less and except the following: The maintained right-of-way for County Road No. 777 (South
1466 1467 1468 1469 1470 1471 1472 1473 1474	Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. All of Section 7, less and except the following: Right-of-way conveyed for Pine Street Extension recorded in Official Record Book 2536, Page 811-974, of the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. All of Section 8. All of Section 9. All of Section 10, less and except the following: The maintained right-of-way for County Road No. 777 (South River Road) ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS

The above described property contains a total of 8193.7478 acres more or less.

Section 18. Severability.--In case any one or more of the sections or provisions of this act or the application of such sections or provisions to any situation, circumstance, or person shall for any reason be held to be unconstitutional, such unconstitutionality shall not affect any other sections or provisions of this act or the application of such sections or provisions to any other situation, circumstance, or person, and it is intended that this law shall be construed and applied as if such section or provision had not been included herein for any unconstitutional application.

Section 19. Limitations of powers.—All governmental planning, environmental, and land development laws, regulations, and ordinances apply to all development of the land within the district. The district does not have the power of a local government to adopt a comprehensive plan, building code, zoning code, or land development code, as those terms are defined in the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act. The district shall take no action which is inconsistent with applicable comprehensive plans, ordinances, or regulations of the applicable local general—purpose government. Nothing in this act shall create any delegation of any responsibilities or authorities from the City of North Port to the district. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the district shall be required to obtain any and all permits for infrastructure planning and construction from the City of North

Port that would otherwise be required of a private entity

performing the same work. The district shall not have the power

to supercede, contravene, or overrule any development or

annexation agreements entered into by landowners within or

outside of the district or any City of North Port joint planning

agreements or interlocal agreements with Sarasota County or any

other governmental entities.

Section 20. Public disclosures. --

- (1) The district shall be required to comply with all current or future requirements, if any, to provide disclosure to the public and/or current or potential property owners concerning the district and its assessments.
- (2) Any contract for sale of real property within the district whereby a land developer or builder is selling property to the general public at large for residential and noncommercial purposes, contain a disclosure to the potential purchaser disclosing the existence and nature of the district, as well as actual amounts of bonded indebtedness applicable to that property and projected assessments for principal debt repayment that the district is then obligated to assess and collect annually upon the subject real property. Said disclosure must be presented prominently and specifically acknowledged in writing by the buyer in the sales document.
- (3) Any property owner's association created within the district by a land developer or builder shall contain language in its charter or declaration of covenants disclosing the existence and purpose of the district.

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- (4) The district shall cause to be recorded in the public records of Sarasota County the formation of any unit created pursuant to section 11 of this act and, upon of the sale of any debt, the principal amount of bonded indebtedness incurred for that unit.
- office for the purpose of the initial sale of homes or lots within the district to the general public at large shall post a readily visible sign of not less than 24 inches by 36 inches in the sales office which advises potential buyers of the existence and purpose of the district.

Section 21. Sale of lands.--In the event that the lands described in subsection (3) are sold to the state or any executive branch department thereof or the Southwest Florida Water Management District:

- (1) The seller of said land shall be able to utilize any such lands sold for open space mitigation, wetland mitigation, and stormwater mitigation for development within the district.
- (2) Any development within the district which shall be required to obtain any permits from any executive branch department of the state or the Southwest Florida Management District shall receive expedited review of those permits.
  - (3) Legal description of lands:

All of Section 3, Township 40 South, Range 20 East,
East of the Right-of -Way for State Road 777.

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1561	LESS AND EXCEPT a parcel recorded in Deed Book 168,
1562	Page 240 described as follows: a strip of land twenty
1563	five feet in width on either side of a center line
1564	running and described as follows: beginning at a
1565	point which is the intersection of the section line
1566	between sections 3 and 10, in Township 40 South, Range
1567	20 East, and the centerline of the existing Englewood-
1568	Myakka River Road, and running thence East along said
1569	section line to the southeast corner of said Section
1570	3, said corner being also the Northeast corner of said
1571	section 10.AND All of section 10, Township 40 South,
1572	Range 20 East, East of Right-of -Way for State Road
1573	<u>777.</u>
1574	LESS AND EXCEPT a parcel recorded in Deed Book 168,
1575	Page 240 described as follows: a strip of land twenty
1576	five feet in width on either side of a center line
1577	running and described as follows: beginning at a
1578	point which is the intersection of the section line
1579	between sections 3 and 10, in Township 40 South, Range
1580	20 East, and the centerline of the existing Englewood-
1581	Myakka River Road, and running thence East along said
1582	section line to the southeast corner of said Section
1583	3, said corner being also the Northeast corner of said
1584	section 10.
1585	
1586	AND
1587	
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1588	All of section 15, Township 40 South, Range 20 East,
1589	East of right-of -way for State Road 777.
1590	
1591	All lying and being in Sarasota County, Florida
1592	
1593	Section 22. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
1594	law.

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