



FIRE CHIEF  
SALVATORE A. D'ANGELO III

# *Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue*

304 FIRST STREET  
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FLORIDA 33785-2508

(727) 595-1117 FAX: (727) 595-5879

[www.psfrd.org](http://www.psfrd.org)

**MINUTES  
MARCH 16, 2016  
WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETING**

**Held at the Indian Shores Municipal Center  
19305 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, FL 33785**

**WORKSHOP MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Commissioners answering roll call were Chair Joe Bruni, Vice Chair Laura Martin, Secretary/Treasurer David Gardella, Commissioner Larry Schear, and Commissioner Lou Snelling. A quorum was present with Chair Joe Bruni presiding. Attorney Jeff Albinson, Fire Chief Sal D'Angelo, and Finance Director David Martin were also present.

---

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** None.

---

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Commissioner Schear stated that when he and Chief D'Angelo went to Tallahassee recently, he learned about FASD certification courses that are available for public officers of special districts. He stated that Chief D'Angelo informed him that there was one scheduled at the end of April in West Palm Beach. He stated that he would like to attend, and possibly another Board member, if they are interested.

---

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 7:03 p.m.

---

**REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:03 p.m.**

---

**OATH OF OFFICE – Christopher “Chip” Bodine, Lieutenant:** Chief Sal D'Angelo performed the swearing in of Christopher “Chip” Bodine, who was recently promoted to Lieutenant.

---

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:** None.

---

**MONTHLY BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of Minutes: • February 16, 2016, Workshop and Regular Meetings

*Discussion:* None.

**A motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2016, Workshop and Regular Meetings.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR      SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING**  
**All in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

2. Treasurer's Report: February, 2016

*Discussion:* Secretary/Treasurer Gardella stated that all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of February 29, 2016. The District's investments are doing fine. The Unassigned Fund Balance is at 21.3 percent of total operating expenditures. The proposed budget deficit was originally \$390,600, but is now projected to be just over \$170,000, which is a decrease from last month.

**A motion to approve the February, 2016, Treasurer's Report.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MARTIN      SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA**  
**All in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

3. Correspondence: Secretary/Treasurer David Gardella read the correspondence.

The first was a card from Tom Gohn who had a medical emergency and wanted to thank the crews for saving his life. Chief D'Angelo added that Mr. Gohn had come into Administration on the two year anniversary of the incident and brought a cake for the crews.

Two letters, one from Austin DuMont and the other from Quentin Doerges, thanking Robb Williams, who was acting District Chief on the day that they participated in a ride-along as part of the Excel job-shadowing program at Largo High School.

There was one more letter from Lawrence Doyle, a seasonal resident from Redington Shores, to show his gratitude for a crew's response to his medical emergency recently.

---

**REPORTS:**

1. **COMMISSION:** Commissioner Schear stated that he had worked as a representative of the Indian Shores Library at the Indian Shores St. Patrick's Day event, and he just wanted to comment on the tremendous amount of support he received from the fire department, as well as the police department.

Commissioner Schear stated, as mentioned previously, that he would like to attend the introductory course being offered through FASD in West Palm Beach on April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. The tuition is \$75. The only other associated costs would be transportation; however, he will ride with Chief D'Angelo, and room and board, which would be moderate. Commissioner Schear encouraged other commissioners to also attend. Chief D'Angelo stated that FASD is holding their year-end legislative wrap-up in during that same time in West Palm Beach, and he confirmed that he and Commissioner Schear would ride together. Commissioner Schear said that he would like to discuss again and gain approval at the next Board Meeting.

**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** Will Newton, President of Pinellas County Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 4966, introduced himself. He stated that he had filed a Step 3 grievance and it has not been heard with the Fire Chief. Mr. Newton said he spoke with Chief D'Angelo the day prior and that the Chief suggested letting the lawyers handle it. Mr. Newton stated that the deadline was missed and the grievance should now be moved to Step 4, which is a hearing in front of the Board of Fire Commissioners. He stated that the Bargaining Unit Contract indicates that this step should happen at the next Workshop meeting; however, since the Workshop and Regular Meetings are now combined, he is requesting a date and a time certain to hear the grievance at Step 4. He also offered to present the grievance at the current meeting. Attorney Albinson informed him that a response has been prepared and the document will be made available to him at the current meeting. Attorney Albinson continued that he does not feel that this issue qualifies as a "class" grievance, but that decision will be made by the Board. He discussed that the Sunshine Law requires this to be heard at a Workshop Meeting, which must be published ahead of time, on an agenda, as an action item, and therefore he does not feel that it should be heard at this current meeting, as it does not give any opportunity for people to prepare who may like to comment on the issue. Chairman Bruni confirmed with all of the commissioners that they received copies of Attorney Albinson's grievance response to Will Newton.

Commissioner Schear asked if he understood correctly that the issue has now moved to Step 4 because Mr. Newton felt that the grievance was not heard in a timely manner at Step 3. Mr. Newton stated that was correct, as the Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement requires a maximum of five business days, and it is currently the 14<sup>th</sup> business day. Chairman Bruni made a recommendation that the Board members review the letter, determine if it should be heard as a class grievance, and at that time, Mr. Newton will be contacted with a date and time. Attorney Albinson said the Sunshine Law allows them to appoint a single member of the Commission to work with the department's administrative staff to make those determinations, and then they may notify Mr. Newton, without having any communication take place outside of the Sunshine Law. Chairman Bruni asked if any Commission members would be interested in volunteering to take on this task. Secretary/Treasurer Gardella volunteered Commissioner Snelling; Commissioner Snelling agreed.

**2. ATTORNEY:** Attorney Albinson stated that the Holiday Inn lawsuit is moving forward. He stated that there are very strict rules regarding mediation confidentiality, so those findings cannot be discussed; however, there is continuing potential that the issue should be coming to fruition. At that time, the lawsuit will only be semi-concluded, as the provision for resolution would require approval by the entire Board, with the understanding that if the Board does not approve the recommended resolution, the lawsuit would continue.

Attorney Albinson discussed the proposed referendum ballot language that was presented at the last meeting. He stated that he feels that the question should be finalized by himself, Chris Lyon, and the consultant in time to be placed on the April 19, 2016 agenda.

Attorney Albinson mentioned that Will Newton had been sending e-mailed public records requests directly to the commissioners. He discussed that the department has limited administrative staff and the great number of public records requests that have been submitted have taken a great deal of time away from handling routine department matters, which is why Chief D'Angelo sought legal counsel from him to assist with some of the burden. He stated that the staff knows that their priority is to conduct the business of the District, and then to fulfill the public records requests. He informed the commissioners that they have no obligation to fulfill any public records requests and should not respond due to Sunshine Law implications. Attorney Albinson stated if a commissioner receives a business-related e-mail into their personal account, it should be deleted without opening, so that it may not be subjected to public record laws.

**3. CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief D'Angelo discussed that he has been speaking at Homeowners Association Meetings within the District as often as possible. He explained that he received a phone call from a representative from the Hillcrest Manor HOA who would potentially like to use Station 28 for their meetings and that is currently being worked on.

Chief D'Angelo stated that they are currently working with the Pinellas County EOC and various community partners to begin the Web EOC training, and that he believes they will participate in some EOC "activations" as skill exercises.

The Chief mentioned that Commissioner Schear had already discussed the upcoming FASD training and that he will also be attending the legislative wrap up session at the end of April. He stated that he will communicate any information that he learns regarding bills that may have been passed.

Chief D'Angelo stated that he and his staff are working on several issues with Will Newton and Local 4966. He said that they are continuing to fill the public records requests and legal counsel has been sought.

Chief D'Angelo stated that he will be out of the District tomorrow for educational purposes.

---

**ACTION ITEMS:** None.

**A motion to adjourn.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MARTIN      SECOND: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR**  
**All in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

---

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 7:43 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph V. Bruni, Chair                      Date Approved

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant