



FIRE CHIEF  
SALVATORE A. D'ANGELO III

# Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

304 FIRST STREET  
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FLORIDA 33785-2508  
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**MINUTES**  
**MAY 16, 2017**  
**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, Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schear, and Commissioner Laura Martin. A quorum was present with Chair Joe Bruni presiding. Fire Chief Sal D'Angelo and Finance Director David Martin were also present. Vice Chair Lou Snelling, Commissioner David Gardella, and Attorney Jeff Albinson were excused.

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**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** None.

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**GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**Kelly Cisarik** – [Did not state address] – Mrs. Cisarik stated that she has concerns about the handling of the District's finances. She stated that two accounting techniques have been used that can have the effect of masking shortfalls in the general fund, and she is concerned that the District might be heading into a "deteriorating financial condition," or that it may have already happened and went undetected due to accounting tricks. She stated that the Commission has a responsibility to see that the funds are properly managed. She discussed that last month she asked the Commission to look into a discrepancy of approximately \$200,000 in the capital fund balance in the last three months of last year.

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**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**17-06 Truck 28 Purchase**

**Discussion:** Chief D'Angelo stated that the Commissioners have been given three proposals for replacing Truck 28. He stated that PSFRD is still awaiting the FEMA grant results. Chief D'Angelo discussed the differences in the proposals and stated that they are valid for 60 days. He continued to explain that there will be a price increase after June 30, 2017. The current Truck 28 is about to go through \$10,000 in repairs. Discussion ensued regarding the difference between types of trucks and their ability to traverse bridges in the District. Chief D'Angelo stated that he will provide more updates at the June meeting.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

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**REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:23 p.m.**

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**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:**

Connie Curran, Director of the Beach Community Food Pantry, presented a certificate of appreciation to Life Safety Inspector Marshall Eiss on behalf of PSFRD, for all the District does for the Food Pantry.

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**MONTHLY BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of Minutes: April 18, 2017 Workshop and Regular Meetings

*Discussion:* None.

**A motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2017 Workshop and Regular Meetings.**

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

2. Treasurer's Report: April, 2017

*Discussion:* Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schear stated that all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of April 30, 2017. The total asset value of all funds is \$4.4 million. A million dollars in one CD matured on May 10, 2017, half of which was rolled over, and the other half is being held for a more favorable economic situation. There is \$750,000 in two CDs coming due in the month of July, and others longer term. There are no irregularities in the current liabilities. Fund balance reserves are in line with the normal inflow of non-ad valorem assessments at this time of year. Projected revenues are 0.6% less than last year due to the net effect of diminished impact fees and a \$148.6k federal grant. Current projections of both funds produce a deficit of revenues over expenditures due to escalating overtime caused by personnel injuries and a 10% match for the air pack grant. Impact Fee earnings are projected in accordance with the previous history and the projection may continue on a positive note. Outstanding impact fee invoices are \$33.5k. The impact fee changes have been implemented in accordance with the Board resolution approved during the April Commission meeting. An amendment will be presented to the Board for formal approval and budget appropriation for the \$15k impact fee expenditure and capital projects that include the acquisition of eight radios for the new air packs and the replacement of Truck 28. The projection surplus will increase as new fees are received during the remainder of the fiscal year. Fire assessment fees are projected in accordance with the adopted budget. EMS funding exceeds the budget due to additional funds for CME training and marine expenditures; inspection fees and special event income is projected at \$6.4k ahead of the adopted budget; interest earnings are projected in excess of the adopted budget; and, refunded expenses are ahead of budget as well. Personnel compensation projection exceeds the budget by \$79.2k due to overtime costs, and personnel benefits saw an unusual increase in healthcare family changes. Unexpected expenditures will be resolved through the fourth quarter budget amendment.

**A motion to approve the May, 2017 Treasurer's Report.**

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

3. Correspondence: None.

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**GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**John Pfansteil** – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Pfansteil stated that PSFRD's cost to fund each paramedic position is 30% over the average for Pinellas County. He stated that the District's benefits package is calculated at over 63% of the paramedic's salary, in line with other districts, and he wants to know why PSFRD charges taxpayers 50% more than other nearby fire districts.

**Nancy Obarski** – 708 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Obarski wants the commissioners to ask why the referendum expenses were treated as prepaid items, and why they were added to the assets of the District, as the costs were not contingent upon winning the referendum. She also inquired as to why the category names on the quarterly financials change, as "pre-paid items" changed to "other current assets." Mrs. Obarski also inquired as to why the last few years of quarterly financials were removed from the website, and why the District will no longer be posting the quarterly financials online.

**Ed Hoofnagle** – 2 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Hoofnagle discussed a point that he feels was missed in discussions regarding the mailings for referendum. He stated that many people believe this constituted an express advocacy. He stated that there is legal guidance that PSFRD received that stated that the Board must make relevant legislative findings as to the purpose of the expenditure and the potential benefit, and that is the only case in which the statute does not prevent the District from electioneering, but he said that he is unable to find any relevant legislative findings.

**Art Newsome** – 19810 Gulf Blvd, #8, Indian Shores – Mr. Newsome thanked Chief D’Angelo and Inspector Eiss for the program they held at the Indian Shores Municipal Building earlier that day. He stated that both the Property Owners and Women’s Club would like to do it again and appreciate their expertise. Mr. Newsome also discussed that he said they had many council meetings, both prior to and after the November election, and he hopes that the issues with the referendum are resolved quickly, as many people were looking forward to the benefits that the majority of residents approved.

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**REPORTS:**

1. **COMMISSION:** None.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Not present.

3. **CHIEF’S REPORT:** Chief D’Angelo stated that the legislative session ended on May 8, 2017. He discussed that one item that passed and will go to a vote in the November 2018 general election is to increase the homestead exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000. If the constitutional amendment passes, House Bill 7107 contains language that provides for fiscally constrained counties, and will hold them harmless and the State will appropriate additional dollars for the loss in revenue from the exemption increase. Chief D’Angelo discussed another piece of legislation that he particularly supports, but died during the legislative process, is the firefighter cancer presumptive piece of legislation. He stated that this would have created a presumption that a full-time firefighter or paramedic who contracts cancer did so in the line of duty and is eligible for death and disability benefits. He said that there is a lot of scholarly research being done regarding firefighter cancer. Chief D’Angelo additionally discussed that the FRS statute was amended last year to provide that death benefit payments could be extended for the surviving child of a member killed in the line of duty on or after July 1, 2013, until their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday if the child is unmarried and enrolled as a full-time student.

Chief D’Angelo said that in reference to fire prevention, Treasure Island has hired a new fire chief, and PSFRD is still currently still assisting them with their fire prevention activities. He also discussed that they have been attending multiple emergency management meetings across the County, and that fire prevention and public education are vitally important to the community.

Chief D’Angelo stated that one citizen had mentioned PSFRD’s new initial response to public records request. He discussed that the two week time maximum is similar to what other government organizations do. He discussed that the purpose is simply to create a standardized approach and give staff a reasonable timeframe to fill the public records request, and if it can be completed earlier, it will be. Mrs. Cisarik spoke at this time and stated that she has information proving that the District is not in compliance with public records laws.

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**ACTION ITEMS:**

**17-07 Portable Radio Purchase**

**Discussion:** Chief D’Angelo stated that he will be asking the Board to make a motion to approve the portable radio purchase. He stated that the radios will be purchased through the use of impact fee funds. He discussed that the Finance Director received formal approval from the auditor to ensure that this purchase would be a proper use of impact fee funds. He stated that the total of the quote is \$30,474. Commissioner Schear stated that the documentation distributed at the meeting shows a quantity of six radios instead of the original quantity of eight. Finance Director David Martin said two radios are being deferred to next year. Chief D’Angelo confirmed that the purchase will be for six radios, not eight.



**William Thomas** - 470 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach - Mr. Thomas stated that any purchase over \$5,000 is supposed to be advertised for seven days to the public, unless there is a sole source justification, and he asked if this was published for seven days. Chief D'Angelo stated that it was not published, and Finance Director David Martin confirmed it is sole source purchase. Chief D'Angelo stated that all fire departments in Pinellas County use Motorola Solutions. Mr. Thomas asked if Motorola is the only option compatible with the other fire departments, to which Chief D'Angelo said that it is. Chief D'Angelo also added that the quote identifies that it is coming from a State-adopted required contract, and added that it is posted on the agenda for seven days prior to any meeting.

**A motion to approve the move forward with the proposed portable radio purchase.**

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

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 8:01 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
Joseph V. Bruni, Chair      Date Approved

**ATTEST:**

  
Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant