



Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

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www.psfrd.org

FIRE CHIEF
SALVATORE A. D'ANGELO III

**MINUTES
NOVEMBER 15, 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 Lou Snelling, and Commissioner Larry Schear. 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.

SERVICE PIN AWARDS - John G. Mortellite II, Assistant Fire Chief, for 20 Years of Service

Chief D'Angelo presented Assistant Chief Mortellite with a pin for 20 years of dedicated service to PSFRD.

Chief D'Angelo also mentioned that Jeff Pyles will be presented with his service pin at next month's meeting.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:04 p.m.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF OFFICERS: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer

Chair Joe Bruni distributed the ballots. All five Commission members submitted their ballots to Attorney Jeff Albinson. Attorney Albinson tallied the votes and the results were as follows: Joe Bruni for Chair, Lou Snelling for Vice Chair, and Lawrence Schear for Secretary/Treasurer. The new officers will assume their roles at the December meeting.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: October 18, 2016, Workshop and Regular Meetings

Discussion: None.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2016 Special, Workshop and Regular Meetings.

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

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

2. Approval of Minutes: October 18, 2016, Workshop and Regular Meetings

Discussion: None.

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2016 Special, Workshop and Regular Meetings.

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

2. Treasurer's Report: October, 2016

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Gardella stated that all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of October 31, 2016. A CD has matured since the last meeting, which went into the investment pool. The total asset value of both funds decreased 6.4 percent over the same period last year. The Unassigned Fund Balance increased to 27 percent of total operating expenditures. All investments are doing fine.

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

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

3. Correspondence: Secretary/Treasurer David Gardella read a letter from John Thompson, a Largo resident, thanking fire department personnel for their assistance during an incident at his apartment complex.

Secretary/Treasurer Gardella read a letter from former Commissioner Tom Hafner's wife, Barbara, thanking Chief D'Angelo for the fire department's presence at Mr. Hafner's funeral recently.

Secretary/Treasurer Gardella read a card from Beth Rawlins to Chief D'Angelo congratulating him on his efforts with the referendum and thanking him for allowing her to be a part of it.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

John Pfanstiehl – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach. Mr. Pfanstiehl spoke about Mr. Hoofnagle's personal lawsuit against the referendum. He stated that he felt the literature in the mailings regarding the referendum was deceptive, and feels they did not include comparable jurisdictions. He gave examples of fire jurisdictions with lower millage rates, which included North Redington Beach, Redington Beach, and Redington Shores.

Kelly Cisarik – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach. Mrs. Cisarik stated that she feels the projections in the Capital Improvement Plan do not match Chief D'Angelo's claim that the ½ mill rate is all that the fire department needs through 2020. Chief D'Angelo responded to Mrs. Cisarik and explained that the CIP is a guideline, and the ½ mill will allow for the District to begin financing those projects. He explained that he does not want to put the burden solely on the current taxpayer and intends to spread the costs over 10 to 20 years. He stated that the ½ mill provides a steady revenue stream that is favorable to lenders.

Bill Thomas – 470 20th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach. Mr. Thomas said that he has spoken to several firefighters who stated they have not received pay increases for several years. He asked the Board if they have voted on changes in compensation for administrative employees. Chair Joe Bruni stated that the answer was no. Chief D'Angelo added that he has declined a pay raise twice, and will not take one until the District is financially stable. He explained that the Board of Fire Commissioners have spent their time and funds on increasing the level of service for the District.

REPORTS:

1. **COMMISSION:** Secretary/Treasurer David Gardella stated that he was disappointed in the materials that were mailed out to the residents of the District regarding the referendum. He said that he feels the intention was to put fear in people and mislead them.

Commissioner Schear stated that he attended another FASD meeting and three of the educational courses, each of which he will present at future meetings so that everyone can benefit from what he learned. He said that one of the most interesting topics he learned about was about how to handle a live fire situation. The most important thing to remember is, when you go into an unknown building, you should immediately identify at least two exits and make a plan.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Attorney Jeff Albinson stated that he handed out a large packet of papers, which include the materials that were filed post-hearing on the arbitration regarding the dismissal of Michael Carpenter. Attorney Albinson discussed what has transpired since the arbitration. He explained that they are currently waiting for the arbitrator to make a ruling.

Attorney Albinson said that while he is not the attorney handling the case regarding Mr. Hoofnagle's lawsuit, Mr. Hoofnagle's attorney has stated that he could not represent him due to a conflict of interest, and his motion to withdraw as Mr. Hoofnagle's attorney was granted. Mr. Hoofnagle has been given a deadline November 28, 2016, to find alternative counsel. There is nothing ongoing at this point.

3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief D'Angelo addressed Secretary/Treasurer Gardella. He thanked him for the support on other items that they have worked on, but with regard to the referendum, he stated that this was the first time that he has heard in a public forum about Commissioner Gardella's issue with the literature. Commissioner Gardella explained that he was only referring to the literature that was mailed out days before the vote. Chief D'Angelo stated that all of the literature and educational material that was sent out since the beginning of the process has been the same. Commissioner Gardella discussed that the most recent mailings contained information stating that stations will close if the referendum didn't pass. Chief D'Angelo stated that this was factual information; Station 26 would be closing, and he explained that had already spoken with six firefighters and told them that they would be losing their jobs should the referendum fail.

Chief D'Angelo mentioned that Lieutenant Bodine was in attendance at the meeting to talk about the upcoming Christmas party, but they had to leave on a call. He stated that they will get the information about the event to the Commissioners soon.

Chief D'Angelo thanked Executive Assistant Kim Fugate and staff for working on the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for a replacement ladder truck. He explained that the District takes every opportunity to apply for alternative funding.

The Chief thanked all of the residents who have been in attendance at the meetings, whether they agreed or disagreed with the referendum, as he feels the open dialogue is important and beneficial.

Chief D'Angelo said that he will be bringing forward a specifications sheet and a cost for a new Pierce 100' tower truck in the coming months. He explained that they will be working with Ten-8 Fire Equipment, as they are the sole source provider for Pierce manufacturing in Florida.

The Chief asked the Board members if they would support him in moving forward with having the appropriate discussions with the elected officials of Redington Beach, North Redington Beach, and Redington Shores, in regard to the subsidizing of fire service in their jurisdiction by our District. He explained that the Redingtons contract out for service to Madeira and Seminole, yet PSFRD still regularly provides fire services to the Redingtons. He explained that he would like to look into either charging a fee for service, or be written into their contracts. Chairman Joe Bruni volunteered to work with Chief D'Angelo to approach the officials of the Redingtons. All other Commissioners stated that they are in support of this effort.

Mrs. Cisarik asked Chief D'Angelo why Truck 28 is not on the beach. Chief D'Angelo explained that, from a tactical perspective, the truck is not typically the first due unit; it is designed for a specific set of operations. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Cisarik also asked if Truck 28 endures a high amount of wear and tear responding to EMS calls, to which Chief D'Angelo said that there is a level of wear and tear on the apparatus; however, paramedics respond on that apparatus. He explained that, if he had the funds, he would like to purchase a quick response vehicle to complement the truck and the engine, which would rectify that issue.

Attorney Albinson gave a brief history on how the issue of subsidizing the Redingtons began. He explained that, around 1994, the Indian Rocks Fire District (now PSFRD) had a crew stationed in the Redington Beach fire station. At some point, a structural engineer inspected the building and published a report that stated the building was structurally unsound and the employees that were housed there were relocated. He continued that, at that time, there were a lot of annexations going on in the area, and several proposals were submitted to provide services to the Redingtons. It was highly competitive, and our Board decided that they could not authorize a lower proposal to provide those services as it would not be fair to the taxpayers, although they acknowledged that they would still be responding to calls there. Attorney Albinson stated that this is why the Redingtons have such an incredibly low fire services rate, and the building that was labeled "structurally unsound" is actually still intact today.

Chairman Joe Bruni thanked Chief D'Angelo for a job well done by him and his staff regarding the referendum. He discussed that the ballot language was voted on by the Board and was provided by counsel. He added that the Board had one issue with the language at one point and it was corrected. Chairman Bruni continued that by Chief D'Angelo and his staff walking the District from door to door, they provided complete transparency through the whole process. Chair Bruni also thanked the residents in attendance for coming to the meetings, expressing their thoughts, and getting answers to their questions.

ACTION ITEMS: None.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 9:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:


Joseph V. Bruni, Chair Date Approved


Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant