



# Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

304 FIRST STREET  
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www.psfrd.org

FIRE CHIEF  
SALVATORE A. D'ANGELO III

**MINUTES  
AUGUST 15, 2017  
SPECIAL, WORKSHOP, AND  
REGULAR MEETINGS**

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

**SPECIAL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m.  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** None.

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**ACTION ITEMS:**

**17-16 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Rates Fixed for FY 2017/2018  
Resolution 2017-06 (First Reading)**

**Discussion:** Attorney Jeff Albinson read Resolution 2017-06 in its entirety.

**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**Kelly Cisarik** – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Cisarik stated that she found several examples in the 2016 meeting minutes during which it was discussed that two readings of a resolution should not be done on the same day. She said that she does not feel that it gives the public a fair opportunity to comment and requested to postpone the second reading of this resolution.

**Nancy Obarski** – [Did not state address] – Mrs. Obarski held up a card showing what a Redington Beach citizen will pay for fire suppression services contracting with the Madeira Beach Fire Department. She then held up a card showing what a resident in PSFRD's jurisdiction will pay. She stated that her friend in Indian Rocks Beach will pay four times what her friend in Redington Beach will pay for the same services. Mrs. Obarski asked the Commission to consider decreasing the non-ad valorem rates.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

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**WORKSHOP MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:08 p.m.**

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**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:**

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**CITIZEN COMMENDATIONS - Charles Reyes and Douglas Eleyet**

Interim Fire Chief John Mortellite recognized two employees of Publix on Oakhurst Road for their life-saving actions performed on another employee who went into cardiac arrest.

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**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**17-14 Presentation of Tentative Budget**

*Discussion:* Finance Director Dave Martin distributed a draft version of the tentative budget for the general fund and the capital projects fund to the Commission and explained that it is still a working document. He stated that the official presentation and approval of the tentative budget will take place on September 13, 2017.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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**REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:15 p.m.**

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**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:**

Executive Assistant Kim Fugate stated that a special meeting and public hearing must be scheduled to adopt the final millage rate and budget. She explained that, given all of the requirements, the only available date is Wednesday, September 27, 2017. The Board agreed to this date. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Shores Municipal Building.

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**MONTHLY BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2017 Special Meeting  
July 18, 2017 Workshop and Regular Meetings

*Discussion:* None.

**A motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017 Special Meeting and the July 18, 2017 Workshop and Regular Meetings.**

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

2. Treasurer's Report: July, 2017

*Discussion:* Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schear stated that there is \$1,097,465 in the Money Market, \$1,517,847 in the Florida Investment Pool, and \$575,000 in fixed income CDs, for total assets of \$3,190,312. Current liabilities for this month are approximately \$81,700. Fund balance reserves are slowly declining, as inflow from the non-ad valorem assessments do not meet the operational expenses. Cash and management programs continue to provide prudent stewardship of the District's assets. A \$545,500 budget amendment will be presented to the Board for approval tonight. Personnel compensation expenses continue to be higher than anticipated, due to arbitration and overtime costs. Benefits expenses are in line, and operating expenses show a negative variance of \$239,200. The projected Unassigned Fund Balance is \$896,600, representing 17.2%.

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

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

3. Correspondence: Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schear read an email from Nancy Obarski regarding a lack of parking spaces available at the Indian Shores Municipal Building.

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**GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**Nancy Obarski** – 708 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Obarski congratulated everyone for approving the EMS settlement with the County. She discussed her opinions on the state of the relationship between PSFRD and the County, as well as potential fire chief candidates.

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**REPORTS:**

1. **COMMISSION:** Chair Joe Bruni stated that he has contacted Chief Mike Burton, whom the Board chose as the new Fire Chief, and he has accepted the position.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Attorney Jeff Albinson discussed the Constitutional Review Committee and Laura Donaldson, as discussed at a previous meeting. He informed the Board that Ms. Donaldson contacted him to follow up, and he informed her that the Board was choosing not to move forward at this time. Commissioner Martin expressed her support in keeping track of the progress and potentially joining the other fire departments in the area and moving forward with her services in the future.

Attorney Albinson read an article in a local newspaper that stated the City of Largo Fire Rescue has stated that the Pinellas County EMS Authority has not properly funded their department. He continued that Largo's Board of Commissioners, on July 25th, followed PSFRD's lead and gave direction to its legal counsel to take legal action in regard to the EMS funding issue; however, the County worked out an agreement with them to avoid further litigation.

3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Interim Fire Chief John Mortellite stated that personnel are functioning smoothly and training effectively. He discussed that the crews organized a beach clean-up day on August 5th; personnel covered the entire beach, from one end of the District to the other, picking up trash. Chief Mortellite also stated that on August 10th, crews were involved in the annual first day of school activities, promoting safety and awareness to the children traveling to school.

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**ACTION ITEMS:**

**17-06 Truck 28 Purchase (Resolution 2017-04)  
(Second Reading)**

**Discussion:** Attorney Jeff Albinson read Resolution 2017-04 by title only. He discussed that impact fees must be used by September 30th, otherwise they must be returned. He added that the vendor, Pierce, is offering a finance package and the ability to obtain the apparatus within a certain amount of time, should the District place an order prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>. Pierce expects a significant set of orders to come in between September 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the delivery time is already approximately 14 months, and discussed how the production, financing, and delivery process works. Commissioner Gardella inquired as to what would happen if the District is awarded the FEMA grant for the truck. Finance Director David Martin stated that the District would not be able to use those funds on that apparatus, but could potentially use them for another apparatus. Discussion ensued.

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**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**Kelly Cisarik** – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Cisarik requested the Board immediately freeze the Capital Projects Fund until it can be audited independently and stated that she does not feel that the truck should be purchased at this time. She stated that, four months ago, she inquired as to why the quarterly balance sheets between September and December 2016 showed a discrepancy of over \$150,000. She stated that it will now be necessary for her to contact the Auditor General.

Finance Director Dave Martin stated that the fund is audited, and there has been no co-mingling of funds; otherwise, there would be a note to the financial statement to that effect.

**A motion to adopt Resolution 2017-04 to move forward with purchasing Truck 28.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING  
4-1 vote, with one nay by COMMISSIONER GARDELLA  
MOTION PASSED**

**17-15 Budget Amendment (Resolution 2017-05)  
(First Reading)**

**Discussion:** Attorney Jeff Albinson read Resolution 2017-05 in its entirety. Finance Director David Martin stated that in the second "Whereas" clause, radios for the new airpacks need to be added. Attorney Jeff Albinson re-read the clause with the correction. Finance Director David Martin also added that the adoption date should read September 13<sup>th</sup> rather than September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**Kelly Cisarik** – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Cisarik inquired about prepaid legal fees and if any were prepaids that were set aside as expenses related to the referendum. Finance Director David Martin stated that these are normal operating expenses for this year that have been incurred; prepaids are a balance sheet item. Mrs. Cisarik asked if additional legal fees are included. Finance Director Dave Martin stated that he doesn't believe he has those details with him, but the bulk of the \$222,000 expenditures are to cover the grant, and the remainder is for general operating expenses, such as apparatus repair costs, and most legal fees were taken care of via line item changes. Mrs. Cisarik suggested that the Board ask for more detail on this.

**Nancy Obarski** – 708 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Obarski stated that the beginning of the resolution includes the words "legal fees," but they are not itemized. Mrs. Obarski stated that she doesn't feel the budget amendment process is being done correctly.

**Bill Thomas** – [Did not state address] – Mr. Thomas said that the public was never informed about the money lost due to the Holiday Inn lawsuit, and that he is concerned about the general operating expense budget overrun.

**John Pfansteil** – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Pfansteil stated that he had three questions, which included: Are there changes to last year's expenditure plan which proposed \$1.5 million to build Station 26; does the Tentative Budget assume that the District would legally collect ad valorem taxes and is spending based on this; and, is there a contingency plan in place should the referendum be overturned.

**Kelly Cisarik** – [Did not state address] – Mrs. Cisarik stated that she is concerned that the draft tentative budget was not made available to the public prior to the meeting and asked when it would be on the District's website. Chair Bruni stated that it will be made available when it is complete and not in draft form. Executive Assistant Kim Fugate stated that Statute requires the Tentative Budget to be placed on the website two (2) days prior to the (September 13<sup>th</sup>) meeting. Mrs. Cisarik stated that it must be included with the agenda packet seven (7) days before the meeting if it is completed, but she feels neither allows enough time.

Commissioner Gardella asked if the figures are based on the half mill ad valorem. Finance Director Dave Martin confirmed that they are, as there is no court order indicating otherwise. He continued that it is on the TRIM notices and there are very specific legal requirements that the District must follow.

Finance Director Dave Martin also commented that budget amendments are allowable up to 60 days past-year end. He stated that the line items include overtime costs, legal fees, protective gear (related to the grant), fire equipment (related to the grant), and apparatus repair costs for the ladder truck and the engine, and read those amounts. He added that the impact fee study, radios, and the down payment for the truck are included in the capital projects.

**17-16 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Rates Fixed for FY 2017/2018  
Resolution 2017-06 (Second Reading)**

**Discussion:** Attorney Jeff Albinson read Resolution 2017-06 in its entirety.

**A motion to adopt resolution 2017-06 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Rates for FY 2017/2018.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MARTIN SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING  
4-1 vote, with one nay by COMMISSIONER GARDELLA  
MOTION PASSED**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 8:16 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Joseph V. Bruni, Chair      Date Approved

**ATTEST:**

  
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Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant