



Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

**304 FIRST STREET
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FLORIDA 33785-2587**

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www.psfrd.org**

**FIRE CHIEF
T. MICHAEL BURTON**

**MINUTES
JANUARY 16, 2018
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 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, Fire Chief Mike Burton, and Finance Director David Martin were also present.

VFW AWARDS – Steve Surface, on behalf of VFW Post #10094, presented Firefighter Timothy Burnham with an award for Paramedic of the Year, and presented Firefighter Robert Lawson with an award for EMT of the year.

SERVICE PIN AWARD – Fire Chief Mike Burton recognized Life Safety Inspector Robert Hill for 5 years of dedicated service to the District.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:05 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: December 19, 2017 Workshop and Regular Meetings

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2017 Workshop and Regular Meetings.

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

2. Treasurer's Report: December, 2017

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schear stated all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of December 31, 2017. He reported the following: Consolidated government fund assets and liabilities are \$3.7 million; the investment program in accordance with District policy is \$3.6 million; current liabilities are within normal end-of-month limits at \$94,000; the capital projects fund is slightly ahead of budget deficit due to additional impact fees; the general fund is basically in line with the budget, with a small surplus to the budget due to vendor refunds; and, the reserve ratio remains slightly ahead of GASB recommendations at 24.9%. See detailed Financial Report for further details.

A motion to approve the September and December, 2017 Treasurer's Reports.

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

3. Correspondence: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

John Pfanstiehl – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Pfanstiehl thanked Chief Burton for attending the Indian Rocks Beach Council Meeting; however, he stated that he is concerned about the fact that the Chief only mentioned that funding issues would be discussed during advisory council meetings, and he was hoping that operational efficiencies would also be addressed.

REPORTS:

1. COMMISSION: Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schear stated that he did not attend the FASD legislative session this week, as the only Certified District Officer class they were offering was one that he had already taken. He did find that one of the required courses he needs is available online for only \$35; there was a consensus among the Board members to allow Secretary/Treasurer Schear to take the online course.

2. ATTORNEY: Attorney Jeff Albinson stated that he and Dave Martin had been working on collection-related issues and most have been resolved.

Attorney Albinson stated that he has worked with Mr. Hoofnagle's attorney to come to a resolution on the public records lawsuit for the amounts discussed last month. He continued that they have received the requested records, all parties have signed off on the settlement agreement, and Mr. Hoofnagle's attorney is just awaiting the check that Finance Director David Martin sent for the requisite amount, and once that has been received, he will file the dismissal with prejudice and the case will be complete. He explained that Mr. Hoofnagle also had the open costs issue regarding his original lawsuit, and that has since been taken care of and the notice for costs will be withdrawn. Attorney Albinson added that Mr. Hoofnagle's previous attorney, Mr. Weiss, made a fairly extensive public records request that was similar to Mr. Hoofnagle's request, and those were provided to him. Mr. Weiss had requested some additional information from the other attorneys, and those attorneys provided that information to Attorney Albinson, which has also been distributed to Mr. Hoofnagle and Mr. Weiss. He stated that he believes that all requests have now been satisfied.

Attorney Albinson stated that he and Chief Burton have still been working on the document to replace the Collective Bargaining Agreement, which will be similar to an employee manual.

3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Mike Burton delivered an annual report summarizing the fire prevention and Community Emergency Response Team's activities in 2017.

The Chief stated that the EMS Settlement Agreement contains specific language that a representative from both the County and PSFRD would meet within 60 days of the vote to begin discussions about Penny for Pinellas funding. Chief Burton continued that those conversations are underway and the terms of the contract are being met; however, it will be a lengthy process due to the importance of the issues being discussed.

ACTION ITEMS:**17-26 Service-Connected Total & Permanent Disability Tax Exemption and Non-Ad Valorem Assessments**

Discussion: Chief Burton explained that the Statute dealing with tax exemption is very specific in that it speaks only of taxes, with no mention of non-ad valorem assessments. He continued that those who are 100% tax exempt are still paying other non-ad valorem assessments, mainly in unincorporated Pinellas County. He explained that residents in the incorporated areas of Indian Rocks Beach and Indian Shores, for example, are not subject to other non-ad valorem assessments like those in unincorporated areas, so PSFRD's assessment is very obvious as being the only assessment on their tax bills. If PSFRD were to exempt its residents from paying the non-ad valorem assessment, it would result in a revenue reduction of approximately \$20,800, which is of course not budgeted. He suggested the possibility of discussing this issue at the Stakeholder's meetings, but he stated that he cannot recommend moving forward any further on this issue at this time. The Board agreed to leave the assessment as is.

17-28 Stakeholder Group

Discussion: Chief Burton explained that the application period to join the Stakeholder Group ended December 28th. He stated that PSFRD received five (5) applications from Indian Rocks Beach residents, one (1) application from Indian Shores, one (1) from within the department, one (1) business owner, and two (2) applicants from the mainland area. There were no applicants from Belleair Beach or Belleair Shore, and no rental property owners. Attorney Albinson suggested that the District begin scheduling the meetings, which might gain additional interest from the currently under-represented areas. Chair Bruni proposed that the District bring the five applicants from Indian Rocks Beach in to be interviewed by himself and Chief Mortellite, and the one representative can be selected based on those interviews. He also suggested to keep the other positions (with no applicants) open for anyone who would still like to apply.

18-01 Public Facilities Report

Discussion: Fire Chief Burton stated that the title of the current report may need to be changed to more clearly align with the Florida Association of Special Districts, as there are three types of reports, and we should indicate which type of report this is. The report, with a cover letter, is distributed to each of the cities, as well as to Pinellas County, once the report has been approved. The new title should read, "Public Facilities Annual Notice of Any Changes," which the Board approved of.

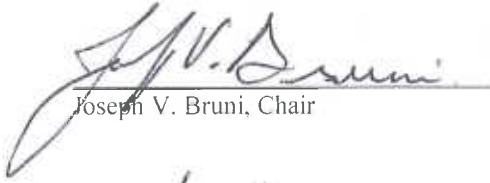
REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Kelly Cisarik – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Cisarik stated that she had sent an e-mail to the Chief earlier in the afternoon related to the Public Facilities Report and he has now addressed a couple of those issues. Mrs. Cisarik stated that the District has not provided an annual report over the last two years to Pinellas County to communicate its infrastructure plans and she sees that as problematic and offered suggestions.

Chief Burton stated that the report has been sent to the Pinellas County Planning Council every year, to which Mrs. Cisarik stated that it is supposed to go to the Clerk's Office. The Chief agreed that if that is accurate, the District will absolutely forward it to the appropriate person.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 7:38 p.m.

APPROVED:



Joseph V. Bruni, Chair

ATTEST:



Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant

2/20/18

Date Approved