



# *Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue*

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

**(727) 595-1117 FAX: (727) 595-5879  
www.psfrd.org**

**FIRE CHIEF  
T. MICHAEL BURTON**

**MINUTES  
MARCH 19, 2019  
WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETINGS**

**Held at Bellair Beach City Hall  
444 Causeway Boulevard, Belleair Beach, FL 33786**

**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 Schear, Commissioner Laura Martin, and Commissioner David Gardella. A quorum was present with Chair Joe Bruni presiding. Fire Chief Mike Burton and Finance Director David Martin were also present. Attorney Jeff Albinson was excused.

---

**SERVICE PIN AWARD** – Fire Chief Burton recognized Firefighter/EMT Rick Rubel for five years of dedicated service to the District.

---

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** None.

---

**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None.

---

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** None.

---

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

---

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

---

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

---

**MONTHLY BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of Minutes: February 19, 2019 Workshop and Regular Meetings

**Discussion:** No discussion.

**A motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2019 Workshop and Regular Meetings.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MARTIN SECOND: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR**

**All in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

**2. Treasurer's Report: February, 2019**

**Discussion:** Secretary/Treasurer Schear stated all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of February 28, 2019. He reported the following: Consolidated government fund assets and liabilities are \$3.9 million; the investment program in accordance with District policy is \$3.9 million; current liabilities are within normal end-of-month limits at \$52,200; the capital projects fund revenues total \$29.4 thousand, with an additional \$23,600 still pending payment; general fund, FEMA grant for Hurricane Irma, unbudgeted EMS revenues, greatly improving investment interest rates, and a positive workers' compensation audit all contributed to the 79.8% reduction in the \$249.2 thousand budget deficit. The reserve ratio remains slightly ahead of GASB recommendations at 24.4%. Election costs for referendum will be in next year's budget. There is only one capital expenditure scheduled this year, which is the payments on the new truck. See detailed Financial Report for further details.

**A motion to approve the February, 2019 Treasurer's Reports.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MARTIN SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA**

**All in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Correspondence: None.**

---

**GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.**

---

**REPORTS:**

**1. COMMISSION: None.**

**2. ATTORNEY: None.**

**3. CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Burton stated that the first bargaining meeting with the labor organization is set for March 26<sup>th</sup>. The union president resigned as president as well as from the department, due to accepting another job. Chief Burton explained that he does not have any proposed materials to work with at this time, but may ask for an executive session at the end of the next Commission meeting to brief the Board on potential proposals and to discuss bargaining strategies.

Chair Bruni informed the Commission that he would like to consider a review of Chief Burton's contract.

---

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**19-04 Referendum Outcome**

**Discussion:** Chief Burton confirmed that the District did prevail on its recent referendum, by a

margin of approximately 200 votes, and stated that a majority of the positive votes came from the beach communities rather than from the mainland. He added that there were approximately 25 times more mail ballot votes than in-person votes on the mainland, which means that information for any future referendums should be disseminated long before mail ballots are sent out by the Supervisor of Elections. Revenue from the increase will not be realized by the District until November at the earliest, but it will allow the District to begin planning for long-deferred maintenance and equipment issues.

Finance Director David Martin added that the District's consulting firm, GSG, has informed the District that it may need to mail out first-class notices to all taxpayers, notifying them of the increase. This would cost about \$17,000. Staff is waiting for confirmation from counsel whether this needs to be done or if including the required information on the TRIM notices will be sufficient.

Commissioner Schear requested that safety issues for personnel be the first priority for the new funds. Chief Burton recognized the labor organization for all of their efforts with the referendum, as well as Matt Loder for providing facilities, materials, and support in the efforts. Chair Bruni thanked the Chief, labor organization, and the task force for all of their work.

#### **19-05 Growth Management Plan**

**Discussion:** Chief Burton explained that the Data Driven Focus Group (DDFG) is a group made up of municipal and fire district fire chiefs, staff from Pinellas County Safety and Emergency Services, the Medical Director, Sunstar EMS, and 911. He stated that the group has been working for over a year to manage the growth within the EMS system at a countywide level, as call volume is outstripping the County's ability to continue to add fire rescue resources. The growth management plan requires an interlocal agreement between each of the fire agencies and the County.

Chief Burton explained that the group determined that there is a subset of calls that involve falls and a subset of calls that involve sick people of the lowest possible acuity, where the fire first responder will no longer respond, only Sunstar. This would reduce the call volume by about 16,000 calls for fire responders – about 176 for PSFRD. This recommendation has gathered support from medical director, medical control board, EMS Advisory Council, the regional 911 center, and members within the DDFG; however, there was a concern that reducing call volume would put fire departments at risk for future funding. To remedy this, the term "foundational units" was established. It was agreed that any of a fire agency's units that are funded on the day that the agreement is signed will be considered "foundational units," meaning the funding for those units will remain intact, regardless of what happens with funding. Chief Burton further discussed processes that will take place to ensure that there is no degradation in levels of service.

He explained that there are two documents – the interlocal agreement, as well as a resolution from the County which identifies the foundational units. Mr. Albinson has had the resolution for review, and has no issue with the concept or approach, and is working with County staff on some terminology issues to maintain consistency throughout the document. Chief Burton asked for a motion to authorize the Chair to sign the interlocal agreement when he and Mr. Albinson are comfortable with the content, so as soon as the documents are ready they can be transmitted to the County. It will then be brought before the Board of County Commissioners on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Schear asked for confirmation that the net income to PSFRD will not decrease even

though there will be fewer calls for service. Chief Burton stated that is correct, as the resolution creates a floor. He further explained that, for PSFRD, the resolution identifies funding for Squad 26, Engine 27, and 50% of Truck 28. He added that resources can always be added in the future. Commissioner Schear asked if the change would have any effect on Sunstar, which Chief Burton confirmed that it wouldn't, as they were already responding to these calls, and approximately 85% of them required transport.

**A motion to authorize the Chair and the Fire Chief to sign the documents required for the Growth Management Plan, as described.**

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

---

**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None.

---

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 7:26 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

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

**ATTEST:**

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

4/16/19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved