



Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

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FIRE CHIEF
T. MICHAEL BURTON

MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2020
SPECIAL BUDGET, WORKSHOP, AND REGULAR MEETINGS

Held Virtually Via Zoom

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Commissioners answering roll call were Chair Joseph Bruni, Vice Chair Louis Snelling, Secretary/Treasurer Lawrence Shear, Commissioner David Gardella, and Commissioner David Ardman. A quorum was present with Chair Joe Bruni presiding. Attorney Jeff Albinson, Chief Mike Burton, and Finance Director David Martin were also present.

ACTION ITEMS:

20-18 Adoption of the FY 2020/2021 Tentative Budget
(Resolution 2020-03)

Discussion: Finance Director David Martin gave a brief explanation of the Tentative Budget and capital items. Attorney Jeff Albinson read Resolution 2020-03 in its entirety. Commissioner Gardella discussed significant increases in Workers' Compensation and healthcare costs. Mr. Martin confirmed the District will be shopping for healthcare next year, but reminded the Commission that the District had a significant decrease in healthcare in two previous years. He added that the District has experienced a significant number of Workers' Compensation claims in recent years and, additionally, COVID-19-related Workers' Compensation claims are a concern for next year's rates. He added that the District is with the best carrier for first responders in the country.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2020-03.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER ARDMAN

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

WORKSHOP MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

20-29 FEMA Generator Grant

Discussion: Chief Burton will discuss this later in the meeting.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: August 18, 2020 Workshop and Regular Meetings

Discussion: None.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 20 Workshop and Regular Meetings.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER ARDMAN SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report: July, 2020 and August, 2020

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Schear stated all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of July 31, 2020. Consolidated government funds, assets, and liabilities are \$3.1 million; the investment program in accordance with District policy is \$3.0 million; current liabilities are within

normal end-of-month limits, at \$134,800; the capital projects fund revenues total \$9.5 thousand; general fund revenues exceeded the adopted budget, due to large tax sale and prior year refunded expenditures from the County; EMS contracted funds are in line with the adopted budget, and unbudgeted CME pass-through funding offsets the related overtime expenditures, and a budget amendment is pending; due to COVID-19, inspections were on hold, affecting fees and investment interest rates continue to weaken; projected ending ratio remains slightly ahead of GASB recommendations at 24.4%. Our fiscal general year fund projection does not include the FEMA cost recoveries for Hurricane Michael or COVID-19.

Secretary/Treasurer Schear stated all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of August 31, 2020. Consolidated government funds, assets, and liabilities are \$2.8 million; the investment program in accordance with District policy is \$2.5 million; current liabilities are within normal end-of-month limits, at \$160,900; the capital projects fund revenues total \$11.4 thousand; general fund revenues exceeded the adopted budget, due to large tax sale and prior year refunded expenditures from the County; EMS contracted funds are in line with the adopted budget, and unbudgeted CME pass-through funding offsets the related overtime expenditures; due to COVID-19, inspections were on hold, affecting fees and investment interest rates continue to weaken; positive income variances will be eliminated by the COVID-19 expenditures, requiring a budget amendment for the fiscal year. projected ending ratio remains slightly ahead of GASB recommendations at 22.5%. Our fiscal general year fund projection does not include the FEMA cost recoveries for Hurricane Michael or COVID-19.

A motion to adopt the July, 2020 Treasurer’s Report.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SNELLING SECOND: COMMISSIONER ARDMAN

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adopt the August, 2020 Treasurer’s Report.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER ARDMAN SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Correspondence: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

REPORTS:

1. COMMISSION: Commissioner Schear stated that he attended a FASD-sponsored webinar on ethics earlier in the day and shared a few key takeaways from that webinar with the Commission.

Commissioner Ardman stated that the City of Indian Rocks Beach Keegan Clair Park and associated parking is back open to the public. Due to COVID-19, Commissioner Ardman stated that all City events through October in have been canceled, and mentioned that two City Hall employees have recently recovered from COVID-19.

Commissioner Ardman stated that the City Manager is looking for feedback from the District where no-parking restrictions should be recommended. The City Commission will hold their next budget meeting this coming Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Lastly, Commissioner Ardman stated that he was honored to participate in the 9/11 parade at Indian Rocks Christian School and was proud of PSFRD's strong display at the event. He was working in New York at the time of the attacks.

2. ATTORNEY: Attorney Jeff Albinson discussed that he has been recently working with Chief Burton a tax question, which will basically just entail looking at the Charter, State Statutes, and the State Constitution to determine the available options.

Mr. Albinson has been working on a situation involving a garnishment for a District employee. An order was put in place to garnish the employee's wages and Mr. Martin followed the order. The creditor is now claiming there is additional money to be paid but cannot produce a court order, and has since filed a Motion to Compel for PSFRD to turn over funds. Mr. Albinson confirmed PSFRD has done nothing in proper, but is required to have a court order to garnish the employee's wages. Additionally, the information from the creditor did not include a start date or how the interest was to be compounded, and post-judgment costs were blank. Mr. Albinson will be attending a hearing with the judge on Friday at 10:15 a.m.

3. CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Burton stated the next bargaining session is Wednesday, September 23rd.

The fire boat is completely in service and responding to calls; Assistant Chief Mortellite and a handful of other employees have worked tirelessly to accomplish this.

Chief Burton thanked everyone for their thoughts on passing of dad.

Marshall Eiss retires this week, but there are currently no plans to schedule an open house until the District feels it is safe to do so.

The Squad 26 replacement committee has wrapped up, and their recommendation is that the apparatus needs to have some firefighting capabilities in addition to what it has had previously. Chief Burton confirmed the District will be working with a manufacturer this week to see if this can be accomplished with the allotted budget. Chief Burton is currently waiting on something official from the committee members, but progress is being made.

Chief Burton stated that he is working with the City of Indian Rocks Beach on community parking concerns, but is only involved from a public safety perspective.

Chief Burton stated that he was out of town during the 9/11 parade at church, but spent the day with his grandchildren who lost their other grandfather in the 9/11 attacks.

Commissioner Ardman inquired as to a timeframe to respond to Indian Rocks Beach on the parking concerns. Chief Burton stated that he will try to have a response by the end of the month and will engage a District Chief for assistance. Chief Burton also mentioned that Life Safety Inspector Robert Hill is working on a District-wide survey of all public roadways to identify low-hanging limbs, wires, and signage to include in a comprehensive report to provide to the County.

Commissioner Schear asked how the situation with Indian Rocks Beach is going with regard to occupancy permits and inspections. Chief Burton stated that there are still struggles relating to the transition with the building permit process over to the County, but some of that is attributable to COVID-19 and the delays it has caused with the building permit process. The County has agreed to handle some of the mechanics of collecting the impact fees.

Chair Bruni asked Chief Burton to pass along the Commissioner's appreciation for his service and well wishes in his retirement. Chair Bruni also spoke to Chief Burton's father's memory and offered his condolences. He stated that Chief Burton's father was the oldest living retiree from St. Petersburg Fire & Rescue and had retired as a District Chief.

ACTION ITEMS:

20-15 Fire Chief Evaluation Process

Discussion: Chief Burton stated he read all evaluation and comments. He thanked the Commission for their kind words, as well as for affirming that the body of work that he is doing is work the Commission finds value in. Chair Bruni stated that he would like the Board's approval to meet with Chief Burton privately to discuss pay and benefits for the upcoming budget year, if any, and report back to the Commission.

There was consensus among the Board members.

20-18 EMS ALS First Responder Agreement – Amendment #1

Discussion: Chief Burton stated that this is the annual amendment for EMS services and confirmed that he, Mr. Martin, and Mr. Albinson have all viewed the document and are comfortable with it. Chief Burton added that he did inform Greg Woodrum that, if the agreement is approved, his transmittal letter will include a clarification. Appendix A discusses Authority-funded units to be Squad 26, Engine 27, and Truck 28. It discusses Contractor-funded units as being none; however, it should show 50%.

A motion to approve ALS First Responder Agreement Amendment #I with clarification

MOTION: COMMISSIONER ARDMAN SECOND: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

20-29 FEMA Generator Grant

Discussion: [Note: This Action Item number is out of order.] Chief Burton stated that he has been discussing for two years a private/public partnership to install a generator at Indian Rocks Christian School, which acts as the District's EOC during storm threats. District Chief Sidlauskas has done most of the work today has informed the Chief that FEMA has approved the project. The District has no dollars invested in this project, and the church will be covering the 25% required match. Chief Burton is requesting a motion, once FEMA sends the documentation, to allow him to sign the agreement and return to FEMA if there is a tight timeline.

**A motion to approve Chief Burton to sign the agreement with
FEMA for the generator grant.**

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.


There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:



Joseph V. Bruni, Chair



Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant

10/20/2020

Date Approved