



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 DECEMBER 15, 2020 WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETINGS

Indian Shores Municipal Building
19305 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, LF 33785

WORKSHOP MEETING CALLED TO ORDER PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Workshop was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

20-33 CARES Act Funding

This item will be addressed under Action Items.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS – This item is tabled until January 2021.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: November 17, 2020 Workshop and Regular Meetings

Discussion: None.

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2020 Workshop and Regular Meetings.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER ARDMAN SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report: November, 2020

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schear stated balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of November 30, 2020. Consolidated government funds, assets, and liabilities are \$2.4 million; the investment program in accordance with District policy is \$1.6 million; current liabilities are within normal end-of-month limits, at \$89,200; the capital projects fund revenues total \$1,800; two utility vehicles have been moved to a future year to provide funding for an SCBA fill station a Station 27 to replace the Squad 26 compressor; the Hurricane Michael claim was approved and paid in early December. Income and expenditures are currently projected to be in line with the amended budget. Projected ending ratio remains slightly ahead of GASB recommendations at 26.4%, but is far less than the Commission's 45% objective. The projection does not include FEMA cost recoveries for Hurricane Sally or COVID-19.

A motion to approve the November, 2020 Treasurer's Report.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA SECOND: COMMISSIONER ARDMAN

A motion was made and seconded.

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

3. Correspondence: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

REPORTS:

1. **COMMISSION:** Commissioner Ardman is conducting some preliminary research on grant assistance as the District moves closer to building three new fire stations and will report back to the Chief with any findings.

Commissioner Ardman stated that La Hacienda Drive in Indian Rocks Beach is now under full construction and that getting front-line apparatus through that area will be challenging.

Secretary/Treasurer Schear reported on the tree lighting ceremony in Indian Shores and the fire department's assistance during it.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Mr. Albinson stated that he has been working with Chief Burton on the Squad 26 replacement, as well as a union grievance matter that will be scheduled for mediation in January.

3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Burton stated that the first Zoom meeting took place with Pinellas County staff regarding the OPTIMA report; it was a productive meeting with tasks to be carried out by all attendees. He added that he will begin working with Pinellas County real estate staff after the new year. The County conducts a situation report on all facilities, and Chief Burton stated that he has asked if they would consider including Station 28 in their report, as it would likely be helpful if the County realizes that the building is obsolete and is in need of replacement. Chief Burton also requested the County conduct an unofficial appraisal on the Station 27 property, and in January he will also begin meeting with county administrators and city managers, and will request to be placed on agendas for elected bodies to keep constituent cities apprised of what is going on with the District.

Chief Burton stated that the Indian Rocks Beach boat parade will take place this weekend, and part of the lease agreement for providing dock and lift space is that PSFRD participates in the boat parade, and personnel are getting equipment ready.

PSFRD staff will assist in managing fireworks in Indian Rocks Beach again for New Years' Eve. Chief Burton continued that the City Manager is taking a sterner approach this year, as extensive education efforts have been underway for the last year, through New Years' Eve and the Fourth of July.

Secretary/Treasurer Schear asked Chief Burton if the location on Hamlin Boulevard mentioned in the OPTIMA report is the entire property or half of the property; Chief Burton stated that he is not sure at this time, but it is a very desirable property, as it is four acres.

Secretary/Treasurer Schear asked about the status of personnel being vaccinated for COVID-19. Chief Burton stated that there is no directive at this time, but has surveyed the District's workforce and, unofficially, 70% will decline the vaccination at this time. Chief Burton added that he has met with the Union president to discuss potential implications in the future with Workers' Compensation and potential requirements by the Medical Director. For now, the situation is being monitored. Commissioner Ardman asked who is financially responsible if a firefighter is out of work with COVID. Chief Burton stated that Workers' Compensation pays for firefighters, but the backfill is the expense of the District. Some discussion ensued. Commissioner Ardman asked Chief Burton to find out how other entities are handling this situation and report back next month, if possible.

ACTION ITEMS:

20-32 Squad 26 Replacement

Discussion: Chief Burton stated that he has signed the purchase order for the new apparatus and it is in process. He explained that the included resolution is to address the financing component; the financing is through PNC and the cash component will be paid for with impact fees. Chief Burton stated that this resolution is nearly identical to the one approved for the aerial; PNC requires a signed resolution by the Board. He added that Chief Mortellite has done a tremendous amount of work to make this happen. The apparatus will be similar in functionality and design to Engine 27. Commissioner Gardella asked what the terms of the agreement are, to which Mr. Martin

responded that it is seven years at a 2.42% interest rate. Attorney Jeff Albinson read Resolution 2020-07 in its entirety.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2020-07.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA SECOND: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

20-23 CARES Act Funding

Discussion: Chief Burton explained that this is a surprising “good news” item. The CARES Act is federal legislation that provides funds to state and local governments to offset COVID-19 costs. Pinellas County received a substantial amount in CARES funding and only has until the end of the year to spend it, so they have reached out to local fire districts, stating if they were able to submit their documented expenses, they will provide funding as an alternative to dealing with the arduous FEMA process. Mr. Martin submitted over \$300,000 worth of expenses and, initially, the County approved \$208,000, which was very appreciated. However, as of last night, the County sent new documents to the District, offering \$338,414 in funding. Chief Burton stated that Mr. Martin has been exceptionally organized and therefore was able to immediately provide all required documentation. Discussion ensued. Commissioners thanked Mr. Martin for his hard work on the COVID-19 reimbursement documentation.

A motion to enter into the CARES Act Funding Agreement with Pinellas County.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER ARDMAN

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 6:31 p.m.

APPROVED:



Joseph V. Bruni, Chair

ATTEST:



Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant

11/19/2020

Date Approved