



Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

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FIRE CHIEF
JEFFREY DAVIDSON

MINUTES JANUARY 17, 2023 WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETINGS

Indian Shores Municipal Building
19305 Gulf Boulevard, 4th Floor
Indian Shores, FL 33785

WORKSHOP CALLED TO ORDER PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Commissioners answering roll call were Chair Louis Snelling, Vice Chair Elizabeth “Betsey” McKenna, Secretary/Treasurer Lawrence Schear, Commissioner David Gardella, and Commissioner Heather Koskinas. A quorum was present with Chair Louis Snelling presiding. Attorney Jeff Albinson, Fire Chief Jeffrey Davidson, Assistant Chief Douglas Higley, and Finance Director Erin Brooks were also present.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

23-01 Life Safety Resolution – Short-Term Rentals

Fire Chief

Discussion: Fire Chief Davidson stated that a District-wide life safety resolution has been in the works for a few months regarding short-term rentals. He explained that the District is unable to inspect single-family homes or duplexes under the Fire Prevention Code; however, lodging units can be. He added that the main concern is that tragedy can easily occur when vacation rentals are not regularly inspected and explained the items the resolution will focus on. As there are over 2,000 vacation rentals just in Indian Rocks Beach alone, the Chief stated he believes that he will need to hire an additional fire inspector, but that position should pay for itself with the inspection fees.

Assistant Chief Doug Higley added that the City of Indian Rocks Beach approached them about this issue and explained that he was tasked with finding a solution. He stated that the goal is to ensure that both residents and visitors of the District are safe. He also discussed some challenges of such a resolution due to the uniqueness of PSFRD’s jurisdiction and multiple municipalities.

Chair Louis Snelling inquired as to how the District intends to address this issue in the other cities.

Assistant Chief Higley stated that the other cities may piggyback off Indian Rocks Beach’s model and utilize their software, but the District will need to work with Attorney Jeff Albinson to determine its rights and liability in the matter. Further discussion ensued regarding the number of rentals in each area, how the inspections will be accomplished, and associated fees.

Public Comment:

Kelly Cisarik – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Cisarik read the statute regarding transient lodging and discussed.

Gregory Marx – 314 Harbor Drive, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Marx stated that short-term rentals are commercial businesses in residential neighborhoods and should be treated as such.

John Pfanstiehl – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Pfanstiehl expressed that he is glad the District is proactively addressing vacation rentals and discussed his concerns regarding these properties.

ADJOURNMENT

The Workshop was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: December 20, 2022 Workshop and Regular Meetings

Discussion: None.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2022 Workshop and Regular Meetings.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer’s Report: December, 2022

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Schear stated that the new monthly financial report format is still in process. A condensed budget to actual report has been prepared for the fiscal year to date as of December 31, 2022 for this meeting. The investment program is in accordance with policy at \$5.89 million held in interest earnings accounts and \$275k in non-interest checking. Impact fees received during the month total \$10,076. Fiscal year to date impact fee collections total \$46,753. Capital expenditures totaling \$365,104 are for the early payoff of Truck 28 and the second lease

payment on Squad 26, as scheduled. General fund projections are within the adopted budget. EMS funding includes the \$1.24 million received from the County as reimbursement for Truck 28.

A motion to approve the December, 2022 Treasurer's Report.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA SECOND: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

3. Correspondence: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

REPORTS:

1. **COMMISSION:** Secretary Treasurer Schear discussed the restriction in Indian Shores regarding no open fire on balconies and recommended that extinguishers be put on patios with grills.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Attorney Jeff Albinson stated that he had been assisting in an inspection issue with a particular property but that issue is now under control and described the situation. He stated that he has also been working with Chief Davidson on the Collective Bargaining Agreement as well as the short-term rental resolution issue.

3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Davidson stated that the District has received an unsolicited bid from the company that made the presentation last month on station construction and once more copies are provided to the District they will be provided to each Commissioner. Chief Davidson stated that he hopes to be able to ask the Board for approval to move forward with the Request for Proposal process at the February or March meeting. The Chief discussed that Pinellas County has stated they want to conduct a study on a new location for Station 28, but he has already provided them with the facts and data on this issue, including data illustrating that Station 28's call volume has increased by 40% since the implementation of AVL now that there is a year's worth of data. Further discussion ensued. He explained that the County had originally stated that there were no stipulations on the \$3 million promised, but now they are requiring a new Levrum study. Chief Davidson stated that the data shows that Station 28 is already in the perfect location and is ready to move forward. Regarding a new location for Station 27, the Chief stated that the District is working on getting an appraisal for a section of the Church of the Isles property, and there is currently no prospective properties in Indian Shores for Station 26.

ACTION ITEMS:

23-02 Collective Bargaining Agreement

Fire Chief

Discussion: Chief Davidson stated that negotiations have been taking place with the Association but it was a late start due to waiting until after the referendum. He explained that there are certain issues that need to be fixed to ensure long term stability, the first issue being overtime.

Chief Davidson explained that personnel had been given time off to make up for the lack of raises years ago and he is now asking members to exchange that earned benefit for an increase in pay. He added that PSFRD is at the bottom of the pay scale when compared to other Pinellas County fire departments but the cost of time off has compounded over the years. He further explained the issue in more detail. He is asking members to exchange two days of vacation this year and two next year, as they currently earn more vacation time than any other department in the County. The benefit is that their wages can be increased due to the overtime savings. Unfortunately, he added, the vote did not pass approving this change at a recent Association meeting, and the contract is now in its second 90-day extension. Chief Davidson stated that he is offering an 8% wage increase in the current budget and a 4% increase in October, all contingent upon rolling back vacation time. He also mentioned that there has been a cost savings helping fund this due to the elimination of the maintenance technician position. He also mentioned that the District is currently covering the costs for two employees to attend paramedic school as an added benefit.

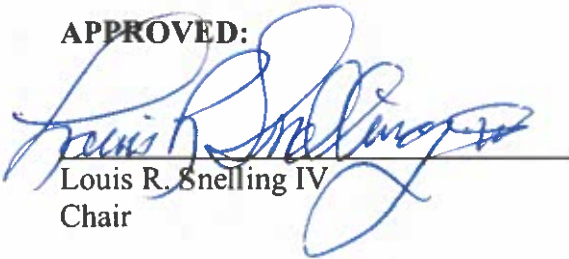
Public Comment:

Kelly Cisarik – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Cisarik stated that the County has always had an adversarial attitude due to cost per seat and this structure will make PSFRD look better to the County.

Chief Davidson also added that he is planning on conducting classes on the budget for line personnel to help them better understand the District’s finances.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 7:44 p.m.

APPROVED:



Louis R. Snelling IV
Chair

ATTEST:



Kimberly G. Hampton
District Administrator

FEB 21 2023
Date Approved