



FIRE CHIEF
SALVATORE A. D'ANGELO III

Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

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**MINUTES
JULY 19, 2016
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING,
WORKSHOP, AND REGULAR MEETING**

**Held at the Indian Shores Municipal Center
19305 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, FL 33785**

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Commissioners answering roll call were Chair Joe Bruni, Vice Chair Laura Martin, Secretary/Treasurer David Gardella, Commissioner Larry Shear, and Commissioner Lou Snelling. A quorum was present with Chair Joe Bruni presiding. Attorney Jeff Albinson, Fire Chief Sal D'Angelo, and Finance Director David Martin were also present.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO FIRE CHIEF D'ANGELO – Chairman Joe Bruni presented Chief D'Angelo with a plaque, recognizing him for the accomplishment of obtaining his Ph.D.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

16-11 First Reading/Public Hearing FY 2016/2017 Budget – Finance Director Dave Martin explained that the tentative FY 2016/2017 budget is a zero-based budget and is set at \$4.9 million. He explained that there have been reductions in assessments this year. He continued to discuss that the County is still not funding Station 28, so EMS funding will remain the same as last year. He explained that expenditures for personnel have decreased by \$158,000, while benefits have gone up by about \$90,000 due to a 1% increase in FRS, a 10% increase in healthcare, as well as increases in workers' compensation. Additionally, operating expenses due to aging facilities have increased by about \$37,000 this year. Chief D'Angelo read the letter from himself, addressed to the Board, submitting the tentative budget for FY 16/17.

A motion to approve the first reading of the FY 2016/2017 budget.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

WORKSHOP MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:11 p.m.

SERVICE PIN AWARD - Richard Funderburk, Firefighter/EMT, for 10 Years of Service

AUDITOR'S FORMAL PRESENTATION - Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) - Mr. Richard Cristini introduced himself, as well as his partner, Jeanine Bittinger. Mr. Cristini presented a very thorough overview of the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:58 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: Chief D'Angelo said that there will be an addition to the Discussion Items: #16-12, Auditor's Engagement Letter. He explained that the letter is to approve using Davidson, Jamieson & Cristini, P.L., Certified Public Accountants, to continue the CAFR and auditing of the Fire District.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: June 21, 2016, Workshop and Regular Meeting

Discussion: Commissioner Schear mentioned a typo that he had noticed on the draft of the minutes; however, the correction had been made prior to receiving the hard copy at the meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2016 Workshop and Regular Meetings.

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

2. Treasurer's Report: June, 2016

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Gardella stated that all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of June 30, 2016. The District's investments are doing fine. The Unassigned Fund Balance remains at 21 percent of total operating expenditures. The projected budget deficit is approximately \$181,000.

A motion to approve the June, 2016 Treasurer's Report.

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

3. Correspondence: Secretary/Treasurer David Gardella read the correspondence.

There was one piece of correspondence: An e-mail dated June 22, 2016 from Summar Mahr, Public Education Specialist at Largo Fire Rescue. She thanked personnel for helping out at an engine demonstration at Oakhurst Learning Center. When she had originally scheduled the event, she thought it was in Largo's fire district, but realized at the last minute that it was in PSFRD's zone. She thanked Assistant Chief Mortellite, Acting District Chief Todd Grantham, and Firefighters Coley, Tomilonus, and Morris, for all of their help and understanding.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Beverly Young, 19817 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores – Mrs. Young stated that she is the widow of Congressman C.W. Bill Young. She wanted to compliment the firefighters on their discretion and integrity. She explained that after her husband passed away, she had a medical incident and was brought to the Indian Shores fire station. She stated that they took excellent care of her. She also thanked them for responding to a recent incident at which her dog got trapped inside the elevator shaft at her condo.

REPORTS:

1. **COMMISSION:** Commissioner Larry Schear said that he would like to attend an upcoming FASD seminar on October 20, 2016 in Jupiter, FL. Total cost would be \$159 plus tax and meals.

A motion to approve Commissioner Schear to attend the FASD seminar on October 20, 2016.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA SECOND: COMMISSIONER MARTIN

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Attorney Jeff Albinson informed the Board that the arbitration hearing regarding the class grievance that was brought before the Board [April 19, 2016; Discussion Item #16-07] in reference to whether or not the Chief has the authority to give a two-step pay raise is scheduled to take place July 27, 2016.

3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief D'Angelo took a moment to thank fire prevention personnel for "wearing so many hats." He explained that between CERT, new construction, emergency management activities, and so much more, they have been doing a fantastic job.

The Chief stated that he has continued his speaking engagements with home owners associations on the mainland, in Indian Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, Belleair Beach, and Belleair Shore. He stated that he will continue educating the public on the ad valorem referendum issue. He mentioned that at one of his speaking engagements, an elected official from Indian Rocks Beach asked if the District is subsidizing any of its response areas. He explained that the District does subsidize fire-related incidents in the Redingtons. He stated that he feels that now is the time to address this issue. He added that it is a decision that ultimately needs to be handled between the elected officials. Commissioner Schear said that this issue should be placed on next month's agenda. Commissioner Gardella asked what the ideal outcome would be. Chief D'Angelo explained that he thinks all involved parties should meet, including the District, elected officials from the towns and cities, as well as officials from the Redingtons, to determine what the true costs are, what is currently being done, provide the information that the District has from the 911 system, and inform them of the District's incurred costs. Chief D'Angelo explained that if there was a fire in Redington Shores, PSFRD's personnel would respond, but there are only two agencies that are actually receiving funds for those calls. He added that he understands that there are automatic aid agreements in place, but the financial aspect needs to be discussed. Chairman Bruni recommended that the Chief bring data of how many calls the District responds to, as well as associated costs, so that they may address the commissioners of Redington Shores. He added that this has been an issue for several years, since Redington dissolved their fire department and contracted with Seminole and Madeira Beach. Commissioner Schear mentioned that when referring to "the Redingtons," they should not be recognized as one unit, but three separate entities that need to be addressed individually.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. 15-11 Collection of Impact Fee (Holiday Inn) – Settlement Agreement Between PSFRD and Decade Properties

Discussion: Attorney Jeff Albinson explained that the parties [the District and Decade Properties] have found a mid-point to resolve their differences. He said that he feels the settlement agreement speaks for itself. He continued that, as with any settlement agreement, nobody is exactly happy with the outcome, and this isn't what the District had in mind when it started, but, at this point, knowing and understanding the facts as he does, he stated that his recommendation is to follow the recommendation of Lewis, Longman, and Walker, and enter into the settlement agreement and put this litigation behind the District.

Secretary/Treasurer Gardella stated that he does not agree with the settlement, but understands that it is what needs to be done in the interest of moving forward. He also stated that the section which indicates that there will be a five year payment to the property owner is what will prohibit him from agreeing to the agreement.

Commissioner Schear stated that he shares Secretary/Treasurer Gardella's concern with Section 6 of the agreement. He stated that he understands the need to put this behind the District.

A motion to approve the settlement agreement between PSFRD and Decade Properties.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MARTIN SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING
All opposed: Commissioner Gardella, Commissioner Schear
Motion passed with a 3 – 2 vote.**

2. 16-12 Auditor Engagement Letter – Davidson, Jamieson & Cristini, P.L., Certified Public Accountants

Discussion: Chief D'Angelo explained that this letter asks permission for Davidson, Jamieson & Cristini, P.L., Certified Public Accountants, to continue providing the District with the services of putting together the audit for the District. Chief D'Angelo stated that he and the Finance Director feel that they should move forward with this item.

A motion to accept the contract with Davidson, Jamieson & Cristini, P.L., Certified Public Accountants, for the next three fiscal years, 2016, 2017, 2018.

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

Chief D'Angelo took a moment to discuss the settlement agreement with Decade Properties. He discussed that he wished that he and Mr. Keierleber [Decade Properties] had an opportunity to have some discussions prior to this lawsuit taking place. He stated that with Mr. Keierleber being the District's largest taxpayer, he is glad that they now have a relationship which will allow them to move forward with all questions answered and putting this issue behind them. Mr. Keierleber said that he agrees with Chief D'Angelo, and that he feels the District finally has the right Chief in place, as Chief D'Angelo is the first person in his position to take the time to come to the property and actually look at it and understand what had happened for a 20 year period of time, and he commended him for that.

Meeting adjourned.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 8:33 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Joseph V. Bruni, Chair

Date Approved

Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant