



Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

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FIRE CHIEF
SALVATORE A. D'ANGELO III

MINUTES MARCH 21, 2017 WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETING

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

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, Commissioner Laura Martin, and Commissioner Gardella. Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schear and Fire Chief Sal D'Angelo were excused. A quorum was present with Chair Joe Bruni presiding. Attorney Jeff Albinson and Finance Director David Martin were also present.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: Chair Joe Bruni read commendation certificates from Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration for Assistant Chief John Mortellite, Firefighter/Paramedic Doug Howard, Lieutenant/Paramedic Brooke Waring, and Firefighter/EMT Jim Norberg for their successful resuscitation of a patient in cardiac arrest.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:01 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: February 21, 2017 Workshop and Regular Meetings

Discussion: None.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2017 Workshop and Regular Meetings.

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

2. Treasurer's Report: February, 2017

Discussion: Finance Director Dave Martin gave the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Secretary/Treasurer Schear. Finance Director Martin stated all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of February 28, 2017. Total asset value is \$4.6 million. There is a \$500,000 CD coming due in early April and will be rolled over. Total liabilities are \$115,000. Fund balance reserves are in line with the normal low inflow of non-ad valorem assessments for this time of year. Projected revenues are 0.9% less than this time last year, which is mainly due to the net effect of expected lower impact fees and a federal grant.

Finance Director Martin continued to explain that the District maintains good stewardship of its assets and is awaiting a favorable conclusion to the EMS Legacy dispute, but is still providing the expected level of service to its constituents. The GASB recommended reserve ratio is 23.8%, which is down slightly from last month, but still above the recommended minimum of 17%. All expenditures are in line with the possibility of a budget amendment that will be discussed during the Chief's Report.

A motion to approve the February, 2017 Treasurer's Report.

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

3. Correspondence: None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Kelly Cisarik – [Did not state address] – Mrs. Cisarik stated that she feels it is important that someone from the District attends the EMS Advisory Council Meetings. She stated that she learned at last Thursday's meeting that PSFRD will likely be eligible for a new funding source of about \$350,000 annually, once Pinellas County approves the Advisory Council's recommendation for EMS coordinators. She explained that she had last year's funding requests with her. She asked why PSFRD did not apply for EMS funding for Station 28 this year. Finance Director Dave Martin stated that he did, and that he applies for funding for Station 28 every year, but Craig Hare denied it. Mrs. Cisarik stated that the request should first go to the Fire Chief's Meeting, to which Finance Director Martin responded that it does not. He explained that the District completes the budget and submits the request directly to Craig Hare.

John Pfansteil – [Did not state address] – Mr. Pfansteil discussed the referendum literature, and stated that the references to closing stations and cutting personnel indicated a budget catastrophe. He said that last year's budget had to dip into the reserves by about \$150,000, and there were a lot of one-time expenses, which he suggested does not indicate a budget crisis. He added that there have been decisions made recently that increase expenses; specifically, that the Chief has hired additional personnel. He said that his question is, how big is the budget shortfall projected for 2017 if no money comes in from the referendum.

REPORTS:

1. **COMMISSION:** Chair Joe Bruni stated that he and Chief D'Angelo met with Assistant County Administrator John Bennett and it was a very positive meeting discussing the future of EMS funding for the District, as well as a few other issues. He stated that it was a very productive conversation on both sides, and they will be continuing this discussion with John Bennett, through the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners, over the next three to six months.

Commissioner David Gardella stated that, regarding securing land for Station 26, there hasn't been any new progress. He stated that he spoke with the owners of the property that used to be the 7/11 in Indian Shores, but they are still under contract, with a contingency period beginning in April, so that is on hold as well.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Attorney Jeff Albinson discussed the Commissioner By-laws and stated that they are easily amended. He discussed that they were sent out to the Commissioners last month, but, if there are any changes, he feels that those should wait until all Commissioners are present. He stated that the Sunshine Law does not include a provision requiring public input at a regular meeting. He added that some statutes do address public input during budget and public hearings. Attorney Albinson discussed what other Districts do regarding public comments, and added that most of them do not include this in their by-laws. Attorney Albinson discussed how he feels the agenda should be modified to optimize public input and make the process more clear. He added that the by-laws might be changed to reflect that speakers' time be determined by the Chair at each meeting. Attorney Albinson stated that he will work with Kim Fugate on revising the agenda and will continue this discussion at the next meeting.

3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Finance Director Dave Martin presented the Chief's Report on behalf of Chief D'Angelo. He stated that two quotes have been received for the purchase of an aerial truck; one for \$1,027,000 and the other for \$1,224,000. He added that the District is in a difficult position, as they are awaiting an answer on a grant for an aerial truck, but the manufacturer will be increasing the purchase price of the truck by 3% on March 31, 2017.

Regarding the budget amendment, Mr. Martin stated that, as the District received a grant for new airpacks in the amount of \$148,000, which the District has a responsibility of a 10% match. That is a \$15,000 expenditure which is the District is currently in a deficit at right now. Finance Director Martin discussed that there has been a lot of sickness and injury among District personnel recently, which incurs additional overtime costs. He continued to explain that, by the end of the third quarter, he will know definitely what the impact is for the budget amendment. He discussed that the District is in the beginning stages of the FY 2017/2018 budget process, and everything is dependent upon the result of the court hearing for the referendum and the outcome of the EMS dispute. Attorney Albinson added that there was a hearing in front of a judge regarding the referendum case, and he has yet to rule one way or the other at this time. He added that this is not unusual, and the judge is also currently involved in a jury trial, so his time is somewhat limited. He explained the process and how a declaratory judgment action typically works.

ACTION ITEMS:

17-03 Commissioner By-laws Revision

Discussion: This was discussed during Attorney Jeff Albinson's report and was tabled until next month's meeting.

**17-04 Impact Fees
(Resolution 2017-02) Second Reading**

Discussion: Attorney Jeff Albinson read Resolution 2017-02 by title only.

A motion to approve the second reading of Resolution 2017-02.

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

NOTE: It was decided to not adopt the new impact fee schedule until all five commissioners are present.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:


Joseph V. Bruni, Chair Date Approved 4/18/17


Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant