



FIRE CHIEF
SALVATORE A. D'ANGELO III

Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

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**MINUTES
OCTOBER 11, 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 David Gardella, and Commissioner Laura Martin. Secretary/Treasurer Larry Shear was excused. A quorum was present with Chair Joe Bruni presiding. Attorney Jeff Albinson, Fire Chief Mike Burton, and Finance Director David Martin were also present.

OATH OF OFFICE -Thomas Michael Burton, Fire Chief -- Attorney Jeff Albinson administered the Oath of Office to Thomas Michael Burton, Fire Chief.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Kelly Cisarik – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Cisarik welcomed Fire Chief Burton and gave him a personal update of the District.

Nancy Obarski – 708 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Obarski welcomed Fire Chief Burton and expressed concerns regarding meeting advertisements and budget issues.

Larry King – 420 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. King stated his concerns regarding being charged for the fire department presence at Oktoberfest.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:08 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: August 15, 2017 Special, Workshop, and Regular Meetings
September 13, 2017 Special Budget Meeting
September 27, 2017 Special Budget Meeting
September 29, 2017 Special Emergency Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2017, Special, Workshop, and Regular Meetings, September 13, 2017 Special Budget Meeting, September 27, 2017 Special Budget Meeting, and September 29, 2017 Special Emergency Meeting.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MARTIN SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report: August, 2017 (No Treasurer's Report was presented in Secretary/Treasurer Shear's absence and will be presented at a future meeting.)
3. Correspondence: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Tom Rask - [Did not state address] - Mr. Rask discussed that he feels that things need to change in the District.

Randy Britz - 466 20th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach - Mr. Britz discussed a recent news article which included an interview with a fire commissioner and encouraged more discussion among the commissioners.

Robert Clemmer - [Did not state address] - Mr. Clemmer expressed concerns regarding funding for Sunstar versus PSFRD. Chair Bruni explained how the EMS system works in Pinellas County and how tax revenue is allocated.

REPORTS:

1. **COMMISSION:** None.
2. **ATTORNEY:** Attorney Jeff Albinson stated that he visited Commissioner Larry Schear at Morton Plant and gave an update on his condition.
3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Fire Chief Mike Burton stated that he has spent his first three days meeting with the crews and learning about the District and is looking forward to the future.

ACTION ITEMS:

17-24 Review Actions Undertaken at Emergency Meeting of September 29, 2017 and Consider Adoption of Resolution 2017-13 Ratifying Actions Undertaken at Emergency Meeting of September 29, 2017 (Resolution 2017-13)

Discussion: Attorney Jeff Albinson explained that actions taken at the emergency meeting must be ratified at a regular meeting and the public be given the opportunity to comment. Resolution 2017-13 reflects that an emergency meeting took place and that Resolution 2017-12 was adopted. Attorney Albinson read Resolution 2017-13 in its entirety.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Nancy Obarski - 708 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Beach - Mrs. Obarski discussed that the time of the emergency meeting violates Florida State Statute, and expressed concern regarding the original purpose of the public notice versus what was adopted. Mrs. Obarski asked Attorney Albinson to explain a specific clause in the previous resolution, and Attorney Albinson said that is unable to answer the specific question on the fly.

Ron Sacra - 368 La Hacienda Drive, Indian Rocks Beach - Mr. Sacra asked how he could acquire minutes of the emergency meeting. Attorney Albinson stated the minutes can be requested through a member of PSFRD administrative staff, and the court reporter's transcript can be acquired through administrative staff at his own office.

Jim Palamara – 102 15th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Palamara asked questions regarding which items were presently being approved and Attorney Albinson clarified for him.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2017-13.

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

**17-25 Discussion/Determination of Issue to Appeal as to
Hoofnagle Lawsuit Regarding Referendum Question**

Discussion: Attorney Jeff Albinson gave a brief synopsis on the Hoofnagle lawsuit. He discussed the 30 day window to file a notice of appeal, and that Mr. Hoofnagle's attorney was informed that this was done solely for the purpose of filing within the time limit. Attorney Albinson explained the basic components of the appeal process. He estimated that the process could take approximately ten months and cost roughly \$25,000 to \$40,000. Attorney Albinson clarified that he is not giving his opinion or making suggestions regarding which way to proceed.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Jerry Newton – 438 Harbor Drive North, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Newton expressed concern for the time being spent on these issues as opposed to fire rescue topics.

Kelly Cisarik – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Cisarik stated that she hopes that the Commission takes a new direction to begin rebuilding the public's trust.

Bill Thomas – 470 20th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Thomas stated that he does not feel that the appeal will accomplish anything positive, and that the public would volunteer to help to move the District forward.

Tom Rask – 9722 Indian Key Trail – Mr. Rask commended the Commission for open dialogue, as well as Attorney Albinson for not instructing the Board on how to vote, and discussed the topic of PSFRD being taken over by the County. He urged the Commission to not appeal.

Ed Hoofnagle – 2 5th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Hoofnagle urged the Commission to not appeal and he offered to join a committee to help move the District forward.

John Cox – 348 La Hacienda Drive, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Cox urged the Commission to not appeal and to do their job to represent the community.

Carol Britz – 466 20th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach – Ms. Britz stated that the Commission is constantly wasting money and should focus on moving forward.

Ira Heshmati – 215 La Hacienda Drive, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Heshmati urged the Commission to not appeal.

Larry King – 420 Gulf Boulevard, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. King discussed his law background and explained his opinions on the appeal process.

Nancy Obarski – 708 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Obarski urged the Commission to not appeal and stated that she is personally willing to help the District pass a reasonable increase.

Bob Linderman – 455 20th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Linderman expressed his distrust in the Commissioners.

Phil Wrobel – 112 13th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Wrobel urged the Commission to not appeal and offered to help work with them moving forward.

Chair Bruni stated that he is not in favor of moving forward with an appeal and would like to start over with the Board and the taxpayers who are truly interested in helping. Chair Bruni clarified some points regarding previous lawsuits. He discussed that he wishes to create a task force of citizens and community business leaders to work alongside and participate in workshops with the Chair, Fire Chief, and Attorney, to work together to gain additional needed tax dollars for the District. Commissioner Gardella expressed that he is not in favor of moving forward with an appeal and would like to see an increase in the non-ad valorem assessment. Fire Chief Mike Burton discussed the restrictive nature of the District Charter and stated that the current funding model does not support the escalating cost of providing service or capital improvement projects without going to the electorate on an exhaustive basis. Chief Burton stated that his professional recommendation is to not proceed with the appeal, establish a "cooling off" period, and regain normalcy and equilibrium, as well as conduct somewhat of a post-incident analysis. He added that he recommends identifying stakeholders within the communities served that are willing to be an active part of the solution, and for staff to work through community-based efforts to identify funding models that could provide a reliable revenue stream that supports the District's needs.

A motion to not pursue an appeal as to the Hoofnagle lawsuit.

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

**17-20 Budget Amendment #2
(Resolution 2017-08)**

Discussion Attorney Jeff Albinson read Resolution 2017-08 in its entirety. Finance Director David Martin explained that Hurricane Irma cost the District approximately \$80,000 due to EOC expenditures and overtime. He added that the majority of the amendment is from referendum costs. In response to Commissioner Gardella's inquiry, Finance Director Martin confirmed that the District did file a claim to FEMA with the hope of being refunded a portion of these costs. He continued that if the claim is approved, it will benefit the fiscal year in which the refund occurs. Finance Director Martin also informed the Board that the District was not awarded FEMA grant funding for the truck.

Nancy Obarski - 708 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Beach - Mrs. Obarski expressed her disapproval of the budget amendment resolutions and how they have been handled.

Kelly Cisarik - 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach - Mrs. Cisarik expressed her disapproval for the Finance Director's ability to make line item adjustments, as well as for the budget amendment.

Tom Rask - [Did not state address] - Mr. Rask inquired as to if a budget amendment can be approved after the first of the year and if it is consistent with good accounting practices. Attorney Albinson confirmed that the budget amendment was done legally. He encouraged Mr. Rask to contact the external auditor and review his audit report.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2017-08.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SNELLING 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 at 8:28 p.m.

APPROVED:


Joseph V. Bruni, Chair 12/19/17
Date Approved

ATTEST:


Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant