



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
SEPTEMBER 26, 2018
SPECIAL, WORKSHOP, AND REGULAR MEETINGS**

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

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:

ACTION ITEMS:

**18-12 Adoption of Final Budget
Resolution 2018-04**

Discussion: Finance Director David Martin stated that the District has received the final approval on the FEMA grant for reimbursement for Hurricane Irma, and will receive 99.84% of what was submitted, which totals \$125,670.48. There will be a budget amendment to reflect that. Chief Burton confirmed this is the only change to the budget since originally presented, and the year will still begin with a deficit.

Attorney Jeff Albinson read Resolution 2018-04 in its entirety.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2018-04 and adopt the FY 2018 / 2019 Final Budget.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER MARTIN

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

WORKSHOP MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:07 p.m.

SERVICE PIN AWARD – Lieutenant/Paramedic Robert Williams

Chief Burton recognized Lieutenant Robert Williams for 10 years of dedicated service to the District.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

18-13 Introduction of the Pinellas Suncoast Professional Firefighters Association Leadership

Discussion: Chief Burton introduced Firefighter/Paramedic Tim Burnham as the lead (President) of the new labor organization. He explained that Firefighter Burnham’s team includes two members who were not able to attend, Brandon Anderson as Secretary/Treasurer and Jim Norberg as Vice President. Chief Burton discussed that they will begin working toward a new collective bargaining agreement in the coming weeks.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:09 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: August 21, 2018 Special, Workshop, and Regular Meetings
September 6, 2018 Special Budget Meeting

**A motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2018 Special,
Workshop, and Regular Meetings, and the minutes of the
September 6, 2018 Special Budget Meeting.**

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA SECOND: COMMISSIONER MARTIN

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report: August, 2018

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Schear stated all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of August 31, 2018. He reported the following: Consolidated government fund assets and liabilities are \$3.6 million; the investment program in accordance with District policy is \$2.6 million; current liabilities are within normal end-of-month limits at \$104,500; the capital projects fund is slightly ahead of budget deficit due to additional impact fees; the general fund is producing positive effects due to staff changes and continual cost reductions, resulting with an additional \$163.2 thousand surplus for the year; and, the reserve ratio remains slightly ahead of GASB recommendations at 26.6%. The Hurricane Irma grant was not able to be included in this projection, but has been approved and will be awarded. See detailed Financial Report for further details.

A motion to approve the August, 2018 Treasurer's Report.

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

3. Correspondence: Chief Burton stated that Public Employee Relations Commission has sent the final approval for the new bargaining unit this month.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

REPORTS:

1. **COMMISSION:** Commissioner Schear stated that he would like to encourage to attend the County Commission meeting on October 8th as they will be discussing, among other things, allocation of potential Penny for Pinellas 4 money, as well as relocation of fire stations.

2. **ATTORNEY:** None.

3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Burton stated that he had very little to do with the FEMA reimbursement and thanked David Martin and Lieutenant Todd Best for their countless hours working on that project.

Chief Burton stated that District Chief Jeremy Sidlauskas was recognized yesterday at the County Commission meeting as Pinellas County's 2018 Fire Professional of the Year. Chief Burton stated that he attended the meeting and District Chief Sidlauskas will be recognized at a future Fire Commission meeting.

The Chief stated that the District took delivery of its new aerial apparatus in the middle of September and completed three days of training on it at St. Jerome's. There is additional training to be completed and additional equipment to be mounted before it can go into service. Chief Burton explained that the crews were asked to begin driving the unit to gain experience with it; however, unfortunately, yesterday evening, the new truck was involved in a very serious motor vehicle crash at 183rd and Gulf Boulevard. No PSFRD employees were injured, but the other party did sustain very significant injuries and was transported to a local trauma center. Chief Burton said that he estimates the truck will be out of service for four to six months due to the extensive damage. He added that the investigation has not yet been completed, but the Indian Shores Police Department and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Major Accident Investigative Team is working on it. Chief Burton confirmed that he has also been in

communication with the District’s legal counsel. The Chief stated that he predicts the truck will need to go back to the manufacturer in Wisconsin due to the extensive repairs needed. Commissioner Schear asked if the truck was able to be driven, to which Chief Burton stated that it is able to be moved, but he would not consider the truck “drivable.” Chief Burton explained that the truck was able to be brought back to Station 28 to be secured with the help of law enforcement, rather than having it impounded. Commissioner Gardella asked if the insurance was still with Pierce. Chief Burton stated that the District has taken title of the truck and insured it. Attorney Jeff Albinson stated that the information released by the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office Major Accident Investigation Team indicated that alcohol may have been a factor for the other driver, and that the other driver was moving at an excessive rate of speed. He added that their public page also states that criminal charges may be pending for the other driver. Mr. Albinson stated that he does not believe there will be any liability on the part of the District; however, most personal auto policies have limits in place for property damage, and therefore the additional costs may default to the District’s policy. Chief Burton also clarified that the crews were doing exactly what they had been instructed to do, which was drive the truck around the District to gain experience driving the new apparatus.

ACTION ITEMS:

18-14 Fixing of Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Rates for FY 2018/2019 with Additional Definitions (Resolution 2018-05, Supersedes Resolution 2018-02)

Discussion: Chief Burton stated that, as discussed at the last meeting, the dollar amounts have not changed, but additional definitions have been established to provide clarity regarding the types of occupancies that fit into these categories. He added that is a task that originated in the Stakeholder Task Force when it was discovered that there were inconsistencies in the hotel/motel categories. The Chief confirmed that the assessment changes that have come from this have been corrected for the properties whose rate has lowered, and the two properties which will see an increase in their assessment will be noticed and corrected next year. He added that the clarification on commercial properties was to make items such as commercial kitchens and congregate dining rooms abundantly clear. The Chief gave an example of a small kitchen in an employee breakroom is not intended to be assessed for a commercial kitchen.

Attorney Jeff Albinson reiterated that, while this resolution supersedes the original resolution, it does not change anything. Mr. Albinson then read Resolution 2018-05 in its entirety.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Kelly Cisarik – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Ms. Cisarik thanked Chief Burton and staff for the additional clarifications to the resolution.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2018-05, superseding Resolution 2018-02.

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

18-15 Stakeholder Task Force Recommendation of \$100 Assessment Increase

Discussion: Chief Burton stated that, during the last meeting, there was considerable conversation regarding the history of the Stakeholder Task Force and how they arrived at a recommendation. The official recommendation from the Stakeholder Task Force is to implement a \$100 increase in the non-ad valorem assessments for all residential properties, to include single family residences, apartments, condominiums, time share units, and owner occupied mobile homes, base business, and hotels and motels, brought forward as a March 2019 referendum.

Commissioner Gardella mentioned that an increase in only residential properties was determined to generate approximately \$1.2 million. He inquired as to how much additional income would be generated from the commercial properties. Chief Burton stated that it would not change significantly, as there are not a large number of commercial properties. He added that the addition of commercial properties was in the interest of fairness, so that residential property owners were not shouldering the entire burden. Commissioner Gardella asked if the assessment was raised \$90 as opposed to \$100, what kind of revenue that would generate. Finance Director Martin stated that it would generate 10% less, or approximately \$120,000.

Mr. Albinson asked the Chief if he knew how long a \$100 increase might sustain the District. Chief Burton said that it is difficult without knowing what cost containments will be available, the County EMS budget, what healthcare rates will do, etc. He stated that it will allow the District to at least begin taking care of many of the unmet needs and allows the ability to begin setting aside funds for long-term vehicle replacement and replacement of fire stations.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Nancy Obarski – 708 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Beach – Ms. Obarski stated that she supports the proposed \$100 increase. She mentioned that it is still an increase of 38.5%, but feels it will be successful if the ballot language is clear, and because residents will not be giving up their right to vote on future increases. Ms. Obarski stated that she is still bothered at what the residents of the Redingtons pay, and she feels the District should research subcontracting its services out. She thanked the Chief for pursuing this in a straightforward manner.

A motion to move forward with the Stakeholder Task Force recommendation of \$100 increase to non-ad valorem assessments as described.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MARTIN SECOND: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR

Commissioner Lou Snelling opposed.

YES – 4

NO – 1

Motion passed.

18-05 Future Meeting Locations

Discussion: Chief Burton stated that, as discussed at a prior meeting, District administration has reached out to each of the cities to see if they would be interested in hosting PSFRD’s Commission meetings on a rotating schedule in an effort to extend its community engagement. The Chief explained that Indian Rocks Beach unfortunately is not available on the third Tuesday of each month, but asked for consensus to move forward with holding the meetings at Indian Shores and Belleair Beach on an every-other-month basis. He clarified that the October 2018 meeting would still take place in Indian Shores, and the November meeting would take place in Belleair Beach, and the schedule would continue on that cycle for the next fiscal year. If successful, the District could consider changing the meeting day to accommodate all of the cities. Chief Burton mentioned that he is aware Belleair Beach has installed parking meters, so he will look into that further. Commissioner Gardella stated that he is in favor of this idea. There was no opposition from Board members.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Kelly Cisarik- 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Ms. Cisarik stated that there is a parking problem at Indian Shores due to Salt Rock Grill, so she recommends choosing either Belleair Beach or Indian Rocks Beach on a different night.

Chief Burton stated that he will work with the Police Chief in Indian Shores to see if they have the ability to keep the municipal lot committed to municipal functions on PSFRD’s meeting nights.

Commissioner Gardella thanked Chief Burton and Ms. Cisarik for the time they have dedicated to the Stakeholder Task Force.

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

APPROVED:



Joseph W. Bruni, Chair

ATTEST:



Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant

11/20/18

Date Approved