



# *Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue*

304 FIRST STREET  
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FIRE CHIEF  
T. MICHAEL BURTON

MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2019  
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

Held at Bellair Beach City Hall  
444 Causeway Boulevard, Belleair Beach, FL 33786

**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, and Commissioner David Gardella. A quorum was present with Chair Joe Bruni presiding. Assistant Chief John Mortellite and Finance Director David Martin were also present. Attorney Jeff Albinson and Fire Chief Mike Burton were excused.

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**ACTION ITEMS:**

**19-24 Adoption of the FY 2019/2020 Tentative Budget**  
**Resolution 2019-03**

**Discussion:** Finance Director David Martin stated the budget will consist of funding from fire assessment fees, EMS funding, and small amount from investments and inspection fees. He added that he has included the County settlement of 1.2 million for the truck, which the Chief is currently negotiating with the County on this subject. Those funds will be used to replenish the reserves that have been depleted over the last 10 years. Mr. Martin stated that there is a healthy capital budget this year, and there is approximately \$962,000 worth of equipment that needs to be replaced. He discussed that some of that may not be manufactured in time for this budget year, but the goal is to at least replace the squad. The items under conversation in the Collective Bargaining Agreement are included, as there is a close understanding and agreement between the Union and the District. He stated that he doubts any changes will have any material impact on the budget; however, if it does, there is, the budget will be adjusted accordingly.

As presented, there is a capital outlay of approximately \$962,000, operating expenses that will be funded with \$4.7 million from fire suppression funding and \$1.6 million from EMS funding. Mr. Martin stated that he anticipates moving into the end of the year with \$400,000 into additional reserves.

Some further questions and discussion took place between Mr. Martin and the Commission.

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**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**Nancy Obarski** – 708 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Beach – Ms. Obarski stated that she is disappointed Indian Rocks Beach is not represented due to the vacancy. She stated that she is hopeful one candidate in particular will be selected.

**Kelly Cisarik** – 448 Harbor Drive South – Ms. Cisarik stated that she feels it was important that the attorney was in attendance. She mentioned that there was no agenda item to set a resolution for the assessment rates. Ms. Cisarik also mentioned that she believes the second budget meeting date is not in compliance with requirements, as the budget calendar states that the next budget meeting should be within 15 days of the adoption of the tentative budget. Additionally, she stated that she might object to the wages and benefits that are built into the budget, as union negotiations are still ongoing and feels that they should be first finalized with the union and then discussed in a public forum.

Mr. Martin stated that the adoption of the assessment rates is included in the resolution to adopt the tentative budget. Regarding bargaining, the dollars are mostly fixed as the agreement is very close to being finalized. He stated that, should anything change, a budget amendment can be done; however, during negotiations, a fixed number previously authorized by the Commission is what was being worked with, so he does not anticipate the amount going over budget and therefore wouldn't require an amendment. Ms. Fugate added that, regarding the 15-day requirement, that is only referencing advertising. Once the tentative budget is adopted, the District is then required to advertise the final budget hearing within 15 days. The District is unable to legally hold a final budget hearing until after both the County and the School Board have adopted their final budgets.

**Allan Sychowski** – 14521 Iroquois Avenue, Largo – Mr. Sychowski stated that he saw the notice in the paper regarding the assessment increases and asked how much the increase will generate. Mr. Martin explained the increase, and stated that ultimately it will generate approximately \$1.1 million for the District. Mr. Sychowski asked if it was only going up \$100, to which Commissioner Gardella confirmed he was correct, and then discussed where that money goes as well as the previous assessment rates.

Mr. Martin read Resolution 2019-03 in its entirety. Commissioner Gardella identified and re-stated two misstatements.

**Kelly Cisarik** – Ms. Cisarik asked if the Commission had to ratify the union contract before adopting the budget. Mr. Martin stated that they do not, plus there is no time for it. The contract will not be signed until after October 1<sup>st</sup>, and the budget must be adopted prior to October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**A motion to adopt the FY 2019/2020 Tentative Budget and Resolution 2019-03.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR**

**SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING**

**All in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

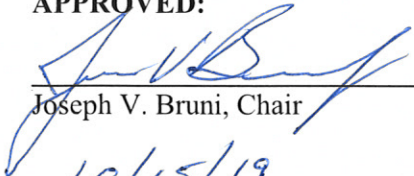
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**ADJOURNMENT**


The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 7:28 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Joseph V. Bruni, Chair  
10/15/19  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

**ATTEST:**

  
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Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant