



Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

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FIRE CHIEF
T. MICHAEL BURTON

**MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2019
SPECIAL, WORKSHOP, AND REGULAR MEETINGS**

**Held at Belleair Beach City Hall
444 Causeway Blvd., Belleair Beach, FL 33786**

**SPECIAL 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 Shear, 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:

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

ACTION ITEMS:

**19-25 Adoption of the Final Budget
(Resolution 2019-05)**

Discussion: Albinson read Resolution 2019-05 in its entirety.

A motion to adopt the Final Budget and Resolution 2019-05.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The Special Budget Meeting was adjourned.

WORKSHOP MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Workshop Meeting was adjourned.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

19-29 Adoption of the Collective Bargaining Agreement

Discussion: Chief Burton stated that the final details of the Collective Bargaining Agreement were discussed earlier that morning, and the Association is holding ratification vote which should be concluded Friday. He added that there have been no financial changes since the last presentation by Chief Mortellite; only some minor operational adjustments.

A motion to authorize the Fire Chief and Chair of the Board the discretion to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement, as agreed to between the District and the Association.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER – District Chief Jeremy Sidlauskas – (Presentation was originally scheduled for the Workshop Meeting.) Chief Burton discussed the Chief Fire Officer designation as a significant event in Chief Sidlauskas’s career. He explained the role of the Center for Public Safety Excellence and the requirements of the Chief Fire Officer designation. Chief Burton presented the Chief Fire Officer certificate to District Chief Jeremy Sidlauskas.

19-30 Lease Agreement for Fireboat 27 Boat Dock with Indian Rocks Beach

Discussion: Chief Burton stated the terms of the agreement with Indian Rocks Beach and explained the City has been very accommodating and helpful with this process. The only requirements are a fee of \$1 per year and that the District participates in the annual boat parade. He explained that it is a five year agreement with four automatically renewable terms.

A motion to authorize the Fire Chief sign the boat dock agreement with the City of Indian Rocks Beach.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA SECOND: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: August 27, 2019 Workshop and Regular Meetings
September 9, 2019 Special Budget Meeting

Discussion: The minutes were not ready for approval at this meeting. The approval will be postponed until the next meeting.

2. Treasurer's Report: August, 2019

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schear stated all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of August 30, 2018. He reported the following: Consolidated government fund assets and liabilities are \$2.8 million; the investment program in accordance with District policy is \$2.4 million; current liabilities are within normal end-of-month limits at \$225,200; the capital projects fund revenues total \$58.8 thousand, with an additional \$20.6 thousand still pending payment; general fund, FEMA grant for Hurricane Irma, unbudgeted EMS revenues, greatly improved investment interest rates, TIPS participation, and a positive workers' compensation audit all contributed to a reduction in the \$249.2 thousand budget deficit. However, due to overtime caused by absences from FMLA, workers' compensation leave, and military leave, the revised projection has resulted in increasing the projection deficit to \$42.2 thousand; however, this still represents a \$206.9 thousand positive variance over the adopted budget deficit. The reserve ratio remains slightly ahead of GASB recommendations at 24.3%. See detailed Financial Report for further details.

A motion to approve the August, 2019 Treasurer's Reports.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SNELLING SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

3. Correspondence: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

REPORTS:

1. **COMMISSION:** Commissioner Schear stated that he recently attended a Florida State beaches and shores preservation organization meeting on the East coast as a guest. He discussed topics of potential effects of a potential rise in sea level and what communities should be prepared for, and suggested ramps are installed at new fire stations when they are being built.

2. **ATTORNEY:** None.

3. **CHIEF’S REPORT:** Chief Burton thanked the staff during his three-week vacation. He stated that Truck 28 is back in the District and training is underway. He stated it may have to go back to the dealer in Bradenton for some minor issues.

Chief Burton discussed a recent payroll issue the District experienced: The District and all employees were victims of an external payroll fraud scheme by its payroll provider, MyPayrollHR, which affected the company’s more than 4,000 clients nationwide. It is currently estimated that the fraud involved approximately \$35 million. Each employee’s payroll deposit was withdrawn illegally, most employees experiencing the amount being deducted at least two times from their personal bank accounts. Chief Burton explained the steps the District took to assist its employees, thanked the employees for their willingness to handle this hardship, and thanked David Martin and Kim Fugate for their work during the process. The District’s losses include approximately \$31,000 for an IRS payment which was never made. Appropriate actions have been taken with the PCSO Economic Crimes Division, the FBI office in Albany, NY, the IRS, and the New York Attorney General’s Office. A new payroll firm has been brought under contract.

ACTION ITEMS:

19-21 Vacant Seat 2 – Indian Rocks Beach

Discussion: Each Board member submitted their vote with their choice for the new Commissioner. Candidates included David Ardman, Mark Moston, and Daniel Mynsberge. Mr. Albinson tallied the votes, confirming that Mr. Ardman received the highest number of votes. Chair Bruni stated that Mr. Ardman will join the Board of Fire Commissioners, pending a criminal background investigation and will be sworn in at the next meeting.

**19-28 Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Rates Fixed for FY2019/2020
(Resolution 2019-06)**

(At this time, Mr. John Pfanstiehl expressed his displeasure with the choice of the new Commissioner.)

Discussion: Mr. Albinson stated that there was a typo on the agenda, which stated that the resolution number was 2019-05; however, the resolution number is actually 2019-06. Mr. Albinson read Resolution 2016-06 in its entirety.

A motion to adopt the non-ad valorem assessment rates for FY2019/2020 and Resolution 2019-06.

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

19-09 Fire Chief Performance Review

Discussion: Chair Bruni stated that the Board will still hold off on pay increase or benefit discussion for Chief Burton until there is a ratified contract and all of the Commissioners’ performance reviews for the Chief have been submitted.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Kelly Cisarik – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Ms. Cisarik stated that she feels Chief Burton has improved the management in the District, restored the public trust, and reopened channels of communication with Pinellas County to fulfill the goals of the settlement agreement. Ms. Cisarik stated that she believes him to be truthful and that he acts in the best interest of the District.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form.

APPROVED:



Joseph V. Bruni, Chair

ATTEST:



Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant

10/15/19

Date Approved