



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

PUBLIC FACILITIES ANNUAL NOTICE OF CHANGE
AS REQUIRED BY
CHAPTER 189.08

Adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners on February 16, 2021.

Background: The Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District (District) provides this information to assist in the development of comprehensive plans and to foster coordination between the District and the County of Pinellas, Town of Belleair Shore, City of Belleair Beach, City of Indian Rocks Beach, and Town of Indian Shores. In November of 2020, and in cooperation with Pinellas County Fire and Emergency Services, the District's Fire Commission adopted the Optima Resource Modeling Pinellas Suncoast Stations Optimization Study (Optima Study). The Optima Study was commissioned to identify the most advantageous locations for each of the District's fire stations from a service delivery and response time perspective. The Optima Study not only evaluated service delivery and response times within the District, but also considered impacts on neighboring agencies from a more regional perspective. The Optima Study also considered a proposed Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Station within the Redington Beaches EMS District.

The District does not have an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and is reliant upon annual agreements and makeshift arrangements with two local churches as the District's EOC.

The District operates three fire stations:

Station 26 – 18395 Gulf Boulevard, Suite 101, Indian Shores, FL 33785

Legal Description: PARK BANK PROFESSIONAL OFFICE BUILDING CONDO UNIT 1

Station #26 provides fire protection, fire prevention, and advanced life support emergency medical service to the District as well as emergency medical services to the Town of Redington Beach, the Town of North Redington Beach, and the Town of Redington Shores through automatic aid agreements and "closest unit response agreements". The District is an active participant in the surrounding fire service delivery systems through the automatic aid system and operates a unit defined within the Pinellas County fire community as a squad. This unit is staffed with two full time positions, one being a lieutenant and the other being a firefighter. One of the two positions is always a paramedic.

The current facility used to operate Station #26 is not owned by the District and is leased to the District by Frank R. Chivas.

Within 2021, the District hopes to relocate Station #26 to a site near the 19300 block of Gulf Blvd. in Indian Shores. This relocation is consistent with the results of the Optima Study.

Station 27 - 304 First Street, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

Legal Description: Indian Rocks Beach Block 9, Lots 17, 18, and 19 (12/30/14/42858/009/0170).

Station #27 provides fire protection, fire prevention, and advanced life support emergency medical service to the Fire District, and the surrounding fire service delivery systems through the automatic aid system. Services are managed by administrative staff, support personnel, and response units to include a paid, full-time District Chief in a response vehicle, and a fire apparatus staffed with a paid, full-time crew of one Lieutenant and two to three Firefighter/EMTs or Firefighter/Paramedics. One of the staffed positions is always a paramedic. All administrative staff for the District operate out of this station.

Station #27 is owned by the District.

This station is 55 years old, is of masonry and frame construction, and has a number of operational deficits, outlined below:

- The station is not rated for any tropical storm threat and must be evacuated for a level 1 hurricane threat. None of the window or door openings are protected by impact rated doors/windows or shutters.
- The station's administrative offices are housed on the second floor with no elevator, making public access more challenging.
- As the station has public access deficits, no elevator, and very limited public parking, the District is unable to hold any public meetings and must hold all public meetings off site.
- The Optima Study verified that the current location of the station lends itself to response time issues in the northern end of the District as well as some portions of Indian Rocks Beach.
- The station endures any number of fire station design elements that do not support firefighter safety such as inadequate firefighting gear storage, the lack of exhaust removal devices, unprotected vertical openings, and the lack of a fire sprinkler system.
- Crew quarters are on the second floor of the station which brings about longer response times due to travel distance to their apparatus.
- The station does not have drive-through capabilities and requires backing apparatus, including boats and trailers, into the station from the street.

Station 28 - 13501 – 94th Avenue North, Seminole, FL 33776

Legal Description: Country Gentlemen Acres S ½ of Lots 1 and 2.(20/30/15/18612/000/0011).

Station #28 provides fire protection, fire prevention, and advanced life support emergency medical services to the Fire District and the surrounding fire service delivery systems through the automatic aid system with a pumper/aerial apparatus, a reserve engine, and a paid full-time crew of one Lieutenant and two to three Firefighter/EMTs or Firefighter/Paramedics. One of those staffed positions is always a paramedic. This station also houses an apparatus maintenance facility with one full-time emergency vehicle technician, and one full time maintenance technician.

Station #28 is owned by the District.

This station is 45 years old, is a metal building, and has a number of operational deficits, outlined below:

- The station is not rated for any tropical storm threat and must be evacuated for a level 1 hurricane threat. None of the window or door openings are protected by impact rated doors/windows or shutters.
- The Optima Study verified that relocating the station to the north and west would be a more advantageous location not only for service delivery within the District but also within region.
- The station endures any number of fire station design elements that do not support firefighter safety, such as inadequate firefighting gear storage, the lack of exhaust removal devices, the lack of a fire sprinkler system, inadequate storage, and no physical fitness facility.
- The station does not have drive-through capabilities and requires backing of very large apparatus into the station from the street.

As required by Chapter 189.08 F.S., the *Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District* provides the following:

- (1) **Requirement: Identify each public facility the special district is building, improving, or expanding:**

Response: There are no current District facilities being built, improved, or expanded.

- (2) **Requirement: Identify each public facility the special district is proposing to build, improve, or expand within the next seven years.**

Response:

Station #26 – There are preliminary efforts underway to relocate Station #26 in the vicinity of the Indian Shores Town Hall located at 19300 Gulf Blvd. This effort would include leasing suitable space for the next 3-5 years versus the construction of a facility within the next seven years. This relocation is supported by the Optima Study. There are no plans to build, improve, or expand this station within seven years.

Station #27 - There are intentions, but no current plans, to rebuild Station #27 at a undetermined site within the next 4-6 years. The proposed area for construction would be near the 2000 block of Gulf Blvd. in Indian Rocks Beach. The proposed facility would be a hurricane rated conventional fire station that would not include administrative offices. This relocation would yield improvements in response times and is supported by the Optima Study. The present Station #27 is within the Indian Rocks Beach Business District Triangle and the future use of the site of building is undetermined.

Station #28 - There are preliminary plans to replace Fire Station #28 in the next 3 years. The construction would likely include administrative offices for the District's administrative staff, the District's Emergency Operations Center, and a publicly accessible meeting space or community spaces. The location of the newly proposed Station #28 is being evaluated but has not been determined. The project could include an apparatus maintenance facility, or the present Station #28 site could be retrofitted to provide a maintenance facility. This is supported by the Optima Study.

- (3) **Requirement: Identify any public facilities the special district is helping another entity (except a county or municipality) build, improve, or expand through a lease agreement.**

Response: This situation does not exist for the District.

- (4) **Requirement:** Identify how the special district proposes to finance each public facility:

Response:

Station #26: As the above noted changes do not require land acquisition or construction, the changes for Station #26 would be funded through District Funds.

Station #27: At this time there are no identified or likely funding streams for Fire Station #27.

Station #28: The District proposes to use Penny for Pinellas funds and District funds, as well as the potential use of Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grants as well as State of Florida Emergency Management Grants to replace Fire Station #28. Penny for Pinellas funds have not yet been requested or allotted. A July 2017 Settlement Agreement between the Pinellas County EMS Authority and the District asserts that Penny for Pinellas funds not to exceed \$3M will be considered for Station #28.

- (5) **Requirement:** Identify the anticipated completion time of any projects above:

Response: The anticipated time frame for Station #26 is 2021/2022. Based upon an uncertain funding methodology for Fire Station #27, there is not an anticipated completion time. The estimated completion time for Fire Station #28 would be mid-year 2023.

- (6) **Requirement:** Identify the anticipated capacity of and demands on each public facility when completed, if a public facility will be improved or expanded, include existing and anticipated capacity.

Response:

There are no improved or expanded capacities regarding Fire Station #26 changes. The station would remain on a barrier island.

The existing Fire Station #27 is on a barrier island, is 55 years old, and has had numerous additions and alterations over its life. The building is a two-story structure with administrative offices upstairs and no elevator for public access. The staff and public parking is insufficient and the design of the structure provides some limitations as to the size and type of apparatus that can be placed there. The station must be evacuated for any hurricane threat. The proposed Fire Station #27 would be a smaller conventional two-bay fire station that would not contain administrative spaces. It would be built to withstand hurricane force winds of a category 4 or greater, provide suitable spaces for a small training room, public accessibility, and would provide for greater firefighter safety. Ideally, the facility would be built to a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standard or greater. While the station may have to be temporarily evacuated due to certain storm surge or tidal surge conditions, the design would support the rapid reoccupation once those conditions improve. Per the Optima Study, the proposed new location would improve overall response times to emergencies.

The existing Fire Station #28 is a 45-year old metal building that has a limited apparatus

maintenance area, and must be evacuated in the event of a hurricane. The proposed Fire Station #28 would be built to withstand hurricane force winds of a category 4 or greater, provide suitable spaces with public access for the District's administrative staff, additional space for future unforeseen needs, community/meeting space, and would provide for greater firefighter safety. The facility would also serve as the District's Emergency Operations Center and, as it is located on the mainland portion of the District, it could be occupied during tropical events and disasters. Ideally, the facility would be built to a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standard or greater. Per the Optima Study, the proposed new location would also improve overall response times to emergencies. The site may be suitable to include the apparatus maintenance facility onsite.

- (7) **Requirement:** If applicable, within the next ten years, the date the special district currently proposes to replace any of the public facilities identified above or in the Initial Public Facilities Report.

Response: Any anticipated time frames have been previously noted above.

Report complete.


Joseph V. Bruni, Chair
PSFRD Board of Commissioners


Date Approved

ATTEST:


Kimberly Fugate, Executive Assistant

cc: Clerk - City of Belleair Beach
Clerk - Town of Belleair Shore
Clerk - City of Indian Rocks Beach
Clerk - Town of Indian Shores
Clerk - Pinellas County Board of County Commission