



Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

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FIRE CHIEF
T. MICHAEL BURTON

MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2021
WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETINGS
Belleair Beach City Hall
444 Causeway Blvd., Belleair Beach, FL 33786

WORKSHOP MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: Commissioners answering roll call were Chair Joseph Bruni, Vice Chair David Ardman, Secretary/Treasurer Lawrence Shear, Commissioner David Gardella, and Commissioner Louis Snelling. A quorum was present with Chair Joseph Bruni presiding. Attorney Jeff Albinson, Chief Mike Burton, and Finance Director David Martin were also present.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None.

SERVICE PIN – Fire Chief Mike Burton presented Firefighter/EMT Carson Stitt with his pin for 5 years of service to the District.

OATH OF OFFICE – Firefighter/Paramedic Travis Garman took his Oath of Office.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT – The Workshop was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

21-04 EMS Budget Request – Funding for Truck 28
(Resolution 2021-01)

Fire Chief

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: February 16, 2021 Workshop and Regular Meetings

Discussion: None.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021 Workshop and Regular Meetings.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER ARDMAN

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report: February, 2021

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Lawrence Schear stated balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of January 31, 2020. Consolidated government funds, assets, and liabilities are \$4.9 million; the investment program in accordance with District policy is \$4.7 million; current liabilities are within normal end-of-month limits, at \$92,000; the capital projects fund revenues total \$62,700; two utility vehicles have been moved to a future year to provide funding for an SCBA fill station at Station 27 to replace the Squad 26 compressor, and the Squad replacement engine is not scheduled to be delivered until next fiscal year, deferring \$470,000 of the capital budget into a 7 year lease amortization; general fund cost recoveries include \$28,900 for Hurricane Michael and \$338,400 for COVID-19. Income and expenditures are currently projected to be in line with the amended budget. Projected ending ratio remains slightly ahead of GASB recommendations at 28.4%, but is far less than the Commission's 45% objective. The projection does not include FEMA cost recoveries for Hurricane Sally or additional COVID-19 relief.

A motion to approve the February, 2021 Treasurer's Report.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA SECOND: COMMISSIONER ARDMAN

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

3. Correspondence: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

REPORTS:

1. COMMISSION: Secretary/Treasurer Schear discussed that there are four properties close to Indian Shores Town Hall that he feels would be ideal locations for the relocation of Station 26. He stated that his concern is that property is limited and opportunities disappear rapidly.

A motion to authorize Chief Burton, Assistant Chief Mortellite, and Finance Director Martin to formally investigate alternative fire station sites.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: NONE

There was no second. Motion does not pass.

Chair Bruni stated that he appreciates Secretary/Treasurer's efforts, but states that he does not know what the first step in the process should be regarding planning and architecture, and asked Mr. Albinson and Chief Burton if they had any insight. Vice Chair Ardman added that he does not feel that the Optima study did due diligence beyond response times, and feels that there are additional steps to be taken before the District "puts the cart before the horse." Chief Burton added that, in looking at parcels, he does not have the expertise to know what to look for, such as greenspace, drainage, access to roads, etc. and should be left to a professional service. Chair Bruni added that he is also not in favor of hiring engineers or architects until the District has secured funding for these projects. Mr. Albinson stated that the first step is to decide which station relocation is most critical, and then determine if funding is available either through the County or some other funding source. He added that organizing a task force to assist in these initial steps may be beneficial. Once this has been accomplished, he suggested that the County may even have people on staff who can help with making determinations related to property requirements. Vice Chair Ardman stated that he understands Secretary/Treasurer Schear's concerns, as today's availability may vastly differ from availability a year from now, but due diligence must first be done; however, exploratory efforts may still be beneficial. Chief Burton added that the District has identified some needs already, and he recently spoke at an Indian Shores meeting and is also on the agenda for April. He suggested that perhaps a cooperative effort with the Town or another entity could be a possibility. Secretary/Treasurer Schear confirmed that the Mayor is in favor of a cooperative effort. Commissioner Gardella stated that Secretary/Treasurer Schear is correct, as there are less properties each day. He also mentioned that he knows the Sheriff's Office has land that may be available. Vice Chair Ardman suggested that shared services could also help efforts. Mr. Martin discussed funding issues, and stated that a lender will want to have a guarantee before approving a loan. Chief Burton stated that the District is basically starting from scratch, as the only property that has any commercial value out of the three stations is Station 27. Chair Bruni added that most departments are able to rebuild on existing property, as well as utilize engineers and architects on city staff, which is not a luxury special districts have. He agreed that Station 26 is a property, but Station 28 is equally as important due to maintenance, EOC, and headquarters needs. Chief Burton stated that he has reached out to all County Commissioners that have jurisdiction in the District and has set up introductory, informational meetings with a couple of them.

Secretary/Treasurer Schear discussed that the tar black top system will eventually be raised and signs will be posted to ensure people are aware that the concrete is higher than the roadway.

Secretary/Treasurer Schear stated that he contacted Keep Pinellas Beautiful and there are two sections of Gulf Boulevard available in Indian Rocks Beach and Belleair Beach for the Adopt-a-Mile program. He suggested it might be something for Commission and fire department members to consider participating in.

Vice Chair Ardman expressed appreciation to Chief Burton and the Truck 28 crew that included Ryan London, Jim Norberg, and Matt Zeiner, for attending the memorial service for Ann Moston, mother of Indian Rocks Beach Mayor Joanne Cookie Moston Kennedy.

Vice Chair Ardman stated that City Manager Gregg Mims informed him that the "do not block" signage for emergency back access points have been installed.

Vice Chair Ardman has located another RFQ for Fort Myers Shores Fire Protection District and will send to Ms. Fugate to share with Commission.

Vice Chair Ardman addressed an email Mr. Martin sent recently that discussed that the House of Representatives and Representative Nick DiCeglie made mention of eliminating special districts. He stated that he researched both the house and similar senate bills and he does not feel

that there is an intention of eliminating special districts. Mr. Martin stated that at least two senators said that during a committee meeting; it is not in the bill itself. Discussion took place on new audit requirements for special districts beginning September 30, 2021. Mr. Martin stated that he will send the FASD link to Vice Chair Ardman to watch the video.

2. **ATTORNEY:** No report.

3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Burton stated that the Optima Report will be on the Indian Shores agenda in April.

Regarding the hiring process for new firefighters, Chief Burton stated that three job offers have been made and Ms. Fugate is working on background efforts. Hire dates are expected to be in May.

Chief Burton stated that promotional processes for lieutenant and district chief positions will also be in early May.

It is expected that it will take until at least June to catch up on service pin awards and oaths of office for those personnel who were missed.

Chief Burton discussed that Fleet Mechanic Tom Bruno and Firefighter Pat Schwab will travel to Pierce manufacturing soon before the new engine goes to production.

Regarding COVID-19 vaccinations, Chief Burton said that a few members of the District have stepped up to help with vaccine administration. Mr. Martin submits for reimbursement. He added that there are approximately 50 staff members working per day to vaccinate more than 2,000 people per day. Commissioner Gardella asked if there have been much sick time used by District staff related to COVID-19; Chief Burton said there has been none in many weeks.

ACTION ITEMS:

**21-04 EMS Budget Request – Funding for Truck 28
(Resolution 2021-01)**

Fire Chief

Discussion: Chief Burton stated that Friday is the deadline to submit the District's annual EMS budget request to the County. He added that he feels the it is time for Truck 28 to be funded at 100%, as it is the only unit in Pinellas County funded at 50%. The call volume supports it. Resolution 2021-01 allows the Fire Chief to submit the budget to the County to accomplish this. Chief Burton added that this is not outside the settlement agreement, which only dictates that funding cannot drop below 50%.

Attorney Jeff Albinson read Resolution 2021-01 in its entirety.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2021-01.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR 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 7:09 p.m.

APPROVED:



Joseph V. Bruni, Chair

ATTEST:



Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant

6/15/21

Date Approved