



Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

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FIRE CHIEF
T. MICHAEL BURTON

**MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021
SPECIAL BUDGET, WORKSHOP, AND REGULAR MEETINGS**

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

**SPECIAL BUDGET HEARING BEGAN AT 6:02 p.m.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

**21-20 Adoption of the Final Budget
(Resolution 2021-05)**

Discussion: Attorney Jeff Albinson read Resolution 2021-05 in its entirety.

A motion to adopt the Resolution 2021-05 and the Final Budget.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER ARDMAN

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

WORKSHOP MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

21-21 New Finance Director

Discussion: Chief Burton introduced the new Finance Director who will replace David Martin once he retires, Erin Brooks, and explained the position. He added that she will officially begin work in November, but will work alongside Mr. Martin beforehand.

21-22 Fire Chief Interview Process

Discussion: Chief Burton stated that there have been greater than 35 applicants for the fire chief position. The first review will take place on October 4, 2021. He added that only seven of those candidates are from Florida. Chief Burton stated that travel assistance and relocation packages have not been budgeted, although it is the norm in the industry at the fire chief level. He suggested that we contact candidates ahead of time in the event it changes their interest in applying. There was consensus among the Board to inform candidates of this information. Chief Burton also confirmed that, with the help of Indian Shores staff, the District will be able to offer the ability to out of state candidates to interview via Zoom.

21-23 PSFRD Commission Seat 2

Discussion: In light of Commissioner Ardman's announcement that he will be moving outside of Indian Rocks Beach, Chief Burton stated that the District will need to find a replacement commissioner. He stated that he has verified with Mr. Albinson that the Charter states that the remaining commissioners will elect to fill the unexpired term with a successor who lives in the subdistrict until the next general election, which will take place November 2022. The person elected at that time will fulfill the remainder of the term, which expires November 2024. Chief Burton offered assistance in attempting to identify interested parties. Mr. Albinson added that the District will typically issue a public notice advertising the vacancy. Additional discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT – The Workshop was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: August 17, 2021 Workshop and Regular Meetings

September 8, 2021 Budget Meeting

Discussion: None.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021 Workshop and Regular Meetings and the September 8, 2021 Budget Meeting.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report: August, 2021

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Lawrence Schear stated that there is no change in the report and the record should reflect that the Treasurer's summary stands as it was presented.

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

MOTION: COMMISSIONER ARDMAN SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

3. Correspondence: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

REPORTS:

1. **COMMISSION:** Commissioner Schear discussed a subscription discount offer for first responders taking place at this time.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Mr. Albinson stated, regarding the employment matter discussed previously, no formal decision has been made at this point. He confirmed that a report has been received now from Attorney Craig Berman who completed a very thorough investigation. The complaint is a sexual harassment issue, and the information collected in that investigation remains confidential until a decision has been made. Mr. Albinson stated that he has been in contact with complainant's attorney to let them know where things stand. Additionally, the District's insurance carrier has been notified of the issue. He added that one employee has been placed on paid administrative leave while the matter is sorted out and explained that process.

3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief Burton stated that the District's thoughts and support are with their colleagues at Palm Harbor Fire Rescue, as Lieutenant Ashley White was struck by a vehicle early this morning when responding to a call on U.S. Highway 19. The Chief stated that he has been informed that she is in critical but stable condition and was scheduled for surgery earlier in the day. There are no other updates at this time.

Chief Burton stated that there have been a few outages of personnel due to COVID-19 and

Finance Director David Martin has been tracking those costs for sick leave and associated overtime, in hopes there will be some reimbursement to cover those costs.

Assistant Chief Mortellite and Interim District Chief Karpinecz have been in South Carolina attending a fire station design symposium that will put the District in a good position to do fire station design when the time comes.

Chief Burton stated that he believes an agreement has been reached with the labor Association to buy back some vacation leave and reduce the leave liability, as a leave accrual conflict exists when it comes to how much time people can take off. Additionally, an imbalance exists in how members pick vacation time, with lower seniority personnel not having many days left to choose from. In an effort to correct this imbalance, Chief Burton state that personnel have been offered the opportunity to sell back 72 hours of leave at straight pay, while making a change to the bargaining agreement which allows all personnel to get more vacation days. He added that this is a one-time offer this fiscal year and requires no budget amendment.

Chief Burton thanked David Martin for all of his work lately, despite dealing with two major illnesses, and still actively working from home to keep the District afloat.

Chief Burton stated that the District is moving forward with the effort to hire a 37th position. He added that he believes an applicant has been found who is well-suited for the position and that person should begin work in October.

ACTION ITEMS:

21-24 Disposal of Old Ladder Truck

Discussion: Chief Burton stated that the District owns a 19 year-old ladder truck with very high mileage and very high use. He added that the truck has been in a reserve status for over a year and is used very infrequently. It is time to dispose of the vehicle, and Chief Burton stated that District Chief Robb Williams has completed the legwork on this project and compared three viable options; his recommendation is to go under contract with GovDeals. He added that the seller will pay the 12% fee to GovDeals, and it is anticipated that the truck will not sell for more than \$15,000 to \$20,000.

ADJOURNMENT

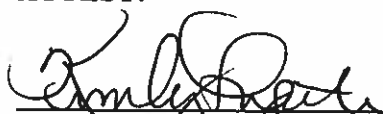
There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

APPROVED:



Joseph Bruni, Chair

ATTEST:



Kimberly Fugate, Executive Assistant

Oct. 19, 2021
Date Approved