



Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

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FIRE CHIEF
JEFFREY DAVIDSON

MINUTES MARCH 16, 2022 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 Louis Snelling, Secretary/Treasurer Lawrence Schear, and Commissioner David Gardella. A quorum was present with Chair Joseph Bruni presiding. Attorney Jeff Albinson, Fire Chief Jeffrey Davidson, and Finance Director Erin Brooks were also present.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Kelly Cisarik – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Ms. Cisarik congratulated Betsey McKenna on her appointment to Commissioner.

Ms. Cisarik discussed concerns about the recent Public Facilities Annual Notice of Change. She discussed District needs, such as additional funding for Truck 28, an additional half or full paramedic position, and the relocation of Station 28. She stated that she thought that the District was making progress with its relationship with the County, as well as on a solution for Station 28; however, she noted that the 2020 Optima report indicated that the County would be best served by moving Station 28 north and west. She suggested the Fire Chief schedule another meeting with County EMS and the County's real estate department. She added that there is no language in the Charter which prohibits building a fire station, or an EOC, outside of the District's boundaries, and suggested four options.

Fire Chief Davidson stated that the District recently submitted its EMS funding request for the upcoming year, to include funding for three full seats, which was supported by all of the County Fire Chiefs at a recent meeting. He added that he was also instructed by County staff to submit for the funding owed to us via the settlement agreement for Truck 28, as well as a new fire station. The funding for the truck totals just over \$1.3 million and, while the settlement agreement allows for \$3 million for the station build, that amount would no longer be sufficient given current pricing. The Chief was told that the County has now earmarked \$4.6 million to put toward that project. As

far as properties are concerned, Chief Davidson said that he has learned that the 4H property was never available; however, Mr. Hare and Mr. Fogarty stated that they are working with the County’s real estate department to research properties for the District. Further discussion ensued on issues with other potential properties for Station 28, and added that he feels that the station needs to be built within the District’s boundaries to best serve its citizens. Additional discussion ensued regarding Stations 28 and 31, call volume concerns, as well as traffic concerns in Indian Rocks Beach and Indian Shores. Chief Davidson thanked Ms. Cisarik for her involvement with and suggestions for the District.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Workshop was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

ACTION ITEMS:

21-27 Commission Seat 2

Discussion: [This item was moved to take place before monthly business.] Chair Joseph Bruni administered the Oath of Office for newly appointed Fire Commissioner for Indian Rocks Beach, Elizabeth “Betsey” McKenna.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2022 Workshop and Regular Meetings

Discussion: None.

**A motion to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022
Workshop and Regular Meetings.**

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

2. Treasurer’s Report: February, 2022

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Lawrence Schear stated balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of February 28, 2022. Consolidated government funds, assets, and liabilities are

\$4.76 million; the investment program in accordance with District policy is \$4.53 million; current liabilities are within normal end-of-month limits, at \$107,000; the capital projects fund revenues total \$16,800; a 2010 Pierce Velocity fire truck (P-28) was purchased in February. The general fund is currently on track with the adopted budget. The projected FY2021-2022 Unassigned Fund Balance to Operating Expense ratio is 14.9%; FGFOA's recommended ratio is 17%.

A motion to approve the February, 2022 Treasurer's Report.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SECOND: COMMISSIONER

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

3. **Correspondence:** Secretary/Treasurer Schear read one piece of correspondence – commendation for Squad 26 personnel for a recent EMS call.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

REPORTS:

1. **COMMISSION:** Secretary/Treasurer Schear stated that he attended the Indian Shores Council Meeting last week and invited everyone in attendance to the washdown ceremony.

Commissioner Gardella informed the Board that the City of Belleair Beach has a new Mayor.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Attorney Jeff Albinson stated that everything he needs to discuss will be handled in the action items portion of the meeting, as well as the shade session.

3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Fire Chief Jeff Davidson stated that the dedication ceremony is this Saturday. The Chief discussed the process of designing and customizing the new Squad 2 and commended the apparatus committee for their efforts.

Chief Davidson said that the District has hired Shawn Clark to fill a recent Firefighter/Paramedic vacancy; he comes to the District from Madeira Beach Fire and is currently in the preliminary on-boarding process.

Fire Chief Davidson stated that PSFRD is made up of an amazing group of individuals. He stated that he and other personnel attended the Rotary breakfast earlier that morning, at which time he was able to speak to attendees about the department. He further discussed crews' exceptional actions at recent incidents and stated that he would like to present personnel with unit citations at the upcoming meetings of the Indian Rocks Beach City Commission as well as the Indian Shores Town Council.

Chief Davidson discussed that District Administrator Kim Fugate is in communication with City of Indian Rocks Beach personnel regarding the potential to resolve scheduling conflicts so that the District could hold meetings at their facility.

Chief Davidson stated that he would like to meet individually with each Fire Commissioner in the next few weeks. He explained that he and Finance Director Erin Brooks have been working diligently on a 20-year projection that he would like to share and discuss with each Commissioner.

ACTION ITEMS:

22-04 Generator Grant

Discussion: Fire Chief Davidson stated that this was a grant previously approved by the Commission to be written a few years ago, which has since been awarded. He would like permission from the Board to accept the award, which is through the Emergency Management Mitigation Bureau. This grant will provide a generator for the facility at Indian Rocks Christian School which PSFRD utilizes as its EOC and will still be used as a backup EOC once the District is able to build an EOC of its own. The project cost is approximately \$200,000, 75% of which is provided through federal funding, and the remaining 25% paid for by the church. Chief Davidson stated that an LOU is being finalized with the church, Attorney Albinson will review it, and then the Board's approval will be submitted to the State.

A motion to move forward with approval for the generator grant.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

22-05 Paramedic Pay Letter of Understanding (LOU)

Discussion: Chief Davidson explained that its employees are the District's most valuable assets. He added that administration also has a great working relationship with Union's executive board, and they have been working together on drafting this LOU. Chief Davidson explained that when an employee is hired as a paramedic, they are required to go through a 3-month EMS Academy through the County, but they are still paid as a paramedic during that time. When an employee is hired as an EMT, but goes to school and graduates as a paramedic, they are not currently paid as a paramedic while they attend the 3-month EMS Academy. This LOU will pay employees in this situation as a paramedic during that 3-month period, which currently equates to \$1,250; and, if they do not successfully pass this training, their pay will revert back to the EMT rate. Chief Davidson stated that he feels this change to the Collective Bargaining Agreement is worth the cost in morale, as well as will encourage other personnel to go to school to become a paramedic. Snelling – shouldn't start and stop. If someone is hired as a medic, they still have to go through the 3 months but they still get paid. No difference. Discussion ensued.

A motion to approve the Paramedic Pay Letter of Understanding.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SNELLING SECOND: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

22-06 Shade Session: EEOC Matter

The shade session began at 6:58pm. Audio recording will be available once the case has been closed.

The regular meeting resumed at 7:14pm.

A motion to approve the settlement agreement as presented by Attorney Jeff Albinson during the shade session.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER SNELLING SECOND: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR

All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVED:



Joseph V. Bruni, Chair

ATTEST:



Kimberly G. Fugate, District Administrator

4/19/22

Date Approved