



Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

**304 FIRST STREET
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FLORIDA 33785-2587**

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**FIRE CHIEF
JEFFREY DAVIDSON**

**MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2024
WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETINGS**

**Belleair Beach Community Center
444 Causeway Boulevard
Belleair Beach, FL 33786**

**WORKSHOP CALLED TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

ROLL CALL: Commissioners answering roll call were Chair Louis Snelling, Vice Chair Elizabeth “Betsey” McKenna, Secretary/Treasurer Lawrence Schear, Commissioner David Gardella, and Commissioner Heather Koskinas. A quorum was present with Chair Louis Snelling 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: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: None.

ADJOURNMENT

The Workshop was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

23-45 Church of the Isles (COTI) Property

Discussion: [This item was discussed during the Chief's Report and not originally added to the agenda; however, it was decided during the Chief's Report that a motion should be made made.]

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: March 20, 2024 Workshop and Regular Meetings

Discussion: None.

**A motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2024
Workshop and Regular Meetings.**

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA SECOND: COMMISSIONER KOSKINAS

All in favor, MOTION PASSED unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report: March, 2024

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Schear stated that the investment program is in accordance with policy at \$10.9 million held in interest earnings accounts and \$203,000 in non-interest checking. General fund: Fiscal year to date tax receipts total \$7.3 million. The FEMA claim for reimbursement for Hurricane Idalia remains in process, totaling \$252,000. Fiscal year to date Prevention revenue is \$82,700. All other general fund revenues and operating expenses are projected within budget.

A motion to approve the March, 2024 Treasurer's Report.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA SECOND: COMMISSIONER KOSKINAS

All in favor, MOTION PASSED unanimously.

3. Correspondence: None.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

REPORTS:

1. **COMMISSION:** Secretary/Treasurer Schear thanked everyone for their support of Indian Shores's new mayor. He also encouraged members of the Commission to attend the upcoming Fire Ops 101 class on May 11th.

Chair Snelling stated that he attended the District's first design build meeting, which he said feels is off to a great start and included good discussion.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Attorney Jeff Albinson stated that he and Chief Davidson have continued

to work on the EEOC matter which should be close to being finished. He stated that he has also been working on the Church of the Isles property project with the Chief. He also added that the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement that is on the agenda, and explained that this is simply a continuation of the existing agreement and has not been changed. Chief Davidson added that this agreement is also how the District receives reimbursement during State emergencies.

3. CHIEF'S REPORT: Fire Chief Jeff Davidson stated that the station design kick-off meeting went very well and the group should meet again in May.

Chief Davidson stated that the District submitted its offer for the Church of the Isles (COTI) property; the church hired someone to review it, and they have provided a counteroffer. Attorney Albinson said that COTI's offer is around \$700,000 and their realtor provided real estate comparables. He added that the original appraiser hired by the District did not have comparables for the specific type of property, so once the District confirms the comparables provided, a new appraisal will need to be done. Chief Davidson added that the church's realtor has experience selling church parking lot properties. The Chief discussed the ongoing response delays in the northern end of the District, and the purchase of this property has been discussed with Pinellas County in reference to the ALSFR agreement. Chief Davidson stated that he has received a verbal agreement from the County for additional personnel and a rescue truck, and this property purchase will aid in substantiating that request. Commissioner Gardella agreed that another appraisal should be done, but did agree that the District should act quickly, as there is a single family lot very close to the church property that is currently selling for over \$800,000. [A motion was made here and can be found below in "Action Items."]

Chief Davidson stated that the new engine will be delivered within the next two months and reminded the Commission that this apparatus was purchased early due to an expected 10% price increase.

The Chief stated that there is no update on the legislative appropriations process, and the budget session with the Governor is expected to take place in mid to late May.

Chief Davidson stated that the net jet ski has arrived and said that Division Chief Pat Schwab did a great job in acquiring it and all items that go with it. He said that the jet ski should be in service by June 1st.

Chief Davidson stated that the ALSFR meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and emphasized its importance. He complimented Assistant Chief David Karpinecz on his efforts and knowledge throughout this process. The Chief stated that the District is requesting \$2.7 million in a phased approach, which includes, with the additional station, two seats of funding for the rescue over the three-year contract, which ties in with the time period needed to build that station. He also stated that portions of both the Finance Director and District Administrator salaries are being requested, as well as the EMS Division Chief salary staggered over two years. He added that these are all reasonable and customary costs with bigger agencies, and five seats of funding is where these salaries come in. He explained that the ALSFR agreement is scheduled to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners in September. He further discussed \$350,000 in capital to be reimbursed, and the rescue truck that will be received in September, which will be an episodic unit the first year and a half. Separately, he added that the District has also submitted an application for the FEMA SAFER grant again this year.

Chief Davidson discussed Lieutenant Livernois' upcoming retirement and the need to advertise for that position. He also stated that more personnel will be needed for the additional rescue, and that he would like to establish a hiring list.

The Chief discussed the proposal that was provided to the Union by the District as part of

the Collective Bargaining Agreement wage reopener. The proposal included a substantial salary increase with a reduction in time off. He added that this proposal provides the District's personnel with the second highest salaries in the County, and third in the least hours worked. He stated that the Union has decided not to vote on the proposal, but he would like to give them a little bit more time before closing the reopener. Commissioner Gardella asked for clarification on the work hours and salary. Chief Davidson stated that the only department with higher salaries is St. Pete, and only two departments have Kelly days every three weeks, and 16 other agencies currently do not have any Kelly days. He did mention that three departments will be implementing Kelly days in October, but those will be every six weeks. Chief Davidson explained that, historically, our firefighters were given time off in lieu of additional compensation; however, this time off and the three-week Kelly day keeps the District constantly at minimum staffing, causing overtime every time someone is off. This costs the District approximately \$560,000 in salaries and benefits just in overtime. The Chief explained that while the proposal costs more in base salaries, that cost is offset by the reduction in overtime. Further discussion ensued on surrounding departments' salaries and time off. Attorney Albinson added that the District's proposal eliminates a current, ongoing problem that is being experienced. He added that there have been occasions in which the District was on the verge of taking a unit out of service due to staffing levels. Chief Davidson added that the proposal adds eight shifts per year, but personnel will know when those shifts are because they are scheduled and they are not being unexpectedly scheduled for mandatory overtime.

Finance Director Erin Brooks discussed that we hired a full-time administrative finance assistant – Kristin Cresswell, and her first day of employment will be April 22, 2024.

GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE: None.

ACTION ITEMS:

23-45 Church of the Isles (COTI) Property

Discussion: [This item was discussed during the Chief's Report.]

A motion to authorize the Fire Chief to retain the services of another appraiser to evaluate the portion of the Church of the Isles parking lot.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER KOSKINAS SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA

All in favor, MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**24-08 ALS First Responder (ALSFR) Agreement
District Submission**

Discussion: [This item was discussed during the Chief's Report and no action is to be taken at this time.]

Remarks from the audience: None.

**24-07 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Reopener
District Proposal**

Discussion: [This item was discussed during the Chief’s Report and no action is to be taken at this time.]

Remarks from the audience: None.

**24-06 Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement
(Resolution 2024-01)**

Discussion: Attorney Jeff Albinson stated that he discussed this item in his report and read Resolution 2024-01 in its entirety.

Remarks from the audience: None.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2024-01 and the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement.

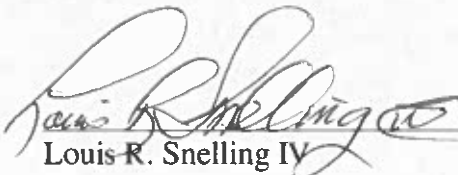
MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA

All in favor, MOTION PASSED unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 6:47 p.m.

APPROVED:

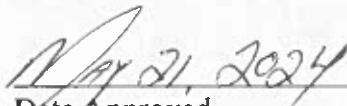
ATTEST:



Louis R. Snelling IV
Chair



Kimberly G. Hampton
District Administrator



Date Approved