



Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

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FIRE CHIEF
SALVATORE A. D'ANGELO III

**MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2017
WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETING**

**Held at the Indian Shores Municipal Center
19305 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, FL 33785**

**WORKSHOP MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

ROLL CALL: Commissioners answering roll call were Chair Joe Bruni, Vice Chair Lou Snelling, Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schear, and Commissioner Gardella. Laura Martin was excused. A quorum was present with Chair Joe Bruni presiding. Attorney Jeff Albinson, Fire Chief Sal D'Angelo, and Finance Director David Martin were also present.

SERVICE PIN AWARD – Firefighter/EMT Michael Granger: Fire Chief Sal D'Angelo presented Firefighter/EMT Michael Granger with a service pin for five years of dedicated service to the District.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

17-01 Impact Fee Study Presentation

Discussion: Chief D'Angelo explained that Mr. Henry Thomas and Public Resources Management Group were hired by the District to prepare a new impact fee study. Mr. Thomas summarized the basis of his company's impact fee study and explained that the suggested result is to decrease the current impact fee costs. He explained that the current impact fee cost is \$1.00 per square foot, regardless of what kind of property. Mr. Thomas explained that the proposed new costs will be broken down into two different classes of service: Single-story developments and multi-story developments. Single-story buildings would incur a fee of \$.50 per square foot, and multi-story buildings would incur a fee of \$0.63 per square foot. Some discussion ensued. Chief D'Angelo recommended that the District do this kind of study every three to five years. He added that a new impact fee resolution will be drafted and brought before the Board for approval at the February and March 2017 meetings. There was discussion that there is typically a 90 day waiting period to implement new impact fees; however, Attorney Jeff Albinson and Mr. Thomas both agreed that they believe there is a new law in place waiving that requirement if the fees are being lowered.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:29 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA: None.

MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: December 20, 2016, Workshop and Regular Meetings

Discussion: None.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2016 Workshop and Regular Meetings.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING
All in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

2. Treasurer's Report: December, 2016

Discussion: Secretary/Treasurer Schear stated that all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of December 31, 2016. Current total assets are about \$4.6 million. Current liabilities are \$91,200. Fund balances are in line with the normal inflow of non-ad valorem assessments at this time of the year. Revenues for next year are projected to be 4.5% less than last year, due mainly to fewer impact fees generated through new building construction. This trend is expected to continue as the available land for building is used, but the funding will be replaced with the newly implemented ad valorem tax, commencing in FY2017/2018. The combination of the referendum and a favorable conclusion of the EMS legacy dispute would strengthen the District's financial capabilities to enable it to provide adequate capital requirements to fulfill its service obligations. Due to the unknown aftermath of the November referendum at the time, there was not sufficient time to get data to plan for a capital expenditure program for this year's fiscal budget process; however, the outcome will provide a path to establish a permanent facility for Station 26 and an avenue for the replacement of specific aging apparatus. The Unassigned Fund Balance increased to 27.4 percent of total operating expenditures.

A motion to approve the December, 2016 Treasurer's Report.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING
All in favor, motion passed unanimously.**

3. Correspondence:

Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schear read a letter from Rebecca Sacra of the Beach Community Food Pantry thanking the District for its donation of \$306 to buy food for needy families.

Secretary/Treasurer Schear next read a letter from Jared Sorenson, Assistant Supervisor at Sunstar Paramedics, commending Ryan London, Matt Zeiner, and Matt Tomilonus, on a difficult EMS call on December 26, 2016.

Secretary/Treasurer Schear read an email sent from Kelly Cisarik to Mayor Soranno and Commissioners from Indian Shores and Indian Rocks Beach, regarding her concerns about the proposed location for Station 26.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Tom Rask – Unincorporated Pinellas County [Did not state address] – Mr. Rask discussed concerns about notice given for May 17, 2016 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting. Mr. Rask also discussed eliminating the fire station by his house, as well as concerns about the location of other stations and potential stations.

Randy Briggs – 466 20th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Briggs inquired as to specific incident statistics in Station 26's zone. He suggested that emergency response procedures might be antiquated.

Carol Briggs – 466 20th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach – Mrs. Briggs discussed that the proposed property for Station 26 does not make sense geographically.

Don House – 2104 Beach Trail, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. House stated that he thinks everything should be put on hold until after the lawsuit regarding the referendum is resolved. He also suggested that the proposed location for Station 26 is not needed and believes it is a case of “territory marking.”

Bill Thomas – 470 20th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Thomas asked if the Commission has given the Fire Chief authority to make the statements printed on the educational pamphlets sent out to voters before the referendum. Attorney Albinson explained that the information does not require “authority” and is based on financials. Mr. Thomas asked who had the authority to make the statements on the pamphlet and if they were true. Attorney Albinson stated that the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District, as an entity, made the statements, and that they are true and valid.

John Pfansteil – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Pfansteil expressed concerns over the adoption of NFPA 1710 and explained that if the Commissioners have not read NFPA 1710, it would be irresponsible to adopt it.

Kelly Cisarik – [Did not state address] – Mrs. Cisarik requested that Chair Bruni call for public comment after every agenda item, if possible. Chair Bruni agreed to allow citizens to speak on each agenda item for three minutes before a vote is taken at this particular meeting.

Jim Palamara – 102 15th Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Palamara expressed concerns over the proposed location for Station 26 and made suggestions on other locations. He also discussed his thoughts on consolidating fire departments.

REPORTS:

1. **COMMISSION:** Secretary/Treasurer Larry Schear stated that he is attending a one-day session of FASD training next week.

Secretary/Treasurer Schear made a suggestion to considering adding blue reflectors in the middle of Gulf Boulevard, and as many other streets as possible, where fire hydrants are present.

Secretary/Treasurer Schear discussed that Station 26 personnel will have to vacate the station for one day during the St. Patrick’s Day Festival in Indian Shores.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Attorney Jeff Albinson stated that, although it is past the deadline, he has not heard from the arbitrator and no decision has yet been made in the Carpenter arbitration.

Attorney Albinson stated that the litigation involving Mr. Hoofnagle’s challenge to the referendum language is moving forward and a hearing is scheduled in February. He added that the District complied with providing the materials that Mr. Hoofnagle requested.

Attorney Albinson stated that the litigation with the County regarding EMS funding is moving forward and a public meeting is scheduled to take place on January 23, 2017. Chief D’Angelo stated that this is the second meeting, per State Statute, and will take place from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the conference room in Belleair Beach.

3. **CHIEF’S REPORT:** Chief D’Angelo stated that he did not have anything beyond the four action items on the agenda.

[A five minute recess took place at this time.]

ACTION ITEMS:

16-16 Property for Station 26

Discussion: Fire Chief D’Angelo stated that, since he has been the Fire Chief, the District has received funding to re-establish Station 26. He stated that his job is to ensure that the residents of PSFRD are properly serviced and that the District’s facilities are maintained. He added that PSFRD has no jurisdictional authority in the Redingtons. He stated that his intent at this meeting is to receive approval to negotiate the purchase of a piece of land in southern Indian Shores for Station 26. Chief D’Angelo gave a brief history of Station 25 and Station 27, and stated that the proposed location for Station 26 is exactly halfway between Stations 25 and 27, and provides quick access to the bridge.

Chief D'Angelo discussed that finding a new property for Station 26 has been the intent of the District since he became Fire Chief, and has been the goal if the ad valorem referendum was passed. He stated that he is still in communication with Duke Energy for a different property, but has not received any confirmation on that. He stated that he has been completely transparent about his intentions for Station 26, as it has been discussed at Fire Chief Meetings, as well as via email to the County [he read one of these emails from 2015 aloud]. Chief D'Angelo added that the proposed property has water access for marine units as well as quick access to Gulf Boulevard. Commissioner Gardella mentioned one of the documents read as correspondence from Kelly Cisarik. He asked if the information she stated was factual: If a station is built in North Redington Beach, is that going to affect EMS funding for Station 26? Chief D'Angelo stated that he doesn't know how Mrs. Cisarik knows about the future EMS funding, as PSFRD hasn't put in a request yet. He added that there is no guarantee that any fire department will receive additional funding for EMS from the County. Chairman Bruni asked if the realtor for the proposed property could come to the podium. Discussion ensued.

Tom Rask – Unincorporated Pinellas County [Did not state address] – Mr. Rask stated that the level of service is a policy decision, but the referendum language is not. He said that he feels the District should first find out if a station will be built at 173rd. He added that, since the station near the Indian Rocks Beach bridge will need to be rebuilt, there is a piece of land further north on Gulf Boulevard that should be looked at. He said that he feels that is an opportunity to get better service without adding another station. He added that he does not think there will be peace until the referendum language is revised.

Don House – [Did not state address] – Mr. House stated that there are two stations that are six miles apart, and the proposed Station 26 would be halfway between them; however, since a station is being built in North Redington Beach, then Indian Shores will be picking up 7/10 of a mile. He said with automatic aid agreements in place, they will just need to respond to our District.

Kelly Cisarik – [Did not state address] – Mrs. Cisarik stated that, in May 2016, she attended the Emergency Management Advisory Council Meeting, which is when she became aware that Madeira Beach was looking for funding to build a station at the North Redington Beach Town Hall. She stated that she called John Bennett to confirm with him whether or not there would be a station in North Redington. She continued that Mr. Bennett confirmed that \$300,000 was budgeted for the design study of the station. Mrs. Cisarik stated that this station will be 1.3 miles from the proposed lot for Station 26. She said that she then contacted Craig Hare, and he wrote, "Historically, the County has not provided EMS funding for advanced life support first responding units that would serve the same geographic area. In the case of the Redington Beaches, there is a demonstrated need for one ALS unit and a permanent fire/EMS station. I don't see the County supporting or funding redundant stations or units. The Redington communities is [are] the area that needs a permanent solution to address the EMS level of service requirements, specifically response times. Coverage and response times in the Indian Shores area of the Pinellas Suncoast Fire Rescue District are able to be met by Pinellas Suncoast from Fire Station 27 located in Indian Rocks. Pinellas Suncoast Fire Station 28 was defunded by County EMS in 2009 because the unit is less than one mile from Seminole Fire Station 31. There is a demonstrated need for one ALS unit in this service area to meet the fire/EMS call demand and response times." Mrs. Cisarik stated that she believes that one of the reasons the County will not fund PSFRD's stations is because its cost per seat is the highest in Pinellas County, 28% above the average of all of the other EMS districts, and that is why, in this case, North Redington is going to get their station. Mrs. Cisarik said she thinks PSFRD should delay moving forward until they meet with Madeira Beach, Indian Shores, and Pinellas County.

A motion to give the Fire Chief authority to enter into negotiations with the realtor for the Indian Shores property for Station 26.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING
Motion passed with a 3 - 1 vote, with Commissioner Gardella voting no.**

**16-17 Adoption NFPA 1710 as a Guideline for Minimum Response Requirements
(Resolution 2017-01) Second Reading**

Discussion: Attorney Albinson read Resolution 17-01 by title only. Commissioner Gardella asked Chief D'Angelo if the approval of this resolution will obligate the Commissioners to implement the guidelines of NFPA 1710. Chief D'Angelo stated that the intent of NFPA 1710 is only to give the fire service a roadmap for how to staff fire and EMS units into the future. The Chief continued that, with regard to service level, it is a policy decision, and stated that he chooses to look at the science behind the fire service to make proper decisions. He added that NFPA 1710 includes multiple facets, including 911 procedures, which we do not have control over. Commissioner Gardella asked who will decide when NFPA 1710 will be adhered to. Chief D'Angelo stated that this is done through the open budget process and, when funds allow, the decision can be made to add staffing. He added that they are guidelines written for the safety of firefighters. Discussion ensued. Chair Bruni added that NFPA standards are standards of care and are not regulations. NFPA 1710 is a framework and a guideline with the intent to meet the standard, but does not require that it is met. He continued that NFPA 1710 is more of a deployment standard than a staffing standard, and that meeting it can also be done through mutual and automatic aid.

Kelly Cisarik – [Did not state address] – Mrs. Cisarik stated that she is concerned about costs associated with implementing NFPA 1710. She added that PSFRD would be the only department in Pinellas County that has adopted it, and she thinks that the need to adopt it is questionable due to mutual aid agreements. She said that she would like to see more flexible staffing, an increase in staffing during peak times, and metrics on when those peak periods are.

John Pfansteil – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Pfansteil stated that if PSFRD is striving to meet NFPA 1710 standards, it means that taxes will be increased to do more hiring.

Ron Sacra – 368 La Hacienda Drive, Indian Rocks Beach – Mr. Sacra stated that he is a retired firefighter and paramedic of 34 years, and that he agrees with NFA 1017 [NFPA 1710], but objects to adopting it because he thinks that the Chief will mandate that it is adhered to. He stated that he thinks the Chief could do it on his own without adopting it. Mr. Sacra added that he is upset about how the referendum question was written.

Commissioner Schear said the basis of this implementing NFPA 1710 is the safety of our firefighters. He explained that he took the Fire Ops 101 training, which is a simulation of what a firefighter has to do in a real fire situation. He continued to explain how an apparatus needs to respond with 4 personnel at a fire scene for safety reasons. He said that he believes if this will give PSFRD a guideline to work toward a better goal, he thinks that it is needed.

**A motion to adopt Resolution 2017-01 Adoption of NFPA 1710 as a
Guideline for Minimum Response Requirements.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR SECOND: COMMISSIONER SNELLING
Motion passed with a 3 – 1 vote, with Commissioner Gardella voting no.**

17-02 Public Facilities Report 2017

Discussion: Chief D'Angelo stated that the Public Facilities Report is a summary of the District's facilities and is completed every year per Florida Statute.

Kelly Cisarik – [Did not state address] – Mrs. Cisarik stated that she feels the importance of amending the Public Facilities Report is because it contains a capital expenditure plan. She added that it would have been helpful if it was part of the agenda packet. She stated that she is concerned about station costs in the capital expenditure plan.

Attorney Albinson asked Chief D'Angelo to clarify if this was an amendment to the previously filed Public Facilities Report or if this is the required report for 2017. Chief D'Angelo confirmed that it is not an amendment, but it is the Public Facilities Report for 2017.

Chief D'Angelo discussed the difference between Public Facilities Report and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). [Citizen] Jim Palamara asked why Chief D'Angelo was "hiding it." Chief D'Angelo and David Martin both stated that it is in the budget. Mr. Palamara stated that it should be included in an agenda packet, with copies available at the meeting. Attorney Albinson stated that the Public Facilities Report is not a plan to put in motion or an adoption of an action item. He continued that it is a listing of facilities that are currently owned by the District and the purpose is to give notice to the public and all other government entities that could be affected of what the District is considering doing in the future. Attorney Albinson added that if there are documents that a citizen is interested in prior to the meeting, they may work with staff to obtain those documents.

A motion to adopt the 2017 Public Facilities Report as written and presented.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA SECOND: COMMISSIONER SCHEAR
Motion passed unanimously.**

17-03 Commissioner By-laws Revision

Discussion: Chief D'Angelo stated that he would ask the Commissioners to review the current 2015 Commissioner By-laws, and then discuss any potential changes they would like to make at the February meeting. He added that he would like to begin reviewing the By-laws every year.

Kelly Cisarik - [Did not state address] – Mrs. Cisarik asked which By-laws the Commission is currently operating under, as there was a discrepancy on the website, and asked what the process is to adopt the By-laws.

Attorney Albinson stated that the Commission is operating under the 2015 By-laws. He added that he cannot clarify the exact process on how the By-laws are adopted at this time. Commissioner Schear added that Article 16 of the By-laws discusses how they get amended.

Chief D'Angelo stated that he attended the Town of Belleair Shore's meeting prior to this meeting. He said that he was available to discuss Mr. Hoofnagle's lawsuit during the public comment and informed them of the March 9, 2017, hearing date. He said that they had three elected officials there, who passed a resolution supporting Mr. Hoofnagle's efforts.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 9:37 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:


Joseph V. Bruni, Chair Date Approved


Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant