



# Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue

304 FIRST STREET  
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FLORIDA 33785-2508

(727) 595-1117 FAX: (727) 595-5879  
www.psfrd.org

FIRE CHIEF  
SALVATORE A. D'ANGELO III

## MINUTES JUNE 21, 2016 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 Laura Martin, Secretary/Treasurer David Gardella, Commissioner Larry Schear, and Commissioner Lou Snelling. A quorum was present with Chair Joe Bruni presiding. Fire Chief Sal D'Angelo and Finance Director David Martin were also present. Attorney Jeff Albinson was excused.

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**PRESENTATION OF EFO CERTIFICATE** – Lt. **Jeremy Sidlauskas** – Chief D'Angelo presented Lt. Sidlauskas with his Executive Fire Officer certificate.

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**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** None.

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**DISCUSSION ITEMS:** None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

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### REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:06 p.m.

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**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:** None.

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### MONTHLY BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Minutes: May 17, 2016, Workshop and Regular Meeting

**Discussion:** None.

**A motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2016 Workshop and Regular Meetings.**

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

2. Treasurer's Report: May, 2016

**Discussion:** Secretary/Treasurer Gardella stated that all balance sheet accounts have been reconciled as of May 31, 2016. The District's investments are doing fine. There are two CDs maturing next month. The Unassigned Fund Balance is at 21.1 percent of total operating expenditures. The projected budget deficit is just over \$181,000.

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

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

**3. Correspondence:** Secretary/Treasurer David Gardella read the correspondence.

The first piece of correspondence was a letter from Greg Mims, City Manager of Indian Rocks Beach, thanking Chief D'Angelo, Marshall Eiss, and the Honor Guard for their participation in the Flag Dag ceremony on June 14, 2016.

The second piece of correspondence was a letter from the Florida Health Department to Chief D'Angelo, congratulating the department on its compliance of its recent site survey with zero deficiencies. The letter noted that its vehicle and service records were outstanding.

Lastly, a letter from Nancy Obarski, 708 Beach Trail, #B, Indian Rocks Beach, in reference to the referendum and ballot question.

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**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:**

**Nancy Obarski – 708 Beach Trail, #B, Indian Rocks Beach.** Mrs. Obarski stated that she was disappointed to learn that the ballot language had been submitted to the Board of Elections, as she believes that many citizens feel it is deceptive. She commended Chief D'Angelo on his decorum at the meeting with the Pinellas County EMS Authority earlier that morning. She said that she learned at that meeting that PSFRD used to keep 70% of its EMS tax dollars, but now only keep 30%. She acknowledged that the department needs the money, but does not feel that it will receive it due to the deceptive nature of the ballot language.

**Bill Thomas – 470 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach.** Mr. Thomas addressed the ballot language as well. He stated that he asked 3 or 4 of his neighbors if they understood the language. He said that "3 out of 4 neighbors thought it was a decrease, and 2 didn't understand." He said he "asked a 6<sup>th</sup> neighbor" but that person works for the fire department. He brought up the fact that transient residents do not contribute at all. He asked why it was only a residential property tax; Chief D'Angelo explained that businesses will be the ad valorem tax as well, and that it will be ½ mill, just as it is for residential property owners.

**Jerry Newton – 438 Harbor Drive North, Indian Rocks Beach.** Mr. Newton stated that he is in support of firefighters and understands that running the fire department costs money, but he feels this is deceptive and too large of an increase, as the median home value in Indian Rocks Beach is \$500,000. He said those people will pay \$250 per year, with is almost double the current non ad-valorem, and that the homes valued over a million dollars on the beach will have to pay \$500. He stated that people need to know more about the issue with the EMS authority and that their tax dollars are going elsewhere; the citizens can help with that.

**Kelly Cisarik – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach.** Mrs. Cisarik stated that she supports the District's efforts to get their EMS money back, as the County is only returning 29% of its EMS funds. She urged the commissioners to seek alternative forms of revenue, and only after those options have been exhausted should taxes be raised for infrastructure improvements. She said that she feels the County is now willing to work with the District regarding the Penny for Pinellas money. She satated that if the referendum is passed, she feels that the cities might put their contracts out to bid.

**John Pfaustiehl – 448 Harbor Drive South, Indian Rocks Beach.** Mr. Pfaustiehl said that he also supports the District's effort regarding the 5.2 million dollar recovery of lost revenue from the County. Regarding the referendum, he referenced a famous referendum in Great Britain, which was amended after a review by the citizens who found the language confusing. He also mentioned that he felt those in attendance at the recent Belleair Beach meeting were very confused by the language. He went on to state that if it passes as worded, there will be a backlack against the commission later this year. He also distributed samples of potential wording.

**Jim Palamara – 102 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Indian Rocks Beach.** Mr. Palamara mentioned that all of the people who own homes in the area but live elsewhere are not able to vote. He added that he feels that the fire department needs the best equipment, but he will vote no due to the language. He asked if there could be another referendum asking the voters if the fire department should receive its EMS directly as opposed to going through the County. He said he feels that the fire department already receives a lot of money, and he is not able to afford the increase.

**REPORTS:**

1. **COMMISSION:** Commissioner Larry Schear said he attended the EMS meeting earlier today with the Chief. He stated that he attended the Indian Shores Council meeting a meeting afterward at which they discussed the referendum. He said they felt it was the best thing that can be done at the moment. The EMS settlement money isn't going to be easy to recover and there are current pressing needs for funding. He also mentioned that he did attend the FASD meeting in Sarasota due to the tropical storm.

Secretary/Treasurer David Gardella asked if a part-time resident who lives out of state would be able to vote on this referendum. Chief D'Angelo stated that they would not be able to, as a person is a registered voter only where their primary residence is located.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Not present.

3. **CHIEF'S REPORT:** Chief D'Angelo thanked residents for speaking on the referendum, whether for or against, because it creates open dialogue. He said that he will be continuing to speak at various town council meetings to ensure the correct message is being relayed. He stated that after the Belleair Beach meeting, he received a call from the City Manager asking how they could help. He stated that he has met with them again since the meeting.

Chief stated that everything else is going well in the District. He stated that they will continue working with the County EMS Authority. He added that he will be out of District tomorrow, Thursday, and part of Friday for educational purposes.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- 1. **16-10 Continuing Medical Education (CME) Agreement Between PSFRD and Pinellas County EMS - Vote** **Fire Chief**

*Discussion:* Chief D'Angelo explained that every fire department in Pinellas County has a copy of this agreement. He stated the purpose of the agreement is to make the CME process easier by providing more online training and hands-on training closer to home so that units have to leave their first-due zones less often. All Pinellas County fire chiefs have agreed to the terms of the agreement and the changes in the agreement have been being implemented since October 1, 2015.

**A motion to approve the 2015 Continuing Medical Education Agreement between PSFRD and Pinellas County EMS Authority.**

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

Commissioner Larry Schear opened up the floor to discuss citizens' thoughts regarding if the question had been reworded to clarify that the \$260 non-ad valorem would remain in place and instead did not reduce the cap from 3 mills to 2 mills. Discussion ensued regarding several aspects of the referendum.

**A motion to adjourn.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MARTIN 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 8:46 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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Joseph V. Bruni, Chair

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Date Approved

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Kimberly G. Fugate, Executive Assistant