

DESTIN FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
Regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners
Main Station
848 Airport Road
Destin, Florida 32541

March 10, 2015

Minutes

Commissioners present: Tommy Green, Rick Moore, Mike Buckingham, Jack Wilson, Bob Wagner

Staff present: Chief Kevin Sasser, Division Chiefs Ron Gerdeman and Joe D'Agostino, and Kathryn Wagner

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Tommy Green.

Public Comments:

None

Review of minutes:

The minutes for the regular meeting of February 10, 2015, were presented. Mike Buckingham made a motion to approve the minutes. Rick Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of the Financial Report:

Kathryn Wagner presented the completed financial reports for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014 and stated that the audit is almost complete and will be presented at the April meeting. She stated the net revenue over expenditures compared to budget reflect a realized net loss of \$653,854 compared to the expected budgetary loss of \$879,094. She stated this is a result of less expenditures and additional revenue as compared to budgeted amounts.

Kathryn Wagner presented the financial report for February 28, 2014. She stated February was a quite month with continued receipt of ad valorem taxes and expenditures being normal, with the exception of some capital expenditures for beach safety. She stated there are two omissions in this report as the report was printed and bound before bank reconciliations were done. She stated \$400 of interest income and \$16,000 of HRA insurance expenditures are not reflected in the report. She stated that the net effect of these omissions are minimal, at less than 1/4% of our year to date net revenue over expenditures, and informed the board it is at their discretion whether they would like to approve the February reports with the noted omissions or table this item until next month.

Jack Wilson asked Kathryn if it was her intention to make the changes to the month of February so we would just be approving them subject to the changes. Kathryn Wagner stated yes.

Jack Wilson asked if we should be worried about ad valorem revenue. Kathryn Wagner stated that ad valorem revenue was trailing behind about 4% of our collection rate compared to last year and was not concerned at this point. She stated we collect a lot of our taxes up through July and would recommend giving this another month or two.

Jack Wilson asked if we know if this is a County wide slow down and suggested that we contact Ben Anderson's office to see if there is a trend which we are not picking up on.

Tommy Green asked Chief Sasser if we have received any information from the tax assessor's office as far as what we can anticipate for next year. Chief Sasser stated he has not made that contact yet but will look into it.

Rick Moore made a motion to approve the financial statements for February 28, 2015 with the changes for interest income and HRA insurance expenditures being made as discussed. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Re-inspection fee resolution

Chief Sasser presented resolution 15-02 which changes how re-inspection fees are to be charged. He stated if we go for the first inspection and you are compliant then there is no problem. He stated if you are not in compliance we are going to note there was a violation and upon our re-inspection if it is fixed there will be no fee. He stated that if the violation has not been fixed there will be a fee. He stated the time that the violation is fixed there is no charge, however, if we come back and the violation has not been fixed then there will be a fee.

Mike Buckingham asked if at the time of inspection there will be a form that the owner of the property or manager has to sign, but it will state there will be a fee if it is not fixed. Chief Sasser stated yes. Ron Gerdeman stated that has been on our form since we enacted the first resolution and it is always in red.

Mike Buckingham made a motion to approve resolution 15-02. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Board meeting policy

Chief Sasser presented a board meeting policy based off of discussion from our meeting in February. He stated we ask for the public to keep their comments to five (5) minutes; however it is not a requirement as that is up to the Chairman to set that. He stated the policy also asks the public to keep to the point and not being disrespectful.

Bob Wagner stated the additions were much more to his liking. He stated he would have liked to see a three (3) minute restriction but he could accept the five (5) minutes as long as this can always be readdressed in the future.

Rick Moore stated he felt this was fair.

Mike Buckingham stated he felt this was well written.

Chief Sasser stated all public comments should be at the beginning of the meeting. He stated if there is someone who has something to say it should be done at the beginning and then the Board can go about getting its business done. He stated that the state statute reads as long as we provide an opportunity for the public to speak on the subject prior to taking a vote, then we have fulfilled our obligation.

Jack Wilson asked if the statute requires us to inform the public of the topic before we let them speak. He stated a lot of times the public comes in and they don't have a clue of what we are really going to talk about. He stated they may see a line item or a topic but they really can't comment on it because they don't know what the issue is.

Chief Sasser stated the statute requires us to have the agenda prepared and ready to give to the public seven (7) days prior to the meeting. He stated that provides them with seven (7) days to ask questions prior to the meeting and then at the meeting they can express their opinion.

Rick Moore asked if we had to have dialog back and forth. He stated he has been to a lot of meetings where the public can state their case and then it's thank you for your statement and we move to the next one. He stated in the past we have gotten into some dialog and it may put us in a bad position that we may say something without the knowledge.

Tommy Green stated that when we go into a topic, like the resolution for inspection fees, if someone in the audience has a concern and if they raise their concern, he will recognize them. He stated there is nothing set in stone here because the policy gives the chairman the opportunity to do that and he would rather have that person have an opportunity to say something.

Mike Buckingham asked if we could advertise, like Cities, Counties and Municipalities do. He stated that would say that the Commission is looking at changes or ordinances or other item and would give someone the opportunity to at least have an idea of what we are doing.

Kevin Sasser stated there are requirement on municipalities which are not on us. He stated we do meet our advertising requirement with the posting.

Mike Buckingham stated we have heard over and over from the public that they don't know what is going on. He stated just to put a little article in that states the District is looking at changing the ordinance for inspection fees, allows the public the chance to see what is going on and come in.

Jack Wilson stated maybe a middle ground would be if you are interested in any of the topics come in an hour before the meeting. He stated we could have copies available for you to read and have plenty of time to review and make a comment if you choose.

Bob Wagner made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Policy as presented. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Reports:

1. Beach Safety report

Joe D'Agostino stated our overseas lifeguards will start to come over within the next two weeks and we will start to hire our new lifeguards at the end of this month. He stated our new tower has arrived and he will begin providing statistics at the next meeting.

Rick Moore asked where the tower was going. Joe D'Agostino stated it will go in at James Lee Park.

2. Training report

Chief Sasser stated 33 hours of training was done for the month of February. He stated the training was quite diverse ranging from tactics and strategies to medical protocol.

Rick Moore asked where the training is held. Chief Sasser stated we do the training at different places, sometimes here on the ramp. He stated we have a difficult time finding training locations due to the weight of our trucks. He stated we found a site by the Old Bay Townhomes and the property owner has allowed us use of the property. Chief Sasser stated they already have hydrants, there are places we can spray water, and there is no traffic. He stated it is a good spot but not ideal.

3. Inspection report

Ron Gerdeman presented the inspection report for the month of February and stated if you drive around you can see a lot of construction going on.

4. Response Change report

Chief Sasser apologized for not having that response change report this month, stating the County changed their CAD system prior to us collecting the data for this report. He presented the emergency response report, call breakdown, hot zone and call history reports for the month.

5. Overtime report

Chief Sasser stated our numbers are down compared to last year and we had three (3) or four (4) 24 hour overtime incidents for the month.

New Business:

None

Next meeting:

Tommy Green reminded the Board of the next regular meeting will be April 14 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment:

With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.