

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

June 14, 2016

Minutes

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

Staff present: Chief Kevin Sasser, Division Chiefs Joe D'Agostino and Kathryn Wagner, Lt. Inspector Matt Taylor and Allison Henderson

Present: Dawn Stuntz

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Chairman Tommy Green.

Public Comments:

Deborah Thurmon of Destin asked why the agenda was not posted to the website. Kathryn Wagner stated the agenda was available 7 days prior to the meeting but was not posted to the website due to her situation. Tommy Green stated Kathryn Wagner had been in the hospital.

Deborah Thurmon asked if Kathryn Wagner was the only person who could post anything to the website. Chief Sasser stated that was correct. Deborah Thurmon stated that was a problem when Kathryn Wagner was out sick in 2014 she asked if there was no backup. Tommy Green stated no, not at this time.

Deborah Thurmon requested the Board look into other people being crossed trained. Tommy Green stated yes.

Review of minutes:

The minutes for the regular meeting of May 10, 2016, were presented. Rick Moore made a motion to approve the minutes. Bob Wagner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of the Financial Report:

Kathryn Wagner presented the April 30, 2016 financial report. She stated a large transfer to Florida Local Government and Investment Trust of \$1,200,000 was made. She stated receivables were higher than normal due to 2 TDC billings while payables were in line for the month of April. Revenue over expenditures vs budget was 7 months into the fiscal year leaving a target percentage remaining of 42% with no major items out of line from the budget with the exception of the receipt of commercial impact fees.

Bob Wagner made a motion to approve the April 30, 2016 financial report. Rick Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathryn Wagner presented the May 31, 2016 financial report. She stated the money market account with Trustmark Bank had been closed; accounts receivables of \$148,991 were a timing issue and deposits were made bringing receivables down to \$64,000. She stated \$61,000 of that was a billing to the TDC. Kathryn Wagner stated accounts payable was a similar situation with \$129,000 as of May 31, 2016 which now were \$43,000, which was still high since we were still receiving invoices for the new equipment which needed to be checked before paying. She stated revenue over expenditures vs budget was 8 months into the fiscal year leaving a target percentage remaining of 33%. Kathryn Wagner stated billings to the City of Destin for Beach Safety began in May and we continued to collect advalorem taxes with

approximately \$169,000 more to be collected and we are at a slightly better collection rate than in the past. She stated expenditures had a couple of items over budget such as dues and subscriptions due to a billing from the City of Destin for Boat 9's submergible lease for 2010 to 2015.

Mike Buckingham asked when we received that bill. Kathryn Wagner stated approximately a month ago.

Kathryn Wagner stated the budget will reflect this cost in the future since paying the City \$1,000 a year would be much cheaper than leasing a slip by other means.

Mike Buckingham asked if we had ever paid that before. Kathryn Wagner stated no.

Rick Moore asked what the lease agreement stated. Chief Sasser stated the City was not aware of it for a while and they received a bill from the DEP and asked if we would pay our part. He stated since we only pay for the water and electricity and not the slip we would be more than willing to pay our part of the submergible land lease. Kathryn Wagner stated the bill was for \$5,000 for 5 years but 2 years were waived. Chief Sasser stated the City was unaware of the bill then once DEP made them aware the City Manager got up with us asked us to pay our part.

Kathryn Wagner stated another expenditure to mention was equipment under \$1,000. She stated initially when budgeting for the new truck all equipment was put under capital expenditures, but capital expenditures are only for equipment costing over \$1,000. She stated at the end of the year a budget adjustment will be made moving money from capital expenditures to equipment under \$1,000 which will wash out.

Mike Buckingham asked when all the equipment will be here. Chief Sasser stated we were short a few pieces as quite a bit was backordered and since this was the first time we had purchased all new equipment we did not anticipate so many backorders. He stated most of it is in, now it is a matter of the guys marking it and mounting it on the truck.

Mike Buckingham asked if all the ordering was done through Ten 8. Chief Sasser stated most of the ordering was done through them although we did order a few things outside of Ten 8 since they were not vendors for some the equipment.

Kathryn Wagner stated overall expenditures are in line for the year and projected the need to make a transfer from the Florida Local Trust day to day fund toward the end of August or the beginning of September.

Jack Wilson asked if we have a target month end cash balance. Kathryn Wagner stated no, but could be projected since our expenses typically run from \$435,000 to \$535,000.

Jack Wilson stated since we have the vehicle to move money on the short term and get a little bit of interest we should think about setting a target of \$250,000 for an ending cash balance every month which would mean more transfers in and out of the day to day fund, but more of the money earning a little bit of interest. Kathryn Wagner stated she would need to speak with them because the initial agreement was to do a handful of transfers within a year, but could look into a target cash balance and determine how many transfers that would be.

Jack Wilson asked what the interest rate with Trustmark Bank checking account was; probably less than zero. Kathryn Wagner stated we really do not have any fees with Trustmark so we are able to earn a little.

Jack Wilson asked what the interest rate with the day to day fund was. Kathryn Wagner stated approximately .92%. Jack Wilson stated if we kept \$1,000,000 in cash when we could end the year with

\$250,000 that is another \$500,000 we got invested for another \$50,000 in interest. He stated we may not be able to do it but are now structured to maximize the yield.

Jack Wilson made a motion to approve the May 31, 2016 financial report. Mike Buckingham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Planning project

Chief Sasser stated he spoke with the ISP and they want to wait until we start our budgeting process which would give them a good basis moving forward instead of starting now and begin planning things based off the current year's budget. He stated once we begin that process we will be giving them paperwork so they can begin building a plan.

2. Video equipment for the meeting room

Chief Sasser stated Kathryn Wagner contacted our web host concerning space on the website to post voice recordings. He stated we currently have 1G and pay \$75 per month for that hosting space and anticipates that cost going up; another option would be to link to another host for the voice recordings such as YouTube, but more research is needed to determine cost.

Kathryn Wagner stated a third party will have to be used because the files are too large to store on our website.

Bob Wagner asked if any requests were made for recordings this month. Kathryn Wagner stated no there had been very few public records requests in the last 4 weeks.

Chief Sasser stated we would bring costs back to the Board at the next meeting.

Chief Reports:

1. Beach Safety report

Joe D'Agostino stated we had a successful Memorial Day weekend, as well as the 2 days of Tropical Storm Colin with a few capsized vessels and no rescues because we did close the beaches during the Tropical Storm. He further stated nothing out of the ordinary for the month and attendance was nearly the same as last year.

2. Training report

Chief Sasser stated the guys completed 21 hours of training for the month consisting of various topics putting them above the goal of 20 hours a month.

3. Inspection report

Lt. Matt Taylor stated he and Ron Gerdeman met with the City concerning 5 three story townhouses going in behind Fudpuckers for a total of 288 units.

4. Response Change report

Chief Sasser stated the May Response Change report will be presented with next month's report.

5. Overtime report

Chief Sasser stated there were a few incidents in May but nothing too significant.

Bob Wagner asked if the overtime report included Boat 9. Chief Sasser stated no, not in this report.

Rick Moore asked how much overtime for the boat. Kathryn Wagner stated overtime for the boat will be adjusted to the financial statement under personnel services; wages; other overtime for the next month.

Chief Sasser stated the boat had been out Friday through Sunday since Memorial Day weekend and had been busy and have been collecting data to present soon.

Rick Moore asked when the corridor will be put in. Chief Sasser stated he did not know exactly when.

Prebble Ramswell stated permits had been issued and it was just a matter of securing the leads that will not float off; so just securing the proper equipment and purchasing it.

Firefighter Joe Anderson stated they were out doing something with it today.

Chief Sasser stated that would help since we have had several medical calls out there along with several assists where we have had to either pull swimmers into the boat and take them back to shore or ride along and make sure they make it if they refuse assistance.

Rick Moore asked if a swimmer was picked up in the channel and they came from the shore are they returned to the shore. Chief Sasser stated yes, that is why most refuse assistance because they want a ride to Crab Island not back to shore.

Tommy Green stated most have figured that out and had been out there when we have to go along side to make sure they make it and are not run over by pontoon boats.

Kathryn Wagner stated an adjustment for boat overtime will not have to be made to the financial report because the boat overtime will occur on the June payroll and will be on the June financial report.

New Business:

1. Resolution 16-07- Amendment to the Destin Fire Control District Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund
Kathryn Wagner stated the resolution had been presented and approved by the Trustees and involved updating IRS changes with nothing affecting employee benefits, just administrative changes to comply with IRS regulations.

Jack Wilson asked if this went through the Pension group first then to the Board. Kathryn Wagner stated yes.

Chief Sasser stated the Board is the final vote before being implemented.

Kathryn Wagner stated the resolution was created and reviewed by the Trust's attorney.

Bob Wagner made a motion to approve Resolution 16-07. Rick Moore seconded.

Tommy Green asked the firefighters in attendance if they were ok with the resolution. There was no response. Chief Sasser stated they probably do not know a lot about it since it was more of an administrative thing.

Jack Wilson asked if this was done at the last Pension Board meeting. Kathryn Wagner stated yes, they had it prior along with the attorney.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Resolution 16-08- BP Claim Settlement

Chief Sasser stated the Board had directed Dana Matthews to do the best he could understanding the position we were in; unfortunately BP held their ground and was not willing to listen to what we felt was sound logic. He stated BP had made their disbursements and we were the forgotten about ones. Chief Sasser stated it was this or nothing so Dana's recommendation was to take it.

Rick Moore asked who all the forgotten ones were. Chief Sasser stated a little over 50 governmental agencies like us that were left out of a list of several hundred and after calculations were made for those 300 or so they realized they forgot 50 so they just did a set amount for them and that is where we ended up. He further stated even though we could use 2 other Districts as barometers they said no.

Jack Wilson asked what our incentive was to accept the offer other than receiving \$25,000. He further asked if we are better off with an open claim. Chief Sasser stated the end result would be zero even with an open claim because we had to prove our loss and he could not remember exactly how Dana Matthews put it but we had an indefensible position.

Tommy Green asked Dawn Stuntz what her take on the matter was. Dawn Stuntz stated she was not in on the case but from what she had heard the Judge said you either take the offer or you are getting zero because it will be years and years and years before these cases are ever heard and at that point in time there may not be any money; so Dana Matthews position was take it or leave it this is the best you are going to get.

Rick Moore stated it was like a business claim; \$25,000 and go away.

Mike Buckingham stated if we play it could be many years down the road. Chief Sasser stated and it could be zero.

Prebble Ramswell asked if BP messed up and overlooked the 50. Dawn Stuntz stated she did not have that information. She stated the claims were submitted.

Prebble Ramswell stated if they screwed up 50 entities that had their stuff in on time; but she is not an attorney just as a public person that does not sound right.

Tommy Green asked if South Walton was one of the forgotten ones. Chief Sasser stated they did not miss them.

Tommy Green asked how much they received. Felix Romero stated \$750,000. Chief Sasser stated that is not what they were told not even close.

Deborah Thurmon stated she had pulled the public records and they are.

Chief Sasser asked if we were going to have a discussion about this. Dawn Stuntz stated no.

Deborah Thurmon stated public records are public records, it is over \$750,000.

Mike Buckingham asked Prebble Ramswell what the City ended up with. Prebble Ramswell stated she did not know, but she could find out.

Mike Buckingham stated he did not think it was very much money and knows there are a lot of people still out there settling.

Bob Wagner stated it was not what we wanted, but we should take it and move on.

Rick Moore stated it is what it is, we tried hard to fight.

Bob Wagner made a motion to approve Resolution 16-08. Rick Moore seconded. The motion passed 4-1 with Mike Buckingham opposing.

Next meeting:

Tommy Green reminded the Board of the next regular meeting will be July 12, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.

Joe D'Agostino stated the Destin Fire Rescue Foundation's Junior Lifeguard program has close to 120 kids participating this year.

Tommy Green stated that was great. He stated when he went to New Port Beach they had 1200 kids in their program.

Rick Moore stated our program is growing and had heard nothing but good things about our program.

Deborah Thurmon asked about the audit. Dawn Stuntz stated that was not an agenda item.

Deborah Thurmon stated it is a small meeting we are taxpayers, I mean do you really want to be... Dawn Stuntz stated it was at the Board's discretion.

Deborah Thurmon stated she just asked about the audit, it should have been finished; it was always done in March or April. Deborah Thurmon asked if he was coming, the annual audit. Kathryn Wagner stated the audit had been held up by the actuarial report which had not been done due to negotiations.

Adjournment:

With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.