

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

August 11, 2015

Minutes

Commissioners present: Tommy Green, Rick Moore, and Bob Wagner

Commissioners absent: Mike Buckingham and Jack Wilson

Staff present: Chief Kevin Sasser, Division Chief Ron Gerdeman, and Kathryn Wagner

Present: Dawn Stuntz

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairman Tommy Green.

Public Comments:

Patty Defrenza of Sunset Road, Destin stated she attended the Union negotiation meeting and asked why the District is paying for an attorney to negotiate the firefighter's contract instead of using a state mediator. She further stated she witnessed an unconscious man on the beach being carried off by his extremities and asked why a backboard and oxygen were not used. She asked why Bob Wagner was not present for the negotiation meeting.

Tommy Green stated the Board decided to use the District's labor attorney since all articles of the contract are up for negotiation and the Board wanted to make sure the changes they purpose are compliant and legal.

Patty Defrenza asked if the Board approved expenses for the attorney. Tommy Green stated that the Board approved hiring the attorney to negotiate.

Patty Defrenza asked how much this will cost the District. Tommy Green stated he does not have those numbers.

Patty Defrenza asked if there is a cap limit on attorney fees and why wasn't a state mediator used. Tommy Green stated the Board felt it was in the best interest of the District to use an attorney.

Chief Sasser stated that when the negotiations are over we will know the total cost however; the Board was given a ballpark estimate of \$30,000 and a cap limit will not be used since an opposing tactic would be to stall negotiations until the cap limit is met.

Patty Defrenza asked about the incident on the beach she witnessed. Chief Sasser stated he was unaware of any such incident but would investigate and address any problems that may or may not have occurred.

Bob Wagner stated if Ms. Defrenza would like to question him about not being present in the Union negotiation meeting to give him a call outside this meeting.

Patty Defrenza asked why Bob Wagner did not intervene or ask for a mediator. Rick Moore stated the Commissioners are not involved in the negotiation aspect of the contract.

Chief Sasser stated in Florida this Board is a legislative body and as such cannot be directly involved in negotiations, however, if an impasse is reached the final say will come from the Board. He stated each Commissioner on the Board has strong thoughts and opinions regarding the contract and how they feel things should be conducted. He stated those thoughts have been relayed to him and the labor attorney and will be handled per their instructions.

John Harvey of Preserve Place, Destin asked why there is a gap in meeting minutes from 6/10/14 to 1/13/15. Kathryn Wagner stated that was due to her being out for over three months and she is still catching up.

Review of minutes:

The minutes for the regular meeting of July 14, 2015, were presented. Rick Moore made a motion to approve the minutes. Bob Wagner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes for the budget workshop of July 14, 2015, were presented. Bob Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes. Rick Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of the Financial Report:

Kathryn Wagner presented the financial report for July 31, 2015. She stated with two months remaining in the fiscal year we are on target to meet our budget. She further stated we are showing a strong balance sheet, however this will change due to the requirement of showing the unfunded pension fund liability. She stated the adjustment will be made as soon as possible.

Kathryn Wagner reviewed the revenues over expenditures vs budget report stating the remaining income to be collected outside of impact fees and planned revenue is from beach safety. She stated we are looking for a percentage remaining of 17% for expenditures and we are keeping an eye on our vehicle repair and maintenance. She further stated yearend adjustments will be presented at the September meeting.

Bob Wagner made a motion to approve the financial statements for July 31, 2015. Rick Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Investment Policy-

Kathryn Wagner stated the investment policy was reviewed by the state pool and one correction was made on page 23, item d to change to title to the actual language in the state statute.

Bob Wagner made a motion to approve the investment policy. Rick Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathryn Wagner stated in the next few months she and Chief Sasser will bring a proposal before the Board outlining an amount of funds to invest and institutions to invest with.

2. Capital Acquisition- Engine 9 replacement

Chief Sasser stated Battalion Chief Taylor, three Engineers, and Commissioner Buckingham are going over the specifications for the new engine and would like to purchase the engine through the Florida Sheriff's Association's bidding process. He stated once they have finalized the specifications he would like to have a purchase order issued October 1, 2015.

3. Request for proposals- Auditing Services

Chief Sasser stated each bid proposal was scanned and emailed to the Commissioners to review. Chief Sasser stated Commissioner Wilson called him to relay his thoughts on which service he would like to choose. He stated Commissioner Wilson felt like although CRI was not the lowest bidder they would be the best choice since transitioning to a new firm would be time consuming and not cost effective. He further stated Commissioner Wilson suggested the District negotiate fees with CRI. Chief Sasser stated he was unable to get Commissioner Buckingham's opinion in time for the meeting.

Bob Wagner asked if this could be tabled until the next meeting. Kathryn Wagner stated yes, however as a result the audit could be delayed.

Chief Sasser stated he would like the Board to understand that if the decision is postponed the audit would still be done in a timely manner but may not be presented in January but possibly March or April.

Rick Moore made a motion to enter into negotiations with CRI.

Chief Sasser stated his thought the District would be able to negotiate a lower price with CRI.

Tommy Green stated he felt comfortable with CRI.

Bob Wagner stated he would like to go with Warren, Averett since it would save the District \$9,000 over 3 years.

Tommy Green stated we could choose CRI and enter into negotiations. He stated if those negotiations are unsuccessful the District could enter into negotiations with Warren Averett.

Bob Wagner stated all the firms had the opportunity to bid their best price and he would like to award the bid to Warren Averett and save the District \$9,000. He further stated he would like to table this decision until the next meeting when the full Board is present.

Rick Moore retracts the motion.

Tommy Green stated the item is tabled.

4. Impact Fee Fund- Acquisition of Side Sonar and FLIR

Chief Sasser stated he anticipates starting the bid process and having something for the Board to approve by the next meeting. He stated the Side Sonar and FLIR are proposed purchases for the next fiscal year and are budgeted in the next year.

Chairman Tommy Green recessed the meeting at 5:59pm.

Chairman Tommy Green reconvened the meeting at 6:29pm.

Chief Reports:

1. Beach Safety report

Chief Sasser stated the Destin Lifeguards were crowned National Lifeguard Champions in the small beach patrol division as well as 2nd place in both the male and female individual overall competition. He stated the Destin Lifeguards placed 3rd overall among both large and small beach patrol divisions.

Chief Sasser stated the Beach Safety statics have been steady and expects to see a slowdown in September. He further stated he is very proud of the work the lifeguards have put into training for the competition.

2. Training report

Chief Sasser stated the guys received 25 hours of varied training for the month.

3. Inspection report

Ron Gerdeman stated new construction submittals have slowed down but large projects are keeping us busy. He stated Shark's Tooth will replace the Twisted Palm and Bass Pro has submitted a fairly large addition.

John Harvey asked about Henderson Beach resort hotel. Ron Gerdeman stated phase one of four has begun and phase two will begin shortly.

Tommy Green asked if Dick's Sporting Goods is coming into the Emerald Coast Shopping Center. Ron Gerdeman stated nothing has been submitted yet.

4. Response Change report

Chief Sasser stated our fractile response times were 91% for the month. He stated July was the busiest month with zone 1 continuing to have the most call responses.

Rick Moore asked which part of zone 1 has been the busiest. Chief Sasser stated Highway 98/ Harbor Boulevard to Benning Drive has been the busiest area which highlights the need for another station in that area.

5. Overtime report

Chief Sasser stated the month had multiple 24 hour incidents relating to sick leave and two maternity leaves.

New Business:

1. Retirement Trust Education Policy- Position Statement

Bob Wagner stated the Retirement Trust has proposed increasing the education budget from \$500 to \$6,000 per member per four year term which is frivolous. He stated the Trust has five qualified advisors to assist any member who requests assistance and because the turnover of Trust members is high would like the Trust to save the money for the retirement fund. He requested the Board write a letter asking the Trust to reconsider increasing the education budget.

Rick Moore asked how long the members have been on the Trust. Bob Wagner stated two firefighters have been appointed less than a year and one was appointed previously, quit and has been reappointed.

Rick Moore asked who the members are. Kathryn Wagner stated Trustee Mark Baugh, Trustee T.J. Buchanan, Trustee Doug Ingram, Trustee Bill Lindsey, and Trustee Bob Hensley.

Rick Moore asked if all the Trustees want the education policy. Kathryn Wagner stated the policy in consideration would allow each member to use up to \$6,000 during their term for any Trust related education they choose. She stated some Trustees would like to enroll in a certification program through the Florida Public Pension Trust Association costing approximately \$6,000.

Rick Moore asked how the policy came about. Chief Sasser stated two Trustees are working to be Certified Public Pension Trustees through the Florida Public Pension Trust Association which costs \$6,000.

Rick Moore asked who the two Trustees are. Chief Sasser stated Trustee Baugh and Trustee Buchanan who were selected by the firefighters.

Rick Moore asked if the other Trustees were interested in these education certification programs. Bob Wagner stated most other Trustees are CPAs or otherwise certified. He stated one advisor to the Trust had taught the class attended by Trustees Baugh and Buchanan.

Rick Moore asked if there is any benefit to being a CPPT outside the Retirement Trust. Kathryn Wagner stated she was unaware of specific plans by Trustees Baugh and Buchanan but, the education could be used anywhere.

Bob Wagner stated with the pension fund being 61% funded the \$6,000 could be invested and used to further fund the pension.

Rick Moore asked if the Board submitted a letter recommending the education policy not be adopted would the Trust honor it. Kathryn Wagner stated the Trust is an independent body and would not have to honor the Board's recommendation.

Rick Moore asked if the money would come from the pension plan. Chief Sasser stated yes.

Tommy Green stated he recommended making a motion asking the Trust to postpone voting on the Education Policy until the Board could have more time to research the issue.

Bob Wagner made a motion to recommend the Trust consider putting off voting for the \$6,000 Education Policy and reconsider it. Rick Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Contract Amendment with Okaloosa County TDC- Interlocal Agreement for Beach Safety & Lifeguard Services for October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015

Chief Sasser stated the amendment to the agreement would correct the shortfall due to the County cutting their budget by \$40,000 which in turn affected our budget by \$40,000.

Bob Wagner made a motion to approve the Contract Amendment with Okaloosa County TDC- Interlocal Agreement for Beach & Lifeguard Services for October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015. Rick Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Contract Renewal with Okaloosa County TDC- Interlocal Agreement for Beach Safety & Lifeguard Services for October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

Chief Sasser stated the contract renewal is the last extension to the current agreement with the County. He stated once this extension expires we would be able to renegotiate and possibly correct some discrepancies between the amount of beach covered and the distribution of funds.

Rick Moore made a motion to approve the Contract Renewal with Okaloosa County TDC- Interlocal Agreement for Beach Safety & Lifeguard Services for October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. Bob Wagner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting:

Tommy Green reminded the Board that the next regular meeting will be September 8, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

Additional Upcoming Meetings:

Budget workshop: August 25, 2015 at 5:30pm

Regular meeting: September 8, 2015 at 5:30pm

Budget workshop: September 8, 2015 at 6:00pm or soon thereafter

Adjournment:

With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.