

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

October 13, 2015

Minutes

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

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

Present: Dawn Stuntz

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

Tommy Green stated he apologized to Mr. Harvey for forgetting to add the Institute of Senior Professionals and strategic plan to the agenda. He assured him it will be added to the next meeting.

Public Comments:

John Harvey of Destin approached the Board with a handout of fire prevention activities in other areas. He stated fire prevention month was a great time to get recognition from the community and to give the community recognition.

John Harvey stated he attended South Walton Fire District's Board of Commissioners meeting where members of the public were provided a copy of the meeting packet. He stated this would be a good thing to do at these meetings and approached the Board with a copy of what was provided by South Walton Fire District.

John Harvey asked the Board for an update on the status of the SAFER grant. Chief Sasser stated the deadline continues to be pushed back and was told by FEMA this is due to the government shutdown however our chances look good.

Rick Moore asked how long it took to be notified the last time we received the grant. Chief Sasser stated about a year.

Tommy Green stated the District does quite a bit of fire prevention activities. Tommy Green asked Ron Gerdeman to explain. Ron Gerdeman stated over 180 1st graders from Destin Elementary toured through Station 9 where they were given a fire prevention presentation and a demonstration of the ladder truck. He further stated we have gone to Destin Elementary to visit with all of the kindergarten and 2nd grade classes where they are given a similar presentation. Ron Gerdeman stated an important part of the program is having the fire fighters dress out which helps kids not to be afraid of the fire fighters. He stated they had visited with over 650 children and 130 adults so far and has 8 more sessions to go this month.

Tommy Green stated it is an active program even though it may not get the press coverage.

John Harvey stated Kansas City lost 2 fire fighters in a fire yesterday.

Review of minutes:

The minutes for the regular meeting of September 8, 2015, the special meeting tentative hearing of September 8, 2015 and the special meeting final hearing of September 17, 2015 were presented. Mike Buckingham made a motion to approve the minutes. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of the Financial Report:

Kathryn Wagner presented the financial report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. She stated the report still requires a few adjustments with the largest being found on the balance sheet under fixed assets where all assets acquired and disposed of are recorded, however the report does show where we ended the year as compared to the budget. Kathryn Wagner stated all other assets have been adjusted. She stated accounts receivables were high due to collections from the County for beach Safety, \$55,000 from the Pension Fund was received and paid out, other assets and prepaid expenditures are high due to prepaying insurance for the upcoming year. She further stated all liabilities have been adjusted with the OPED being discussed later in the meeting.

Kathryn Wagner reviewed the revenues over expenditures vs budget report stating page 22 shows an overage for the year of \$305,468. She stated the excess came from 2 places; revenue and reduced expenses. Kathryn Wagner stated we are required to record 95% of taxes when we actually collect 99.2% and grants were received that were not budgeted for.

Jack Wilson asked what our visibility is into our impact fees. Ron Gerdeman stated they cannot be predicted. Jack Wilson asked if there was time between when they are building and when the impact fees are paid. Ron Gerdeman stated the fees are paid up front when they submit their plans.

Kathryn Wagner stated as far as the budget is concerned impact fees are not part of the general fund. Jack Wilson stated if there is no visibility into those fees then the District has to budget conservatively. Kathryn Wagner stated yes.

Tommy Green stated because of the budget process many items have to be budgeted before they are actually determined such as health insurance which makes it difficult to decide costs down the line.

Kathryn Wagner stated we try to be as precise as possible when it comes to expenditures and there were not any items that were really over budget or under budgeted.

Rick Moore made a motion to approve the financial statements for September 30, 2015. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Request for Proposals- Auditing Services

Chief Sasser presented CRI's renegotiated price of \$15,500 per year for 3 years which was the same as previous years. He stated for continuity of service and the significant work load to

transfer from one company to another, their recommendation would be to accept Carr, Riggs and Ingram's proposal.

Rick Moore made a motion to accept the proposal. Mike Buckingham seconded.

Bob Wagner stated since CRI lower their price he would support the motion.

Jack Wilson asked if this included any out of pocket expenses and travel. Kathryn Wagner stated yes. She further stated it does not include anything unforeseen or unexpected.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Reports:

1. Beach Safety report

Joe D'Agostino stated it has been an exceptionally busy September/ October and October 15th will be last day of service for this season. He stated an all-time high of 2.5 million beach visitors this season.

Rick Moore asked if extending beach patrol into October was due to many states having a fall break. Chief Sasser stated the season was extended to late October because of the fishing rodeo and then pulled back the 15th.

Rick Moore stated there seems to be more people here on fall break through October. Joe D'Agostino stated October 15th is compliant with the County contract. Rick Moore stated we might consider extending the date for next year.

Chief Sasser stated they would look into it with the County contract.

2. Training report

Chief Sasser stated the guys obtained 24 hours of training in September which included trench cuts, primary/secondary searches, training with Okaloosa EMS and preplans.

3. Inspection report

Ron Gerdeman stated construction is steady with a new project being a control tower for the Destin Airport.

Rick Moore asked if any plans have come in for the old Popeye's building. Ron Gerdeman stated no.

4. Response Change report

Chief Sasser stated the fractile response times were 94% for September, above the 90% goal. He stated Destin Fire Control District was the first district in the county to track fractile response times which are now being required by ISO. Chief Sasser stated 65% of the call volume came from station 9.

5. Overtime report

Chief Sasser stated the month had a minimal amount of overtime. Chief Sasser thanked the Board and the department for their participation in the funeral of Lt. Myer's father.

Tommy Green thanked the fire fighters and the community for their support.

Rick Moore complimented the fire fighters for their Class A uniforms and their work displaying the honor flag.

New Business:

1. Resolution 16-01- Declare Beach Safety ATVs, UTV, and Waverunner Obsolete
Chief Sasser presented the vehicles up for replacement within the 2 year rotation. He requested the Board approve a motion to donate the UTV to the City of Destin to help them enforce codes along the beach.

Mike Buckingham made a motion to donate the UTV to the City of Destin. Rick Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Rick Moore stated since the City gives us \$100,000 to run the Beach Safety program the least we can do is donate the UTV.

Mike Buckingham made a motion to adopt Resolution 16-01 minus the UTV. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Resolution 16-02- Declare 2006 Beach Safety Truck Obsolete
Chief Sasser stated the current Beach Safety vehicle is in need of replacement and has been budgeted to be replaced.

Rick Moore asked if the purchase of a new vehicle was under the Beach Safety budget. Chief Sasser stated yes.

Bob Wagner made a motion to accept Resolution 16-02. Mike Buckingham seconded.

Jack Wilson asked for clarification; if we are buying a Beach Safety truck out of the Beach Safety operating fund. Kathryn Wagner stated yes.

Jack Wilson asked why we are not buying it out of the asset fund. Kathryn Wagner stated since Beach Safety is a self-contained operation all assets are purchased from that account.

Jack Wilson stated ATVs are almost disposable assets, but the truck is different. He stated the year we buy a truck is a year we take \$25,000 to \$30,000 of other operating expenses that we will no longer be able to afford.

Mike Buckingham stated we would get 9 years of depreciation. Tommy Green stated 10 years.

Jack Wilson stated we can still use the asset fund to pay for vehicles and have Beach Safety pay the appropriate depreciation each year.

Chief Sasser stated that could be done with the new vehicle.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Staff/Management wage increase

Chief Sasser presented the recommendations for wage increases as well as duty changes and title change of Administrative Division Chief for Kathryn Wagner.

Bob Wagner made a motion to approve staff/management wage increase. Mike Buckingham seconded.

Rick Moore asked for an explanation of the insurance breakdown. Chief Sasser stated insurance costs were listed separately because sometimes those costs go unnoticed when they are absorbed by the Board; listing them separately gives the Board a better perspective of the overall increase.

Jack Wilson asked if this was the first time we have separated the non-collective bargaining employees. Chief Sasser stated yes.

Jack Wilson stated he was in favor of that, but wanted to make sure the employees were aware they can't come back and want what was negotiated for the collective bargaining employees; they are separate and dealt with separately. Chief Sasser stated that was the intention.

Mike Buckingham stated Kathryn Wagner deserved the title and the wage increase and thanked her for everything she does for the District.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approve- Other Post-Employment Benefits Program (OPEB) actuarial valuation as of October 1, 2014

Kathryn Wagner stated each year the District is required to analyze health, dental, vision and life insurance and how retirees affect the rates for all active employees. She stated the evaluation took into account mortality rates, longevity of working employees and how that affects our premiums which is required by GASB to record the liability. She further stated on page 17 the OPEB liability is listed at \$80,407 which will never be paid out, as we pay our insurance premiums on a monthly basis.

Jack Wilson stated it was like a bow wave, we just have to keep pushing out front along with the pension liability.

Kathryn Wagner stated current staffing was sent out for evaluation and in the next few years as long as we don't have substantial changes we will just have interim reports.

Jack Wilson asked if we could expect this to increase every year since we will have more retirees. Kathryn Wagner stated not necessarily since the Affordable Care Act gives retirees access to insurance, with preexisting medical conditions they could choose to get insurance elsewhere. She stated once a retiree drops our insurance they cannot get back on.

Rick Moore made a motion to approve the Other Post-Employment Benefits Program actuarial valuation as of October 1, 2014. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting:

Tommy Green reminded the Board that the next regular meeting will be November 10, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment:

With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.