

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

November 10, 2015

Minutes

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

Staff present: Division Chiefs Ron Gerdeman and Kathryn Wagner

Staff absent: Chief Kevin Sasser and Division Chief Joe D'Agostino

Present: Dawn Stuntz

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

Public Comments:

John Harvey of Destin approached the Board with a handout regarding emergency planning for seniors living alone done by the Institute of Senior Professionals. He stated 31% of calls in the area are senior related and this is another way this agency helps nonprofit organizations.

John Harvey stated due to some issues brought up on social media he wanted to make the statement in his experience Chief Sasser is accessible to the public, he has sat down and meet with the Chief and he doesn't have any problem with him personally. He further stated he is in favor of patrolling Crab Island.

John Harvey stated the 3% increase recently given to the management staff should have been done based on merit through regular evaluations. He stated goals should be set for the management staff and raises given if their goals are met and not given if goals are not met. He stated once you step into a management role you are susceptible to the merits of your production not like a contract where a raise is negotiated for you.

John Harvey requested to see the evaluations for the management staff.

John Harvey asked if the District has a human resource handbook, if everyone has been issued one and has everyone signed off that they have received/understand it. Kathryn Wagner stated the District has a handbook; it is not handed out to everyone however it is accessible.

John Harvey stated he was here to discuss the strategic plan which is on the agenda, but all the other things he talked about can be done with the Institute of Senior Professionals help and it is a free service.

Deborah Thurmon of Destin asked about the increase in prepaid expenses for the month and asked for an update on the SAFER grant. She stated she spoke with FEMA and was told Destin was turned down for the grant due to manning requirements and requested to inspect the letter of decline.

Deborah Thurmon asked if Rick Moore was related to anyone who received a pay increase last month and stated it could be a Sunshine Law violation. Tommy Green stated he would take it under consideration and get an answer, but this was not a question and answer session.

Review of minutes:

The minutes for the regular meeting of October 13, 2015 were presented. Rick Moore 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 month ended October 31, 2015. She stated it was the beginning of the fiscal year and we are just beginning to receive ad valorem tax collections which will pick up in December. She stated expenditures are in line and there are 3 or 4 items that may look high due to prepaid expenses, but will even out in the next few months since those are one time payments.

Jack Wilson asked what the prepaid expenses were. Kathryn Wagner stated \$4,000 to the County Medical Director, \$7,357 to the Haz-mat team and \$4,000 of dues and fees for the Beach Safety program.

Kathryn Wagner stated the payment for the new engine was made in October and the audit for 2014-2015 will begin November 19th.

Jack Wilson made a motion to approve the financial statements for October 31, 2015. Mike Buckingham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

None

Chief Reports:

1. Beach Safety report

Tommy Green stated the report would be tabled until the next meeting when Joe D'Agostino will be present.

2. Training report

Tommy Green stated the report would be tabled until the next meeting when Chief Sasser will be present.

3. Inspection report

Ron Gerdeman stated construction is steady and fire prevention month was a success with over 920 children and 200 adults given the program.

4. Response Change report

Tommy Green stated the report would be tabled until the next meeting when Chief Sasser will be present.

5. Overtime report

Tommy Green stated the report would be tabled until the next meeting when Chief Sasser will be present.

New Business:

1. Resolution 16-03- Declare Beach Safety UTV Obsolete

Tommy Green stated this is the UTV being donated to the City of Destin.

Bob Wagner made a motion to adopt resolution 16-03. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Discussion about strategic planning and five year plan

Tommy Green stated this item is on the agenda at Mr. Harvey's request and believes it is something the District should look into.

Rick Moore asked if Jack Wilson had worked on the District's last five year plan. Jack Wilson stated he had worked on a financial plan four years ago when the District was living off reserves but did not go the extent of planning for vehicles and that sort. He further stated he had the opportunity to work with the Institute of Senior Professionals at Alaqua where they did a great job.

Rick Moore asked if the Board develops the strategic and five year plan or if an individual is assigned. Jack Wilson stated the way it was done before was a Board member was appointed as a liaison.

John Harvey stated a request would have to come from the Chief to the Institute then the group would sit down with the Chief and members of the Board to discuss what they would like accomplished. Jack Wilson stated his suggestion would be to appoint a board liaison before the letter is written to put in scoping parameters, have exploratory discussions that way the Chief can come back to the Board with exactly what will be done and how the Board will be involved along the way and get the Board's approval.

Tommy Green recommended Jack Wilson as the Board's liaison and asked Mr. Harvey to help as well. John Harvey stated he would be glad to help. Jack Wilson stated he would sit down with the Chief and Mr. Harvey and come back to the Board with their recommendations.

Next meeting:

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

Adjournment:

Mike Buckingham stated he has received phone calls recently regarding negative comments on social media stating the District has stopped running EMS calls. He stated it is his understanding that we run all emergency calls; we do not run non-emergency calls. He further stated he would like to see an ad in the Destin Log explaining to the public the services provided and also on the website.

Bob Wagner asked what social media we are talking about. He asked Mr. Harvey what site he referred to in his public comments. John Harvey stated he believed it was Facebook. Bob Wagner asked what specifically on Facebook. John Harvey stated the Destin Clothesline. Bob Wagner asked if Mr. Harvey knew who was behind it. John Harvey stated no. Bob Wagner asked if the site states who is behind it. John Harvey stated it is anonymous.

Tommy Green stated he would talk with the Chief and discuss the possibility of placing a public notice ad to clarify some misinformation or half-truths, but the public is entitled to their opinion.

Deborah Thurmon suggested using the District's website to address these concerns.

Rick Moore asked if we were suggesting spending money. Mike Buckingham stated yes, to educate the public on the services they deserve and pay for.

Tommy Green asked Dawn Stuntz if this was acceptable. Dawn Stuntz stated yes, it is within the Chapter law to educate the public.

With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.