

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

December 8, 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 Kathryn Wagner

Staff absent: 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, 4327 Preserve Place of Destin asked how much the recent high rise fire training cost the District. Chief Sasser stated the cost to the District was nil since no overtime was used and no additional instructors were brought in. He further stated other departments may have incurred overtime costs.

John Harvey stated the public does not realize the costs involved in this type of training. He further stated he had written a letter to the editor as a taxpayer expressing the need for the TDC to be more involved in public safety and the strain tourism puts on that safety.

Jack Wilson stated while he agrees with Mr. Harvey's point; local residences are not the same as local taxpayers. He stated plenty of tax dollars are collected from the non-local taxpayers.

Tommy Green stated the County Commissioners have control over the TDC ultimately.

John Harvey stated it may be helpful to get in front of our local representatives.

Review of minutes:

The minutes for the regular meeting of November 10, 2015 were presented. Jack Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes. Mike Buckingham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of the Financial Report:

Kathryn Wagner presented the financial report for the month ended November 30, 2015. She stated accounts receivables are high due to the last payment from the County for Beach Safety. She stated accounts payables were in order and compensated absence liabilities were adjusted due to the retirement of an employee. Kathryn Wagner stated \$348,000 in ad valorem taxes have been received along with \$11,000 from the sale of Beach Safety assets. She stated expenditures are in line with a target percentage remaining of 83%.

Jack Wilson asked if the District is spending more rapidly than we should or is revenue being received less rapidly since in the last two months revenue was 5.6% and total operating expenditures was 36%. Kathryn Wagner stated it was a normal timing difference with the District just beginning to receive ad valorem taxes and one time expenditures that were discussed last month, along with a transfer to the asset fund that could skew the numbers.

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

Old Business:

1. Institute for Senior Professionals (ISP)

Chief Sasser stated a meeting was set for December 18, 2015 with himself, Jack Wilson and John Harvey.

Chief Reports:

1. Beach Safety report

Chief Sasser stated the old vehicles were sold and the new vehicles have gone out for bid which will be presented at the next meeting. He further stated Joe D'Agostino continues to work to prepare for the upcoming season by preparing vehicles, ordering uniforms and getting J1 Visas. Chief Sasser stated the season was extended through the end of October and presented the final statistics with 231 persons rescued, 285 assists and 52 people rescued, 160 assists by Harbor 9/Crab Island.

Tommy Green stated some people have said there has been no lifeguard on duty in regard to the beach Peter Bos occupies, but there has been. Chief Sasser stated a lifeguard is not stationed directly on that beach, but a stand lifeguard was on duty through the 100 days of summer and that beach was in their zone.

Tommy Green asked if there were any drownings in the pass this year. Chief Sasser stated no.

Deborah Thurmon asked if the H2B and J1 Visas were for hiring people outside the US. Deborah Thurmon asked why the District could not hire people from the US. Tommy Green stated it was standard practice to lifeguard swap. He stated our citizens go to Australia during our winter to lifeguard there and Australians come here to lifeguard during our summers. He further stated it has been a great training tool for local lifeguards. Chief Sasser stated the requirements the District sets for foreign lifeguards is much tougher than for local lifeguards so we end up with more experienced lifeguards that mentor and train our lifeguards.

Deborah Thurmon asked who of our lifeguards go over there. Chief Sasser stated we ask for volunteers since they are not fulltime employees and we help sponsor the ones that want to participate.

2. Training report

Chief Sasser stated there was 22 hours of training in the month of October and 23 hours in November. He stated the high rise training took place in December and will be presented at the January meeting along with the yearend training total.

3. Inspection report

Ron Gerdeman stated a new 50,000 square foot sporting goods store in the Emerald Coast Center has submitted plans for technical review.

4. Response Change report

Chief Sasser stated fractile response times were 92% for November with 60% of the calls coming from Station 9. He stated while the call volume went down it is consistent with the time of year.

Jack Wilson asked if we track our response to single threat calls. He stated it would be good information to take to the County since those are not calls we respond to unless requested. Chief Sasser stated in past he was able to pull that data and present it to the Board until the system changed and he was no longer able to pull the data. He stated the system is back online and he would be able to pull the data for the year and present it to the Board at the next meeting.

Jack Wilson stated the County provides good EMS to our District because we support them. He stated he would like data to show our call volume has gone down for elderly transports and to see the calls we respond to for them so the public can be assured things are taken care of on the emergency end. He further stated the Board could then go to the County for a discussion.

Chief Sasser stated the County Safety Director candidate will be announced at the next County Commissioners meeting on December 15, 2015. He stated the candidate does have some fire background.

5. Overtime report

Chief Sasser stated several days of call out sick totaled 140 hours in November which is not abnormal for this time of year.

New Business:

1. Resolution 16-04- Declare 1999 Ferrara Engine Obsolete

Chief Sasser stated this was the first step in selling the old engine which was put out to bid with 1 bid received of \$45,000 from the Lilian Volunteer Fire Department. He further stated since we were offered a trade in value of \$10,000 he felt good about Lilian's bid.

Rick Moore asked if any other bids were received. Chief Sasser stated no.

Mike Buckingham stated our goal was to get \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Chief Sasser stated if the resolution is approved he would anticipate Lilian would be able to take possession of the end of the week.

Kathryn Wagner stated a change needed to be made to the resolution in the second paragraph the vehicle description needed to be changed from pickup truck to fire truck.

Bob Wagner made a motion to approve the amended resolution 16-04. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Resolution 16-05- Investment Policy

Kathryn Wagner stated while the Board had previously approved the Investment Policy a resolution needed to be adopted.

Jack Wilson asked if the resolution would allow the Board to do all the investing through the Florida Local Government Investment Trust. Kathryn Wagner stated with the approval of Resolution 16-06.

Bob Wagner made a motion to approve resolution 16-05. Rick Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Resolution 16-06- Joinder to Agreement with the Florida Local Government Investment Trust
Kathryn Wagner stated the resolution and accompanied packet was created by the Florida Public Trust and was reviewed by our counsel. She further stated the joinder needed to be approved which allowed the trust agreement to be approved.

Jack Wilson asked if a second resolution was required for the trust agreement. Kathryn Wagner stated no, it was all included in Resolution 16-06.

Rick Moore made a motion to approve resolution 16-06. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Proposed 2016 Meeting Dates

Chief Sasser stated with the Board's approval the 2016 meeting dates can be advertised before the January meeting.

Rick Moore made a motion to approve the proposed 2016 meeting dates. Mike Buckingham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting:

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

Adjournment:

With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.