

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

December 23, 2013

Minutes

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

Absent: Hillary Anderson

Staff present: Chief Kevin Sasser, Kathryn Wagner

Present: Dawn Norris

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

Public Comments:

Tommy Green opened the meeting to public comments on agenda items only. There were none.

March 11, 2014 Referendum:

Kathryn Wagner presented resolution 14-01 which contains referendum language which was used at the last referendum. Changes were made to be held in conjunction with the municipal election as well as necessary date changes throughout the document. The second page shows the actual referendum language and addition options for alternative referendum language were also presented. All places in the resolution for the placement of a new millage rate have been left blank as this is a decision the Commission needs to make. The last page presented is a chart showing the effect of how moving the millage cap up certain increments produces additional income for the District as well as the effect that property owners would see per \$1,000 of assessable property value.

Kathryn Wagner stated that item b on the agenda for Non-Ad Valorem Assessment is there for the Board's ability to discuss the item, however, there is not enough data collected for this to be an option on the March ballot. The demographics of our area have changed enough that a new GSG study would need to be done.

Mike Buckingham stated that we need to ask for what we need. He stated he does not have a problem doing it.

Rick Moore stated that he was not in favor of going to the public right now. He stated that March was too soon. He stated that cuts needed to be made before going back to the taxpayer.

Jack Wilson stated that proceeding forward on this path and taking reserves down to \$20,000 is irresponsible. He stated he is in favor of the non-ad valorem assessment but there is not enough time for a March referendum. He stated he is not in favor of a special referendum. He stated that we needed to do something before our 2014/2015 year so reserves are not driven down to an immaterial amount of money.

Jack Wilson stated that we ought to piggyback with the City in March. He proposed an additional rate from the chart presented of 0.150 so that we basically end next year without degrading our reserves and to be at a point where our expenses and revenues balance. He stated that we should continue to make cuts, but we will still have unavoidable increases in certain categories which we do not control.

Rick Moore stated that he is in favor of a special assessment more than a millage increase; however, he thinks it is too soon to go in March. He stated that he is not opposed to a special election. Rick Moore stated that he could support it but we would have to show them what we are doing differently.

Mike Buckingham stated option C of the referendum language asks for the funding of the operating costs that are necessary.

Tommy Green stated that we need to go back and listen to the public. The public wasn't against an increase just the amount. He stated that 1.150 is what we need now, but what are we going to need in 5, 4 or 3 years. He stated that he would probably like to see a non-ad valorem also but if you compare it to the increase from this millage option they would be about the same.

Jack Wilson stated that this is our annual operating cost so we wouldn't go beyond what we need and it may not be good enough for 5 years. We will have to cut costs because there will be cost increase which we cannot control.

Mike Buckingham made a motion for a rate of 1.145. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed with a 3 to 1 vote with Rick Moore voting against.

Jack Wilson commented on the vote that the last time we did this we had 4 Commissioner who voted yes and now we only have 3.

Tommy Green stated that unless we all get behind it and support it we will have a hard time.

Jack Wilson made a motion to approve resolution 14-01, as presented by management, to include option c of the referendum language provided and a rate of 1.145 to be inserted. Mike Buckingham seconded. The motion passed with a 3 to 1 vote with Rick Moore voting against.

Adjournment:

With no further business to be addressed, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.