

DESTIN FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

Budget Workshop
Main Station
848 Airport Road
Destin, Florida

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, Kathryn Wagner

The workshop was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Tommy Green. He stated the workshop is to discuss the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Kathryn Wagner stated adjustments were made from the last budget workshop which included reducing the sale price of Engine 10 to \$45,000, adjusting estimated revenue for the SAFER grant from 90% to 100% for eligible expenses, and adjusting duty overtime to include manning boat 9 during the summer. She stated that communication equipment increased \$1,000 to change computers on the command vehicles. Property/general liability was increased \$9,000 and building repair and maintenance increased by \$2,000. Office supplies were also increased by \$2,000 to complete the records room. She further stated adjustments were made to the beach safety division to include a lifeguard on boat 9 during the summer and unassigned funds were increased \$45,000.

Kathryn Wagner stated there was no change to the Impact Fee/Asset Fund.

Kathryn Wagner stated if the large items of the manning of Boat 9, the SAFER grant and the replacement of Engine 9 were removed, the base budget would show a net overage of \$9,367 which is considered a breakeven budget. She stated the District would like to pursue the SAFER grant and there is a need to replace Engine 9 as well as man Boat 9 during the summer. A portion of these expenses will come from the Asset Fund and the remaining \$209,982 will come from the Unassigned Fund. She stated she is waiting for underwriter numbers for medical insurance, workman's comp and general liability so further adjustments may need to be made.

Rick Moore asked if the SAFER grant was a three or five year grant. Kathryn Wagner stated it is a two year 100% grant. Chief Sasser stated the grant was modified from a five year grant after recipients returned the money because they were unable to maintain staffing while the economy was bad.

Tommy Green stated he has approached the County Commissioners, the City, and the TDC concerning manning Boat 9 during the summer and having the TDC pay for it. He stated he is scheduled to make a presentation at the TDC's next meeting August 27, 2015.

Rick Moore asked if a corridor has been established. Tommy Green stated he was not aware that the corridor has been established, but it would not prevent many drownings from happening since they typically occur on the perimeter. He stated in the last two weekends Boat 9 has had 30 assists and 10 saves.

Rick Moore asked if Boat 9 would patrol seven days of week during the summer. Tommy Green stated they intend to use a jet ski to patrol Monday through Thursday and Boat 9 will patrol Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He stated the boat will be manned with a paramedic, a lifeguard, and a boat operator.

Bob Wagner thanked Chief Sasser and Chairman Green for doing something about the problem. Tommy Green stated he felt they had to react since two people had already drowned and one man had broken his neck trying to save a swimmer.

The floor was open for public comments.

Patty Defrenza of Sunsail Drive, Destin stated she wonders why Destin still has limited EMS response. She believes the County and TDC should pay for full EMS response. She stated the boat is out in public water so the County and TDC should buy a boat and put paramedics on it. She stated the Coast Guard does the same type of thing and should team up with the County and TDC to manage patrolling Crab Island. She stated until Destin gets full response to all EMS calls we should not get involved in another operation.

Tommy Green stated he understood Ms. Defrenza concerns however, in the District's charter we are responsible for the swimming and boating applicants around our area. He stated the District already has the equipment all that is needed is manpower and the District is seeking to have the TDC pay for it.

Patty Defrenza stated the Destin Fire Control District's charter also states we have to provide advance life-support EMS. Tommy Green stated the charter states we may provide that service. He further stated we do have emergency response.

Patty Defrenza stated the response is limited. Tommy Green stated the District simply does not have the funding to provide full EMS response to 80,000 to 90,000 people 6 months out of the year.

With no other discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.