

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 18, 2015

The regular meeting of the St. Augustine Port, Waterway & Beach District was held at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida on Tuesday, August 18, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jerry Dixon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America followed.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Jerry Dixon, Commissioners Barry Benjamin, Tom Rivers, Chuck Hennessey and Mark Helman were in attendance. The meeting was also attended by Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering, District Counsel Jim Bedsole, and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report to the board. As of July 31, 2015, the district has spent about \$250,000 of its \$395,000 budget for fiscal year 2014-2015. Most of the expenditures were for dredging and operating expenses with smaller amounts paid for local law enforcement overtime and local marine events. A special matching grant of \$57,500 was spent for the new law enforcement and emergency services boat lift at the Vilano Boat Ramp. As of that date, the district had total assets on deposit of \$1,943,235. No more tax revenue is expected in this fiscal year. In response to a question by Chairman Dixon, Ms. Kemper said funds budgeted but unspent each year do not automatically roll over or accrue into the next fiscal year budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Benjamin moved to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2015 regular meeting, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Rivers. The motion passed unanimously.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He reported work on the permit for South Ponte Vedra/Vilano Beach has begun and that the beach design is in progress. He said the permit application should be ready in about two months. On the

Summer Haven River Restoration, he reported the field survey and the revised volume estimate would be available next month. In response to questions by Commissioners Dixon, Helman and Hennessey, Mr. Craig said the project will be ready for bid in January, 2016, but that it may be delayed until later in the year because funding may not have been secured until then. Linda Ginn, Friends of Summer Haven River, said she expects some of the recent legislative grant to remain after the project design is completed which will be used for matching grants.

Mr. Craig said the dredge Murden will remain at work in the St. Augustine Inlet until September 3, 2015. As of August 7, 2015, approximately sixty thousand cubic yards of sand had been removed from the inlet and deposited on the north beaches.

OLD BUSINESS NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Fiscal year 2015-2016 Budget

Elyse Kemper discussed the difference between this year's millage rate and the "rolled-back" rate as the two rates affect tax revenue for next fiscal year. If the current millage rate remains unchanged, revenue for next fiscal year will increase about \$30,000 and will allow some expansion of district projects. She said the first public hearing will be September 17, 2015 and the final hearing on October 1, 2015. The board will vote on its millage rate at both hearings. The notice published in the newspaper will advertise a proposed tax increase even though the increase in revenue is created by rising property values, not by an increase in the tax rate.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Piggott, Director of General Services for the City of St. Augustine, presented a formal request for a grant from the District of \$2,828.34 for twenty-five percent of the cost of a new motor for the city's pump-out boat. Two hundred twenty-five thousand (225,000) gallons of raw sewage has been collected by the pump-out boat in the past six years. The remainder of the cost of the engine has been provided by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

Chairman Dixon moved for approval of the expense of \$2,838.34 for one-fourth of the cost of the engine for the pump-out boat. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hennessey and passed by a unanimous vote.

After the vote, Mr. Piggott said he would provide an invoice from the city after October 1, 2015.

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), introduced Officer Josh Green who will take over derelict vessel enforcement. Lt. Zukowski said FWC will be updating its database on derelict vessels next month and will begin a new notification process which will include notice to vessel owners by certified mail.

Lt. Zukowski said boating season is winding down and that Labor Day is the traditional end of the season. Replacement of signage around area bridges has been held up by an agency reorganization in Tallahassee and signs will probably not be in place before the end of the calendar year. He added that all coastal officers are now under the command of the Titusville office for FWC and that two new officers have been added to the local squad, one on the coast and one on the St. Johns River.

Commissioner Helman asked whether the Bridge of Lions, which will be restricted to pedestrian traffic during Labor Day Weekend, will remain open for boat traffic. Mr. Piggott said that it would be open for boat traffic throughout the weekend.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rivers invited the board to attend a breakfast reception for Paul Rennart and Cindi Stevenson on September 1, 2015 in the Rotunda of the St. Johns County Commission Office Building at 500 San Sebastian View. He said it would be a good chance for commissioners to meet other elected officials.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the next regular meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on September 15, 2015 in the same location.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman