

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, September 15, 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, September 15, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Barry Benjamin called the meeting to order at 3:05 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 August 31, 2015, the District has spent \$169,675 for projects and \$94,591 for operating expenses and has received refunds of \$2,370, making a total of \$261,896 spent. The District has \$1,878,217 on deposit, and \$133,994 in outstanding commitments. Expected income for the remaining fiscal year is \$415.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Helman moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2015 regular meeting, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Benjamin. The motion passed unanimously.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He said the Corps of Engineers dredge Murden will be finished dredging the St. Augustine Inlet at the end of the month. A total of some 150,000 cubic yards of sand has been removed from the inlet by the Murden.

Mr. Craig said the monitoring report of local shore conditions conducted on behalf of the county will be done this month. He said the results will be useful in completing the application for the North Beaches renourishment permit.

The latest survey of conditions at the Summer Haven River indicate about thirty-eight percent more sand on the project site than the prior survey. This means sand has continued to accrue. The project plan will not change as a result of this change in conditions, but the profile of the beach placement area will need to be revised slightly to accommodate the increase.

Mr. Craig presented the cost summary for the final design and bid administration phase. He said the bathymetric survey and the final design will total about \$123,000 and construction contract administration will add another sixty thousand dollars, approximately. This means up to \$200,000 may be left in the legislative appropriation for actual construction costs.

In response to a question by Commissioner Hennessey, Mr. Craig said the shoaling at the northern mouth of the river is less than 1,000 cubic yards. As a result, repairing that will not significantly affect the project budget.

A motion by Commissioner Hennessey to approve the cost for the scope of services provided by Taylor Engineering for the final design and bid administration phase at \$82,618.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rives and approved by a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Dixon reported he recently attended a meeting of the St. Augustine City Commission to present a check for dredging. He reminded the city commission the Port District has given the city about two million dollars in the past decade for dredging, derelict boats, city police marine unit and other matters. Over 100 derelict boats have been removed from local waters since the program began.

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sgt. Sid Mickler, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, said in the first eight months of 2015 their Marine Unit has received almost 250 calls for assistance. They received a total of 96 calls in all of 2014. Sgt. Mickler said SJSO will be asking for twenty-five thousand dollars in assistance from the District next year. Chairman Dixon said he supports the SJSO marine unit because the District has no independent ability to offer services. He added that he still believes the county has more than enough resources to fund the Marine Unit if commissioners and the Sheriff chose to do so.

Officer Robshaw of St. Johns County Fire and Rescue said construction of the boat lift at the Vilano ramp has begun. The lift will contain one Fire and Rescue vessel, one Sheriff's vessel and one FWC vessel.

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), said there are no new derelict vessels to report but that two remain near the Intracoastal Waterway in the Guana Park area. The marine environment for the 450th celebration was very calm except for the release of munitions horizontally from the fireworks barge. Many boaters watching the display were surprised by the fireworks exploding on the water, but no one was injured.

The re-enactment of the Spanish landing on September 18 was attended by a number of protesters in small boats. Several were arrested for interfering with other vessels and one vessel used by protesters was found to have been stolen from Princess Place Park in Flagler County.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Dixon and Vice-Chairman Benjamin discussed the current development of the old Luhrs site by its new owners. Dixon said the area will be mainly a dry storage for boats and a launching and retrieval area. Also, the site will contain a retail area and a children's museum. The owners will continue to allow temporary storage there of dredge material from the San Sebastian River.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the first public hearing for the millage and budget on September 17, 2015. The final hearing will be October 1, 2015.

The next regular meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on October 20, 2015 in the same location.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman