

**ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday, August 20, 2013**

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 20, 2013.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Barry Benjamin 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 Barry Benjamin, Commissioners Jerry Dixon and Jay Bliss were in attendance. Commissioner Hennessey arrived at 3:25 p.m. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Steve Schropp of Taylor Engineering, District Counsel Jim Bedsole and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

**SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT**

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the report. Through July 31, 2013, the District has spent \$15,087 of the \$243,215 committed in the budget. \$585 has been given to St. Augustine Police Department, \$7,283 to the Sheriff's Department, \$7,219 has been spent on Summer Haven River permitting. Total net funds expended from the non-committed portion of the budget equal \$210,719, and operating expenses to date total \$102,721. The District has received almost all of the tax revenue expected this fiscal year. New tax revenues will begin to arrive in November. As of August 13, 2013, net funds available for use by District equaled \$1,669,285.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

No minutes were available for review.

## **ENGINEERING REPORT**

Dr. Steve Schropp delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. All of the documentation necessary to begin inlet dredging is now in place with the final execution of the Use Agreement between the State of Florida and the District allowing the placement of dredged sand on the beach at Anastasia State Park. He said the Corps of Engineers (USACE) has re-advertised the project and will open bids August 22. Work should begin shortly after a bid is awarded.

The application for the Summer Haven River restoration permit is complete except for written confirmation from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) that an agreement has been reached regarding least tern nesting area mitigation. Dr. Schropp said an agreement had been reached with FWC and he anticipated the permit application would be declared complete by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) within in a few days.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**St. Johns County Sheriff's Office-Lt. Scott Beaver.** Lt. Scott Beaver appeared on behalf of the St. Johns County Sheriff's office (SJSO) to deliver an invoice for the purchase of EPIRBs and personal floatation devices for use by SJSO marine personnel. This invoice will be paid from the District's existing budget for SJSO overtime pay for marine unit officers.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Artificial Reef Interlocal Agreement - Amy Kennedy.** Discussion of the interlocal agreement with Flagler County for artificial reefs was tabled until the next regular meeting.

**B. Discussion regarding District Application for Assistance-Commissioner Hennessey.**

Commissioner Hennessey presented a draft of his proposed Application for Assistance for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Hennessey said he had devised the application in response to the many ad hoc requests for funding which are brought before the Board each year. He said his draft is modeled after the application used by the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) and that any application process adopted by the Board should not eliminate the Board's ability to make unbudgeted funding available in genuine emergencies. He also requested the web host to post the draft on the District's website for public comment. All commissioners were positive in their comments about the draft and a consensus of members believed the concept should be given further consideration, possibly in a workshop.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commander Steve Fricke, St. Augustine Police Department, reported two derelict vessels would be removed in the coming weeks. One is on a shell bank in North River. The other is the "Sunshine" which had previously been a problem.

Wil Smith, St. Johns County Parks and Recreation, reported the county has received permission from FWC to post the new no-wake zone extension south of the Vilano Bridge and adjacent to the new floating dock. He said the new zone area is east of the existing zone and south of the bridge.

In response to questions by Commissioner Bliss and Dixon, Mr. Smith said the County is sending divers into the channel of the Vilano boat ramp to clear any rocks which could damage boats. He said two boats had recently been damaged by contact with the channel's jetty. Also, a shoal to the east of the mouth of the channel has built up over the last few years such that the route of travel to the inlet from the boat ramp has been somewhat impaired.

Mr. Smith also discussed his belief the county needs another large boat ramp. He said the Pine Island Road boat ramp will probably be the next ramp to receive improvements.

Jim Piggott, City of St. Augustine, updated the Board on dredging. The San Sebastian River project will start at the end of September, 2013 beginning at the King Street Bridge. Work on the Salt Run channel will commence about the same time. In response to questions by Secretary-Treasurer Kemper and Commissioner Bliss, Mr. Piggott said the District's portion of the cost will not be due until the work is completed on both projects. He added that the Salt Run dredging will not go as far south as the Lighthouse boat ramp.

Jeff Goff, 78 Dolphin Drive, addressed the Board regarding the increasing number of kayak and paddle board rental businesses operating in and around the Lighthouse boat ramp. He said trailers and watercraft sometimes clog the ramp and the floating dock to the extent it is difficult for anyone else to use the facilities. Commissioner Dixon said the Board had no authority to control the boat ramp and referred Mr. Goff to the City of St. Augustine which owns the ramp.

**COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS    NONE**

**NEXT MEETING**

Chairman Benjamin announced the next meeting will be September 4, 2013 at 5:05 p.m. for the first public hearing on the proposed 2013-2014 budget. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. in the same location. The final public hearing on the proposed 2013-2014 budget will be at 5:05 p.m. September 18, 2013.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business, Chairman Benjamin adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

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Secretary-Treasurer

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Chairman

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