

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 18, 2011

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, January 18, 2011.

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, Tom Rivers, Jay Bliss and Herb Rippe were in attendance. The meeting was also attended by: Dennis Bell, Secretary-Treasurer, District Attorney James Bedsole, and Dr. Steve Schropp of Taylor Engineering.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was presented by Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Bell. As of December 31, 2010, the District had committed funds of \$406,370 of which \$84,425 have been spent. Net funds available total \$1,586,636. As of January 14, 2011, net funds available were \$1,581,127. Commissioner Bliss asked why there had been a \$75,000 payment recently to St. Johns County. Will Smith of St. Johns County Recreation Department explained the payment was matching funds for the Council on Aging River House fishing pier.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At the request of District Attorney, Jim Bedsole, review of the minutes of the meeting of December 21, 2010 was deferred to the next regular meeting.

ENGINEERING REPORT

The report was delivered by Dr. Steve Schropp of Taylor Engineering. He reported all permits are in place as of January 6, 2011 for the San Sebastian River project to move forward. The dredging of Salt Run was completed in December, 2010. There was some slight damage to the Lighthouse Park Boat Ramp caused by the off-loading of dredge spoil, but he expects the damage to be completely repaired within the next two weeks.

Tentative dates are being considered for the workshop on the Summer Haven River breach. The workshop is to be held in the month of February, 2011 in the usual room. All agencies having jurisdiction have been contacted and a public notice will be published prior to the meeting. In response to a question by Commissioner Benjamin, Dr. Schropp said he had only received responses from the county and NERR. Neither FDEP nor ACOE have replied.

Commissioner Dixon asked if money might be available from FIND for further Salt Run dredging. Dr. Schropp said money may be available for over-depth dredging. More funds may also be available from FIND for the San Sebastian River.

Commissioner Bliss said a 3 day-long break in a dredging pipe several years ago deposited a large amount of sand in the south end of Salt Run. Dr. Schropp said permitting a repair would be complicated because of the issue of restoration. The Board directed Dr. Schropp to make some preliminary inquiries to the Corps of Engineers regarding how that agency might regard a request to clean up the spill and report back at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

FWC Boatlift.

Lt. Steve Zukowsky, FWC, appeared and stated the contract to fund the new boat lift at the City Marina had been approved by FWC. District Attorney Jim Bedsole distributed a copy of the contract to the Board, and the Chairman and Secretary signed the agreement on behalf of the District.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Taylor Engineering Contract

Steve Schropp presented the request by Taylor Engineering for a two-year extension of its professional services contract. The contract represents a 2% increase over the prior year. Commissioner Rippe requested an explanation of Taylor's rates for administrative personnel and wanted to know how District rates compared to those charged FIND. Dr. Schropp said the rates were based on actual salary times an industry-standard multiplier and that the rates charged to FIND and the District are very similar.

A motion by Commissioner Benjamin, seconded by Commissioner Rivers to approve the Taylor Engineering contract for 2011 and 2012 was unanimously approved.

B. Strategic Planning Workshop

Chairman Benjamin stated the Board will hold a strategic planning workshop on January 20, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

C. Fort Mose Canoe/Kayak Platform

Will Smith appeared on behalf of the St. Johns County Parks Department regarding the kayak dock at Fort Mose. He said FIND funded the design and permitting for the dock but, due to a budget shortfall, the County is \$24,000 short of being able to adequately fund the construction phase. As a result, the county is requesting a grant of \$24,000 as local matching funds to help complete the project.

A motion by Commissioner Dixon, seconded by Commissioner Benjamin to approve a grant of \$24,000 for matching funds to complete the Ft. Mose kayak landing dock was unanimously approved.

D. Election of Officers

Chairman Benjamin opened the floor for nomination of officers for 2011 and then nominated Commissioner Dixon for Chairman and Commissioner Rivers for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Bliss nominated Commissioner Rivers for Chairman but Commissioner Rivers declined. Commissioner Bliss withdrew his nomination. There were no further nominations.

By a unanimous vote, the Board elected Jerry Dixon Chairman and Tom Rivers Vice-Chairman for 2011.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lt. Steve Zukowsky, FWC, thanked the Board for providing funds to build the FWC boatlift at the St. Augustine City Marina. He said he will contact the contractor immediately and would notify the media upon completion of the lift. He also talked about the remnant piling set years ago in open water north of the 312 bridge. He has placed a buoy on the piling because it is a serious hazard to navigation. The Board approved by consensus the expenditure of \$500 to reimburse the city for removal of the piling.

Lt. Zukowsky also explained FWC is charged by Florida law with investigating derelict vessels. Florida Statutes do not say who is responsible to remove vessels classified as derelict, but the City of St. Augustine, with funding from the District, now removes and disposes of derelict vessels. Boats dragging anchor can be re-anchored by FWC if posing a hazard to navigation. Otherwise, FWC simply notifies the owners of the need to secure such vessels.

Lt. Steve Fricke, SAPD, reported the City of St. Augustine is now completely free of derelict boats within its city limits. SAPD also now has the benefit of an open purchase order for the removal and disposal of derelict vessels, thus expediting the removal process.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Rippe and Dixon discussed the decision by the federal government to locate a high speed off-shore driving school at St. Augustine Marine Center. Commissioner Dixon said competition for the facility was intense and that letters from all of the politicians from our area made the difference.

Commissioner Bliss said the Board has the authority to set up its own derelict vessel operation. Commissioner Dixon said St. Johns County should have more involvement in marine matters such as derelict vessel removal.

NEXT MEETING

The Chairman announced the next regular meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. in the same location.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

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