

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, March 17, 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, March 17, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner 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

Commissioners Barry Benjamin, Tom Rivers, Chuck Hennessey and Mark Helman were in attendance. Chairman Jerry Dixon arrived at 3:15 p.m. The meeting was also attended by Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering, James Bedsole, District Counsel and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper delivered the financial report to the board. As of February 28, 2015, the District had spent \$74,792 this fiscal year in committed and non-committed funds and had net available funds of \$1,753,656. Of expected tax revenue of \$394,290 for fiscal year 2015-2016, all but \$51,184 has been received. As of March 13, 2015, the District had total funds of \$1,997,100 and net funds available for use equaled \$1,378,169.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Rivers commented that the draft minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2015 was in error as to his comments regarding the District's possible sponsorship of a permit for moving sand north of the inlet to erode beaches. Mr. Bedsole said he would strike the sentence from the final version of the minutes.

Commissioner Benjamin moved to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2015 regular meeting, as amended, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Rivers. The motion passed unanimously.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering delivered the engineering report. Mr. Craig said the new aids to navigation had been completed in Salt Run and that all of them looked good. He then went on to say he had met with the County Engineer to discuss planning a workshop meeting

regarding the north beaches permit and also met with a group of citizens from the north beaches. The county engineer was to have met with the chairperson of the county commission regarding the issue, but Mr. Craig said the meeting had not taken place as of this report.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Permit to place sand on the north beaches - Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said he spoke to the county engineer about whether the county commission intended to sponsor the permit for the north beaches but the engineer did not know. Commissioner Rivers said he was in favor of the District becoming the sponsor. He then asked district counsel if sponsoring a permit application to deliver dredge sand to the north of the inlet in accordance with the Inlet Management Plan was outside of the authority granted to the District by its chartering legislation. Mr. Bedsole said maintenance of inlet was within the District's authority and that sponsoring such an application would also be within the District's charter. He said most of the county's beaches lie within the boundaries of the District and there is clear authority in the charter to do such work within those boundaries, at least.

Commissioner Rivers then moved to have the District sponsor an application for a long-term permit for the transport and placement of sand from the inlet area to the beaches north of St. Augustine Inlet pursuant to the requirements of the Inlet Management Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hennessey and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Craig said any such permit should include permission to transfer sand through near-shore placement and permission for sand storage on the ebb shoal, as well. In response to questions by Commissioner Helman, Mr. Craig said near-shore placement in the area of the St. Augustine Beach pier was used during emergency inlet dredging several years ago.

Chairman Dixon arrived at this point in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS - There was no new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ervin Bullock, 4370 Coastal Highway, said her organization is now trying to get a permit for sand to be placed north of the inlet during the upcoming maintenance dredging of the inlet but that all of the sand will probably be sent south until a long-term permit is issued.

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said an arrest warrant was issued for the owner of a seventeen foot derelict boat which the owner had agreed to remove, but failed to do so. Another owner has been jailed for failing to remove a steel hull from a site near Ponte Vedra Beach. He said authorities are now tracing the ownership of derelict vessels and have been successful recently in bringing owners to court.

Lt. Zukowski said planning is under way for the annual Blessing of the Fleet. This year the event will occur on an outgoing tide, making departure easier for participating vessels. Jacksonville will have its blessing on the same day and many agencies will be participating. He added the Bridge of Lions will be closed to car traffic and will not open for vessels during the event.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rivers said he attended the recent meeting of local state legislative candidates and presented the idea of expanding the District's boundaries to include the entire county. He personally spoke to Travis Hutson, Paul Renner, Cyndi Stevenson and Doc Rennuart. He requested the board to allow him to represent the District in promoting the expansion of its boundaries. A concensus of commissioners agreed to allow him to do so.

Chairman Dixon said funding inlet and beach maintenance will become more critical in the future as federal funds diminish. He will be meeting this month with Sea Grant staff to work on the new map of the inlet and bay and will update the board at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the next regular meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on April 21, 2015 in the same location.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman