

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, January 13, 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, January 13, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Benjamin called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Barry Benjamin, Chuck Hennessey, Tom Rivers and Mark Helman were in attendance. Chairman Jerry Dixon arrived at 3:10 p.m.. The meeting was also attended by Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering, Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper and District Counsel Jim Bedsole.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper delivered the report. As of December 31, 2014, only \$357 in committed funds have been spent, while \$59,021 has been spent on operating expenses to date. Funds available of \$1,967,984 less committed funds of \$262,628 yields net funds available of \$1,705,356. Tax revenue of \$286,998 has been collected and \$107,292 more is expected. As of January 12, 2015, the District had net available funds of \$1,339,123. All but \$166 of the District's bank funds have been transferred to new accounts at Harbor Community Bank. The remaining account at BB&T will be closed before the next regular meeting and the money placed in Harbor Community Bank.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Benjamin moved to approve the minutes of the regular meetings of November 18, 2014 and December 16, 2014, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Rivers. The motion passed unanimously.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering delivered the engineering report. He said a review of the recent invoice from Taylor for \$2,300 has resulted in breaking the invoice down into separate charges for the City of St. Augustine and the District. The invoice will be delivered prior to the next meeting and will be supplied to Ms. Kemper.

Chairman Dixon arrived at this point in the meeting.

Mr. Craig and Commissioner Hennessey met with officials of the Army Corps of Engineers on January 8, 2015 to discuss matters related to inlet maintenance. The shore protection project for St. Augustine Beach is currently scheduled for 2017. ACOE is reviewing the effects of prior beach renourishment projects to determine the amount of sand necessary to maintain the beach. He said renourishment sand accumulates with each replacement so less sand is necessary in later repetitions. As a result, the timetable for renourishment could possibly be pushed back until more sand is needed.

The ongoing feasibility study of local beaches will continue this year in order to determine the best alternative for the preservation of shore features. ACOE also agreed to include restoration of the groin on the north side of the inlet in the feasibility study.

More attention is now being given to the need to transport beach quality sand to the north beaches. ACOE staff have expressed concern that their agency should be able to deposit sand on the north beaches any time the opportunity arises. This will require a permit, as has been often discussed by District commissioners. Mr. Craig said such a permit will require at least a year to obtain at a cost of approximately \$150,000. He will contact FDEP to explore the possibility of a meeting with all stakeholders involved and will report back to the Board.

As a final topic, ACOE has recently entered funding agreements with several local government agencies allowing it to accept contributions from local sources. Without such agreements, ACOE cannot accept money from local agencies and governments. Such contributions expand and supplement work done by the Corps and enable local dollars to fund federal projects. Commissioner Hennessey said the agreement would allow the District to use ACOE's hopper dredges for emergency inlet maintenance.

Commissioner Hennessey said ACOE also requested clarification of the yardage transfer requirements in the Inlet Management Plan. He said the IMP dictates certain amounts of sand can be removed from the inlet each year and the Corps needs to know when those annual amounts began to accrue.

Linda Chambliss and Ervin Bullock of the South Ponte Vedra Beach Homeowners Association reported the county has arranged a meeting with their organization and the Corps to discuss the status of the feasibility study and the process of getting permits for sand transfers north of the inlet. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2015. Commissioner Rivers agreed to attend the meeting and report back to the Board. Commissioner Helman volunteered to go if Commissioner Rivers is unable.

Chairman Dixon requested Mr. Bedsole draft a letter for Mr. Dixon's signature requesting the Corps to enter a contributed funds agreement with the District. Mr. Craig offered to have Shelly Trulock, ACOE Project Manager, address commissioners about pending issues.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Kemper contacted the University of Florida Sea Grant regarding an update of the inlet map and received a response. The staff at Sea Grant asked for specifications for the new

map before giving the District a cost estimate. Chairman Dixon asked Ms. Kemper to forward the e-mail to him for response to Sea Grant.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Hennessey reported he contacted the Coast Guard about several inlet buoys which were off station. He said they responded quickly and reset two red and one green buoy. He said the new lighted red Number 6 buoy is an improvement which has aided boaters transiting the inlet and that USCG responded quickly.

Jim Piggott, City of St. Augustine, discussed the City's upcoming application for grant funds from the Florida Inland Navigation District. He said they will ask for \$150,000 each for continued dredging of the San Sebastian River and Salt Run. He asked for a commitment from the District for a total of \$187,000 in matching funds consisting of \$150,000 for the San Sebastian River and \$37,500 for Salt Run.

Commissioner Benjamin moved to approve the commitment of matching funds for dredging Salt Run and the San Sebastian River from the budget of the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Chairman Dixon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Dixon said he received an Oath of Office form from the Division of Elections with a letter requesting he sign and return the oath. Ms. Kemper said she would contact the agency and determine what should be done.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Dixon and Commissioner Benjamin said they were pleased Commissioner Helman has joined the Board and said his contacts in the marine industry will benefit the District in many ways.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the next regular meeting will be held on February 17, 2015 in the same location.

ADJOURN:

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

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Ken Craig will contact FDEP to explore the possibility of a meeting with all stakeholders regarding the transport of sand to the north beaches and will report back to the Board.
2. Commissioner Rivers will attend the January 15, 2015 meeting of the South Ponte Vedra Beach Homeowners Association and the Corps of Engineers and will report back to the Board. Commissioner Helman will go if Commissioner Rivers is unable.
3. Mr. Bedsole will draft a letter for the chairman's signature requesting the Corps to enter a contributed funds agreement with the District.
4. Ms. Kemper will forward the e-mail from the University of Florida regarding the updated inlet map to the chairman for response to Sea Grant.
5. Ms. Kemper will contact the State Division of Elections regarding the oath of office received by Chairman Dixon, and will determine what action is required.