

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 20, 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, October 20, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Barry Benjamin called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL

Vice-Chairman Barry Benjamin, Commissioners Chuck Hennessey and Mark Helman were in attendance. Chairman Jerry Dixon was absent. 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. September 30 was the end of Fiscal Year 2014-2015. During the year, \$393,875 in tax revenue was collected and a total of \$264,638 was spent. Of the amount spent, \$94,595 was for operating expenses and \$170,043 was spent on projects. At the end of the year, the District had a total of \$1,864,726 in its bank and deposit accounts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hennessey moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2015 regular meeting, the First Trim Meeting on September 17, 2015 and the Final Trim Meeting on October 1, 2015, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Helman. The motion passed unanimously.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He reported that Taylor Engineering is updating the construction plan for the Summer Haven River Restoration Project as information becomes available. The beach template for placement of sand removed from the river channel is being adjusted at this time. Mr. Craig also distributed copies of the current opinion of construction costs based on information now available. The opinion places the cost of the project at approximately 2.3 million dollars.

Last month, an engineer from Taylor spent a day visiting the beaches and access points north of St. Augustine Inlet in preparation for the FDEP permit application. Taylor has compiled a bibliography of all studies done on the beaches and shores in St. Johns County which will be useful in the application process. Mr. Craig said the application should be complete by the end of November, 2015.

Commissioner Rivers arrived at 3:25 after being delayed by a malfunction of the Bridge of Lions.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Vice-Chairman Benjamin invited FIND Commissioner Carl Blow to address the board. Commissioner Blow said all St. Johns County grant requests to FIND have been approved for matching funds totaling \$495,000. These projects include dredging the San Sebastian River, dredging Salt Run, improvements to the barge landing facility at St. Augustine Airport, and the Riberia Street kayak launch area in St. Augustine. Grant applications for FIND funding in 2016 are due in FIND's office by April 1, 2016. Commissioner Blow said funds available for St. Johns County in 2016 are expected to be in the 500-525 thousand dollar range.

In response to questions from Commissioner Hennessey, Commissioner Blow said no FIND funds are available for beach renourishment, but that any work affecting the inlet or intracoastal could possibly qualify, such as repairs or improvements to the inlet jetties. Commissioner Blow said the Corps of Engineers is soliciting bids on dredging the ICW at Matanzas and at St. Augustine Inlet as one job. He expects the projects to be completed in early 2017.

In response to further questions from Commissioner Hennessey and Commissioner Helman, Commissioner Blow said FIND is committed to following the distribution schedule for sand going two-thirds south and one-third north from inlet area dredging as long as permits are in place and the cost difference for sending sand north is borne by an agency other than FIND. Mr. Craig said the application for a permanent permit to move sand northward will be done as quickly as possible. However, he cautioned that the application is subject to review by federal agencies not known for their responsiveness and this could cause delays.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sgt. Steve Fricke, St. Augustine Police Department, said a well-known derelict vessel owner has been arrested in Mexico on serious criminal charges. This situation could keep the owner away from local waters for a long time. Fricke also said as of January 1, 2016, SAPD will raise its overtime rate from thirty to thirty-five dollars per hour for marine police officers.

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), said the recent high tide had floated a derelict vessel into the intracoastal waterway north of the Vilano Bridge. The vessel was towed to shore and disposed of by St. Johns County.

Dan Floryan, St. Augustine Yacht Club, reported his organization had filed a grant request for seven thousand dollars for the annual Regatta of Lights. The event will take place on December 12, 2015 at the bayfront. He said the City now surcharges for event-related expenses such as law enforcement overtime, but this event received a waiver of such charges last year. Ms. Kemper said she was not directed to place the report on the agenda for today's meeting but would do so for the regular meeting in November.

Sandy Flowers, Port of Call SA.com, said the channel to Comache Cove needs dredging. Several commissioners said they are familiar with activities at that location and that the owners of the facility have already privately contracted for dredging the channel. Ms. Flowers did not file a grant request or provide any information about her organization. She did not remain in the audience after addressing the Board.

Linda Ginn, Friends of Summer Haven River, commented that the Summer Haven River is a public waterway and the restoration project there has to date received funds only from the District and the Florida Legislature.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rivers reported he went to a gathering of legislators recently and had discussions with several state legislators about expanding the size of the District to county-wide. He said legislators are receptive to the idea and he is hopeful that one of them will sponsor a bill to allow the change.

NEXT MEETING

Vice-Chairman Benjamin announced the next regular meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on November 17, 2015 in the same location.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Benjamin adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman