

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, December 16, 2014

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, December 16, 2014.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jerry Dixon 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 Jerry Dixon, Commissioners Barry Benjamin, Chuck Hennessey and Mark Helman were in attendance. Commissioner Tom Rivers was absent. 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. Ms. Kemper said as of November 30, 2014, \$17,846 remains in Florida Board of Administration Fund A and that the State has asked for the money to be left there pending the bankruptcy of the investment firm involved in the fund's collapse several years ago. The District's operating account contains \$235,563 and its money market account contains \$1,550,400. Expected tax revenue for fiscal year 2014-2015 is \$394,290, of which \$188,577 has already been collected. As of December 12, 2014, the District had net uncommitted funds of \$1,267,835 available for use.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

This item was continued until the next regular meeting.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering delivered the engineering report. Mr. Craig said the District has finally received the fully-executed Army Corps of Engineers permit for the restoration of the Summer Haven River. Commissioner Dixon said some people in local government in our area are angry that the State of Florida has not agreed or volunteered to fund the restoration.

Mr. Craig then reported that the contractor performing this year's dredging of Salt Run has agreed to install new marker signs as dredging progresses along Salt Run. All of the work is scheduled to be completed in February, 2015.

Commissioner Hennessey and Mr. Craig are seeking a meeting with Corps of Engineers staff regarding that agency's long-term plans for inlet maintenance and beach erosion control, especially the north beaches. Within the past week, St. Johns County has declared a beach erosion emergency in order to facilitate authorization of the use of temporary seawalls around some homes north of the inlet.

Commissioner Helman reported that dredges are already at work in Salt Run. Chairman Dixon said he and Carl Blow met with officials of the City of St. Augustine recently to discuss plans for dredging Salt Run and the San Sebastian River. He also commended Commissioner Helman for allowing dredges to dock at the Conch House Marina.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business on the agenda but, in response to questions by Commissioner Helman regarding the District's website, Commissioner Benjamin said that information could be added or edited on the website through Ms. Kemper. Commissioner Helman suggested that the maps and inlet information which now appear on the website be reviewed and updated. Chairman Dixon indicated that topic was an agenda item under new business. Ms. Kemper asked that Commissioners Helman, Rivers and Hennessey provide a small biographical paragraph about themselves and a photograph to be added to the District's website.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Beach Renourishment Permitting for Vilano Beach - Chairman Dixon

Chairman Dixon said the Florida Inland Navigation District is concerned because the new Inlet Management Plan as recently revised by the Florida DEP calls for placing large amounts of sand onto beaches north of the inlet, but that no permit now exists for such transport of sand. A permit issued by FDEP will be required prior to moving any sand to the north of the inlet. He added that the jetty/groin needs massive repair even though the recent Corps of Engineers report advises no repairs are necessary.

Ervin Bullock and Linda Chambliss appeared on behalf of South Ponte Vedra Preservation Association and shared photographs of some of the damage caused to the north beaches by erosion. In response to their questions, Mr. Craig explained that the Corps of Engineers feasibility study now under way includes all of the north beaches and that a single blanket permit for movement of sand north of the inlet could be used by any agency to accomplish the goal of placing sand on the north beaches. Commissioner Dixon said pumping sand north would work only for Vilano. He said he believes renourishing South Ponte Vedra will require offshore dredging rather than inlet dredging, and that a permit might require three to four years to obtain. Ms. Chambliss said FDEP officials told them an applicant for such a

permit would not be required to establish an erosion control line for the project. Mr. Craig said establishing such a base line is a big expense and that significant savings in time and resources would result from a waiver of that requirement.

In response to questions from Commissioner Hennessey, Mr. Craig said little dredging has occurred in the Intracoastal Waterway north of the Vilano Bridge because the water there is naturally deeper than nearer the inlet.

B. Reprint of Maps - Chairman Dixon

Chairman Dixon discussed updating the popular aerial map of the inlet and surrounding waterways which was done by the University of Florida Sea Grant nearly ten years ago. He asked the Board to consider what should be on a newer version of the map and to be ready to discuss it at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission reported that FWC is beginning the judicial process against a derelict vessel north of the Vilano Bridge which is high and dry in the marsh west of the ICW. Commissioner Dixon said it is the large sloop which had been docked near the A1A/Hospital Creek Bridge for many years.

Lt. Zukowski said a large sailboat grounded on shoal north of the inlet on November 25. The occupants were rescued by St. Johns County Fire and Rescue utilizing rubber boats provided several years ago by the District. The following day the boat was removed by Sea Tow. He also reported the annual Christmas regattas in Ponte Vedra and St. Augustine went very smoothly because of the many law enforcement agencies volunteering vessels and crews.

Jim Piggott, City of St. Augustine, discussed an invoice in the amount of \$2,320 from Taylor Engineering for providing a briefing to the former chairman of the Board about the dredging in Salt Run. Chairman Dixon asked if this was a service outside of Taylor's contract for the supervision of the dredge work. Mr. Craig said he would find out what was done in addition to regularly provided services and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Piggott said the amount of money available for FIND grants in St. Johns County should be known by January and that the City will need a signed interlocal agreement with the District by March in order to apply for funds. He said the tall ship El Galeon will be returning to St. Augustine for three weeks after repairs are completed in Jacksonville and that the dinner cruise ship Foxy Lady is operating from the City Marina.

Commander Steve Fricke, St. Augustine Police, said an SAPD vessel was on hand when the crew of the grounded sailboat was rescued and that the crew had been transferred to the SAPD boat to come ashore. He reported city auto traffic during the Regatta of Lights was a problem and that the event will need to be held on an evening other than a Saturday next year to avoid the same situation. He also said an agreement is in the works for FIND to pay seventy-five percent of the cost of derelict vessel removal on a case-by-case basis.

In response to comments by commissioners, Commander Fricke said the city is reaching its limit with the number of cars it can absorb without gridlock. Chairman Dixon said the master plan was to build a large parking garage on West King Street but the City sold the land. Commissioner Helman asked whether a water taxi could help move people. Mr. Piggott said a taxi operator had wanted to run from the Lighthouse Pier area but the neighborhood did not want it.

Consultant Ken Krauter said he would have updates for District handbooks available for distribution at the next meeting.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

There were no commissioner comments.

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Kemper said the January meeting can not be held on the third Tuesday because the room will be used for a special election. She said she would determine the available alternate day and date and inform commissioners.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Board members will be prepared at the next meeting to discuss suggestions for updating the current version of the aerial map of the inlet and surrounding waterways.
2. Ms. Kemper will determine available alternative dates for the January, 2015 regular meeting and will inform commissioners of the exact day and date.
3. Mr. Craig will determine what additional services, if any, were provided by them and invoiced to the City of St. Augustine, and will report his findings at the next regular meeting.
4. Consultant Ken Krauter will have updates for District handbooks available at the next meeting.