

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 16, 2013

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, July 16, 2013.

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 Jay Bliss and Herb Rippe were in attendance. The meeting was also attended by Dr. Steve Schropp of Taylor Engineering, District Counsel Jim Bedsole and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the report. As of the end of June, 2013, the District had spent \$12,112 of the \$243,215 committed to projects by the 2012-2013 budget. \$20,000 has been moved from Florida Board of Administration Fund A into the operating account. Fund B still contains \$17,529 which will gradually be withdrawn and placed in the District's local accounts. As of July 12, 2013, the operating account contained \$204,694, the money market account contained \$1,704,859, and net funds available totaled \$1,678,748.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Chairman Benjamin, seconded by Commissioner Bliss, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 18, 2013 regular meeting.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Dr. Steve Schropp delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He said the Summer Haven River restoration permit application was on track and that Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) had agreed to a mitigation plan for least tern nesting which should complete the application. With this, the application should be approved within the coming month.

Dr. Schropp and District counsel Jim Bedsole have begun working with representatives of the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund to create the use agreement required for the placement of dredge sand on the beach at Anastasia State Park. Commissioner Rippe asked Dr. Schropp whether turtle monitoring would be required and what the possible cost may be. Dr. Schropp said the costs would come later next year in the form of beach tilling, possibly, but that the expense is minimal. Commissioner Rippe also asked about the inlet dredge locations and Dr. Schropp said he would provide a map.

OLD BUSINESS. There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. TRIM - Set Millage Rate.

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper presented three examples of tax rate options and how those could affect the District. The first example represented no change in the millage rate from last year. This would yield an increase in annual tax revenue of about six thousand dollars because of a slight rise in assessed property values over last year. The second example represented the “roll-back” rate of 0.0631 mils which would bring in the same dollar revenue as last year. The third example was the maximum rate allowed, 0.0773 mils. This rate would generate a large increase in tax revenue.

A motion by Commissioner Rippe, seconded by Chairman Benjamin, to keep the 2013-2014 millage rate the same as the previous year, 0.0638 mils, passed unanimously after a roll-call vote.

B. Budget - District Projects Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper discussed a list of District projects proposed for the coming year. These include overtime pay for marine units at St. Augustine Police Department and St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office, artificial reefs, derelict boats, dredging, and artificial reef development. Projects costing \$31,500 are to be paid from general revenue. This will leave \$216,514 in general revenue funds remaining. She indicated to the Board that, absent some specific project designations, this amount will be listed in the budget under “undefined marine projects” in order to balance the budget. Commissioners discussed the possibility of adding or removing various line items and how that would affect the budget or the amount finally taken from reserves. No action was taken to change the project budget as presented by Ms. Kemper.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

There were no comments by commissioners.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Benjamin announced the next regular meeting will be August 20, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Benjamin adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

wk/rg/port/minutes7-16-13

Chairman