

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 19, 2016

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 19, 2016.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jerry Dixon called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. ROLL CALL

Chairman Jerry Dixon, Vice-Chairman Barry Benjamin and Commissioners Tom Rivers and Mark Helman, were in attendance. Commissioner Hennessey was absent. The meeting was also attended by Ken Craig of Taylor Engineering, District Counsel Jim Bedsole and Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper.

4. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper delivered the financial report to the Board. As of June 30, 2014, the District has expended a total of \$206,017, including operating expenses of \$78,198 and \$127,819 expended for projects. As of that date, the District had deposits totaling \$1,982,507, of which \$1,759,861 is available for use.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Commissioner Rivers to approve the minutes of the regular meetings held on May 17, 2016 and June 21, 2016, seconded by Vice-Chairman Benjamin, was unanimously passed.

6. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He said replacement of Marker 4 in Salt Run has been delayed because of the time required to solicit bids for the repairs. Friday is the deadline for bids and Taylor will coordinate the repairs after that date.

The South Ponte Vedra/Vilano Beach permit application remains at a standstill. Taylor requested a six-month extension on replying to outstanding requests for additional information from FDEP and received approval of the extension.

The ceremonial check presentation for the full legislative funding of the Summer Haven River restoration was held June 30, 2016, at a private home in the Barratterria Island Subdivision, which fronts on the river. Design drawings for the project were displayed at the event and bid advertisements will begin July 22, 2016. Bidders are required to attend a mandatory site visit on August 3, 2016. August 19 is the last day bids may be submitted, and all bids will be opened on August 26, 2016. Taylor's recommendation for the bid award will be presented to the board at the September, 2016 meeting.

In response to questions from Commissioner Rivers about why the District halted the SPV/VB permit work, Chairman Dixon said the District's experience with Summer Haven has demonstrated how long, complex and expensive the permitting process has become for dredge and fill activities. He said the District had to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars and several years of effort to obtain the permit for Summer Haven, and that the South Ponte Vedra/Vilano Beach project is far larger than Summer Haven and clearly beyond the ability of the District to effectively sponsor.

In response to further questioning by Commissioner Rivers, Linda Chambliss, South Ponte Vedra/Vilano Beach POA, said county officials told her they can do nothing to take over the sponsorship of the north beaches project until the District officially advises them of its withdrawal. She said her impression is the county administrator never intended for the District to do the entire project. She added that 250,000 cubic yards of sand will be about one-eighth of what is now needed to adequately protect the 8 miles of eroded county beaches north of the inlet.

Chairman Dixon said sand is available inside the inlet in the flood shoal and dredging could be coordinated with FIND and ACOE if a permit were already in place. He said involving other agencies could also open up other sources of funding, as well. Vice-Chairman Benjamin said the Summer Haven River is a good example of use of alternative funding sources for a public project and that the fund raisers for the project did a great job.

7. **OLD BUSINESS** : NONE

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Trim/Budget**

Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper presented budget projections for next fiscal year based on last year's millage rate of 0.0638, and the roll back rate of 0.0599. Because assessed property values have risen six percent since last year, leaving the millage rate at 0.0638 will generate a six percent increase in revenue for the District. Adopting the roll back rate will yield approximately the same revenue as last year because it is a lower millage rate applied to the increased tax base. She also discussed the projects already slated for the coming fiscal year, which total about \$310,000. She advised the board that their budget decision today is only a tentative decision, and that the millage rate finally adopted may be lower, but not higher than, the tentative rate adopted today. She added the first public hearing on the budget will be held on September 15, 2016 at 5:05 p.m. at the St. Augustine Beach City Hall. The final meeting will be held the same time and place on October 5, 2016.

After discussion, a motion by Commissioner Rivers seconded by Commissioner Helman to adopt last year's millage rate of 0.0638 as the tentative rate for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 was passed unanimously on a roll-call vote.

8.B. Dredging entrance to Dolphin Drive Boat Basin - Jim Piggott, City of St. Augustine

Jim Piggott, City of St. Augustine, reported the City's applications for FIND grants scored well in the recent evaluation process with the dredging of Salt Run scoring first in all categories, and the proposed shoal markers for Matanzas Bay rated third in all categories. The city's seawall improvement project was rated #42 but may be funded if any of the projects ahead of it fail to obtain permits.

Mr. Piggott said he was appearing today to request \$40,000 in District assistance to again dredge the area adjacent to the entrance of the boat basin on Dolphin Drive. He related the history of funding for the basin and the fact an MSBU was established to do the original dredging. The last time the District furnished dredge funding for that area was four years ago. He said doing the work now will again take advantage of the presence of dredges here already for work in Salt Run.

Leanna Freeman, a resident of the MSBU district, said conditions have deteriorated to the extent that only the smallest boats can access the basin at low tide and that the area between the basin and the intracoastal channel is the problem with which assistance is needed.

Tim Ford, also a property owner in the MSBU, said residents intended to seek funding from FIND but missed the grant application deadline. He said they will apply to FIND in the future. Vice-Chairman Benjamin said he was in favor of the request but would not commit to any future funding. Commissioner Helman said this request was more than ten percent of the District's income for the year.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Benjamin, seconded by Commissioner Rivers, to approve a one-time grant of \$40,000.00 to dredge from Dolphin Drive Boat Basin to the Intracoastal Waterway, was passed by a unanimous vote.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Piggott reported that the harbor management plan pilot program will end in July, 2017. The FWC is evaluating the various separate pilot programs and the St. Augustine program has received universally good reviews from all parties and stakeholders. He said that even under the worst-case conditions of break-away vessels, the pilot program's collection of owner data made contacting owners and recovering vessels much easier.

Linda Ginn, Friends of Summer Haven River, presented a ceremonial check to the board for \$2.9 million dollars allocated by the Florida legislature last year to complete the Summer Haven River project. She thanked the board for all of their assistance with the project. Chairman Dixon said the fund-raising efforts by her organization had been phenomenal and that it never would have happened without Linda Ginn, Jay Ginn and Ellis Zahra.

10. **COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS: NONE**

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the next regular meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on August 16, 2016 in the same location.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

wk/rg/port/minutes-2016/Minutes 7-19-16 meeting