

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 16, 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, August 16, 2016.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Benjamin 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

Vice-Chairman Barry Benjamin and Commissioners Tom Rivers, Chuck Hennessey 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, 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 August 31, 2016, the District had expended \$84,012 for operating expenses and \$127,819 in committed and non-committed funds for a total of \$211,831 spent this fiscal year. Funds on deposit total \$2,087,557 with net funds available for use of \$1,870,725. Fiscal year-to-date income is \$421,691 and no further income is expected this fiscal year.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Commissioner Helman to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 19, 2016, was seconded by Commissioner Rivers and passed unanimously.

6. ENGINEERING REPORT

Ken Craig delivered the engineering report on behalf of Taylor Engineering. He said bids had been received and awarded for the repair of Marker 4 in Salt Run after a vessel strike. The job was delayed when the replacement sign was provided with the wrong marker number but is now ready for installation. Mr. Craig said the insurance carrier for the boat involved in the accident has already paid for repairs of \$1,700.00.

The bid process for the Summer Haven River restoration is under way. Sixteen potential

bidders attended the mandatory pre-bid site visit on August 3, 2016 and Taylor has furnished an addendum to the bid documents responding to twenty-one technical questions from bidders. The last day bids will be accepted is Friday, August 19, 2016, and the bids will be opened and bid review will begin on August 26, 2016. Taylor's recommendation will be presented to the board at the September 15, 2016 meeting.

Mr. Craig then presented a revision to the District's contract with Taylor for the work Taylor will be completing during the Summer Haven project. He said the amendment was needed to comply with the work plan in the District's contract with DEP and that it does not alter the services provided but only groups them differently to match the DEP work plan.

At this point, Mr. Bedsole requested the board consider item 8.C from the agenda which also involved DEP's funding contract with the District. Chairman Dixon agreed to consider the item at this time. Mr. Bedsole explained that a paragraph had been added to DEP Agreement No. LP55031, providing DEP the ability to advance funds to the District rather than simply reimburse it for funds already expended. This additional language has been added pursuant to negotiations with DEP which occurred in May and June of this year. Mr. Bedsole advised his recommendation is to approve the amendment.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Benjamin to approve the amendment to the Taylor Engineering contract, was seconded by Commissioner Rivers and passed unanimously by a roll-call vote.

A motion by Vice-Chairman Benjamin to approve Amendment 1 to DEP Agreement No. LP55031, was seconded by Commissioner Rivers and passed unanimously by a roll-call vote.

7. OLD BUSINESS :

In response to questions by Chairman Dixon, Linda Chambliss of the South Ponte Vedra association said officials from St. Johns County had recently met with the parties to the administrative appeal of DEP's notice of intent to permit FIND and ACOE to dredge the Intracoastal near St. Augustine Inlet. She said that to her knowledge there was no progress in resolving the matter. Chairman Dixon said ACOE is investigating the possible use of sand from the flood shoal for the north beaches. Ms. Chambliss added that ACOE staff have agreed to meet with property owners next week.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Salt Run Dredging Permit Request for Funds - Jim Piggott.

Jim Piggott, Director of General Services for the City of St. Augustine, said the permit for dredging Salt Run was expiring because the limit stated in the permit will be reached this year. Without renewing the permit, dredging will cease. Mr. Piggott requested \$4,865 to pay for the renewal application.

A motion by Commissioner Helman to approve \$4,865 to renew the Salt Run dredge

permit was seconded by Vice-Chairman Benjamin and passed unanimously.

B. Request for Funding - Sergeant Mickler, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

Sergeant Sid Mickler, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit, discussed the accomplishments of his group in the past year including the life jacket loaner program for children, the boating safety course, the derelict vessel program, their paperless citations, new monthly training, increased staffing, search and rescue training with USCG, FWC, US Customs and Homeland Security, and their five confirmed cases of water rescues this year. He said St. Johns County Sheriff's Office wants to transition to a full-time Marine Unit, expand the life jacket program to all county boat ramps and schedule more frequent boater safety courses. In order to accomplish these goals, the department is requesting an increase in budget to \$25,000 per year and the ability to spend \$5,000 of their current budget for new waterproof computers. Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper said increasing the budget for the Sheriff's Office can be considered next month during budget discussions, but that allowing the use of \$5,000 of the existing budget will require a vote amending the budget.

A motion by Chairman Dixon to amend the budget to allow St. Johns County Sheriff's Office to spend \$5,000 of the existing marine budget for computers was seconded by Vice-Chairman Benjamin and passed unanimously.

C. Amendment to DEP Summer Haven Funding Contract - District Counsel Jim Bedsole

This item was disposed of in agenda item 6, above.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lt. Steve Zukowski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said FWC was fortunate to have the assistance of the Sheriff's Department and the St Augustine Police Department in resolving the damage to Marker 4 in Salt Run. He said all three agencies work together on derelict vessels and other matters of concern, and added that the two derelicts now at Crane Park are scheduled to be removed.

On July 4th weekend, four people in a small boat were run over by a larger ski boat in North River. One person lost a leg in the accident where there were navigation violations by both vessels. Another person died after running a jet ski aground near the Shores Pier. He was flown to Shands Jacksonville, when he later succumbed to a broken neck.

Due to statutory changes effective July 1, 2016, violations for careless operation will now focus on safe speed, safe navigation and proper safety equipment. There will also be no routine stops for safety equipment checks if a safety inspection decal is displayed.

10. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS: NONE

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Dixon announced the next regular meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on September 15, 2016 in the same location.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, Chairman Dixon adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Chairman

wk/rg/port/minutes-2016/Minutes 8-16-16 meeting