

ST. AUGUSTINE PORT, WATERWAY & BEACH DISTRICT
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 18, 2023

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 18, 2023.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Chris Way 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. INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Thomson.

4. ROLL CALL

Vice-Chairman Chris Way, Commissioner Tom Rivers, and Commissioner Linda Thomson were present in person. The meeting was also attended in person by Secretary-Treasurer Elyse Kemper and Clay Meek, General Counsel for the District. Jim Marino of Taylor Engineering, District Engineers, was present in person as well.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 3-0 vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

7. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS

Aaron Braddock of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Air and Marine Unit gave a short update on the status of the derelict boat dashboard.

Carl Blow of the Florida Inland Navigation District ("FIND") provided an update and overview of dredging plans at Matanzas Inlet, which was expected to start in September. He also reviewed the grant applications that had been submitted and indicated that

the Genovar application ranked 2nd out of the 46 and that \$1,055,500.00 was estimated for that grant. He also noted that 11 of the applications were for law enforcement vessels and that FIND matching funds can cover boat lifts as well. Finally, he mentioned an increase in FIND money of to up to \$75,000.00 available per County, per year, for derelict boat removal.

8. SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Secretary-Treasurer Kemper then delivered the financial report. As of June 30, 2023, the District spent: \$5,623 for overtime hours of police officers of the City of St. Augustine; \$13,888 for overtime hours of deputies of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department; and, \$4,339 for derelict boats. The State Board of Administration account had a balance of \$24,175. The Operating Account had \$671,468 as of June 30, 2023. The money market account had \$0 in the reserve for projects and \$1,116,413 in amounts not reserved for projects. Taxes received as of June 30, 2023, were \$716,620 for the current year and the balance of the remaining expected tax income was \$5,841.

9. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A Motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023, regular meeting was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way, and passed by a 3-0 vote.

10. ENGINEERING REPORT

Jim Marino indicated there were no pending District projects and gave a short report on activity in the region. He indicated that beach nourishment that had been scheduled to begin in June around the Pope Road ramp was going to be delayed until October to allow for seawall repair at the Embassy Suites there could be completed first.

11. OLD BUSINESS

A. Funding Request Dune Walkovers

Russell Adams, Assistant Public Works Director for the City of St. Augustine Beach, gave a review of the Dune Walkovers that had been completed in the current fiscal year. The District had previously granted a 50/50 matching funding request by the City of up to \$335,000.00 to be funded by the District over a two year period and the project had begun in December, 2022. Of the amount granted

by the District, \$214,275.00 had been spent and several walkovers had been completed and it was clear that the remaining funding by the District and City would not be sufficient to complete the full scope of the work initially contemplated given inflation and the effects of storm erosion. The City had revised downward the scope of the remaining walkovers to be done, with an estimated cost of the remaining revised project being \$380,050.00 to be completed in the upcoming fiscal year. The City was proposing to forego the remaining balance of the prior funding grant and, instead, was requesting a 50/50 matching funding request amount from the District of \$190,025.00 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to complete the revised scope of work.

A Motion to approve the funding request in the amount of \$190,025.00 pending final review and approval within the upcoming year's budget was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 3-0 vote.

12. NEW BUSINESS

A. Funding Request for Vessel Sustainment

Patrick Harvey of the St. Augustine Police Marine Operations Unit briefly discussed the application for funding to assist with department boat maintenance/sustainment. The boat maintenance/sustainment funding request had been discussed at the June, 2023, meeting, but had not formally been on the agenda at that time.

A Motion to approve the funding application in the amount of \$21,555.74 was made by Vice-Chairman Way, seconded by Commissioner Thomson, and passed by a 3-0 vote.

B. Establish Millage Rate

A short review of the Truth in Millage ("TRIM") process was had. A tentative millage rate for the upcoming fiscal year had to be established to be timely published in advance of the two TRIM hearings to be held. The rolled back rate of 0.0530 would generate an estimated tax revenue of \$732,117. The non-rolled back rate of last year's 0.0598 would generate an estimated tax revenue of \$826,049 and represent a 12.83 percent increase over the prior year's revenue. The public TRIM hearings on the proposed millage rate were tentatively set to be at 5:05, p.m., on Thursday, September 14, 2023, and Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

A Motion to tentatively establish the coming fiscal year's millage at last year's rate of 0.0598 was made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Way and passed by a 3-0 vote.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Rivers commented on recent photos he had seen of the derelict boat problems of the West Palm Beach area.

15. NEXT MEETING

August 15, 2023, was announced as the next regular meeting date. As such, the **next regular meeting will be at 3:00, p.m., on August 15, 2023**, at the St. Augustine Beach City Commission Meeting Room, 2200 A1A South, St. Augustine Beach, Florida

16. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Chris Way adjourned the meeting at 3:37, p.m.

Secretary-Treasurer

Commission Chairman Brown