

Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District
Minutes for Workshop Commissioners Board Meeting
February 22, 2021

Call to Order: Commissioner Player called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Invocation: Commissioner Dreikorn led everyone in the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Player led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Commissioner Player, Cammick, Dreikorn, DeLacey, and Price were present. Chief Mickuleit, Deputy Chief Brant, Assistant Chief Davis, Renee Lynch, and Administrative Assistant Miles were present. Guests: Ila Valcarcel

Public Comment: None

Business:

1. ***General Budget Procedures:***

Accountant Renee Lynch presented the 5-year Budget Projection Assumptions needed to be decided on by the Board so that she could proceed with the 5-year plan.

- Population Growth: Renee explained that population growth could in turn effect the number of calls as well as a need to increase staffing. Chief mentioned that he had reached out to the water company about the number of new members they had, however this is not a true count of the number of new homes and number of people on the island. Commissioner Dreikorn stated that the growth in Lee County is probably our best estimate, which is 3.6%. Renee will use 3.6% for her projections effected by population growth.
- Number of Calls: Assistant Chief explained that although our total number of calls has decreased, this decrease is only due to the reduction in stand-bys. Since opening St. 4, there has been less need for stand-bys. However our number of calls without including stand-bys has increased every year in the past 5 years. Commissioner Dreikorn asked if there was a way to put a dollar amount on that savings. Chief agreed to work on getting that dollar value. Renee noted that the average increase in calls over the past 5 years is 3.06%. Commissioner Price feels that with it being so close to population growth, that we should just use the 3.6% for this as well. The rest of the board agrees. Ila Valcarcel noted that 200 building permits have been pulled in Lee County just in the past month.
- Property Value Increase:
 - o New Construction: Renee presented that the average percent of new construction to prior year property value was 1.67%. The Board agrees to use this assumption.
 - o Renee presented the average increase in market value has been 4.27% over the prior 5 years. The Board agreed to use this assumption as well.
- Consumer Price Increase: Renee presented the Board with the option of either using the average CPI over the past 5 years of 1.78% across all operating expenses or to go line item by line item and decide what change the Board believes will occur over the next 5 years. Commissioner Price voiced that he believes that the CPI will work for most items and if there is an outlier here and there the board can make those determinations individually. The rest of the Board agreed. Renee will use the CPI across all operations and the Board will let her know if there are any that need to be adjusted individually.

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- Personnel:
 - Number of additional personnel per year: Chief explained to the Board that since we are at the bare minimum that we would like to try and get to a point that we have an additional guy on each truck. For many of our calls we are forced to move two trucks because two employees can't handle the call by themselves. If we had this extra guy it could reduce the number of trucks that have to move for certain calls. Additionally our minimum staffing is 9, but we only have 10 for each shift, so if more than 2 employees are out for one shift, we have to fill in with overtime. If we had additional employees on each shift, we would ultimately end up with less need for overtime. There was also discussion of adding a rescue truck to St. 1, since most calls are medical, which would keep the engine from running as much. Admin is suggesting to the board the addition of 6 employees over the next 5 years, adding a total of 2 per shift. Commissioner Dreikorn made the point that the hope would be that the increase in population would feed the growth in staffing. The Board agreed to have Renee assume 3 new employees in 2022 and 3 in 2024. There was additional discussion of whether these new hires would be paramedics or EMTs. The hope is for them to already be paramedics, however in the past we have had a hard time holding on to paramedics because other departments will pay them better.
 - Union Contract: Chief noted that we have not started negotiations, however we know they will be asking for some kind of bump in the step plan. The Board agrees to keep the projections with the current step plan until negotiations are open and we have a better idea of what they are going to be asking for.
 - Health Insurance: Renee noted that insurance has increased on average 8-10% in the past 5 years. However we do have a completely new insurance carrier this year and we have no idea what next year will look like, but hope that we will have a better chance of saving money in the long run. The Board suggests 6%. Renee remembered that she did not include FRS in the list of assumptions and asked if the Board is good with the average over the past 5 years for that as well. They all agreed.
- Capital Outlay:
 - Timing of Station 2 rebuild. Chief explained to the Board that he believes that a consultant needs to be hired in order to get a good idea of what it would cost and how much property would need to be purchased. The Board is not able to make formal decisions at this meeting, so this will be added to the agenda on Wednesday's Regular Meeting.
 - 5-year Capital Plan: Renee will just use the capital plan that was presented at the last workshop meeting to plug into the 5-year plan. The Board agrees.
- Timing of ALS Implementation: Renee will use the timing from the 5-year capital plan presented at the prior workshop meeting. The Board agrees.

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- Options to assume:
 - o Use the Rollback rate and let the fund balance fluctuate from year to year or,
 - o Set the fund balance amounts and let the millage fluctuate from year to year based on funding needs.

There was some discussion on what the Board feels is necessary to keep in reserves and unassigned fund balance. Commissioner Price feels that using the roll back would give us a better picture for planning purposes. Giving the tax payers a steady decrease and allowing the Board to see how the fund balance would fluctuate. The Board agrees to use the roll back rate.

Commissioner Dreikorn asked the Chief if there were any of these capital projects that would increase ISO rating, or is there something that we can incorporate in the plan to help increase ISO ratings. The Chief responded that currently the only way we could increase ISO is to add more firefighters to the trucks or increase the number of hydrants. We would never be able to obtain a level 1 or 2 rating without having all of the trucks meet NFPA standards of 4-5 firefighters. Nor would we necessarily want to be a 1 or 2, from the classes that we have taken, once you get to a 3 the only benefit is to commercial property, which is such a small portion of our taxing base.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Price moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Dreikorn.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Miles
District Administrative Assistant

Board Secretary