

Iona McGregor Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners Minutes

November 18, 2009

6PM

Meeting called to order at 6:02p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer observed

Roll Call: Present – Chairman Lees, Vice Chairman Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer Dorsett, Commissioner Barbosa, Commissioner Brown, Chief Elliott, Attorney Pringle, members of Iona McGregor staff

Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2009

Motion (4547) to approve minutes made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Dorsett... passed.

Approval of Treasurer's Report – October, 2009

Motion (4548) to approve Treasurers Report made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Barbosa... passed.

Agenda Items Requiring Action

- 1) Budget Stabilization Fund
- 2) Key Strategic Issue 1.1 – Funding Uncertainty
- 3) Lieutenant Job Description

Adoption of Agenda

Motion (4549) to adopt agenda made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Dorsett... carried.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – none

Chief's Report –

Chief's report was submitted to Board and accepted. Chief added that several residents of Lexington will be here next month to receive a Care Award. The traffic preemption system is currently being installed. The purchase of 'Roberts Rules of Order' books will be discussed during Commissioner Comments.

Division/Committee Reports

Deputy Chief –

An overview of the current 457 plan with the Legends group and the proposed change to the Hartford was explained to the Board.

The committee assembled to review healthcare has been meeting with as variety of providers. The next Insurance meeting is to be held at 9a.m. on Monday, November 23rd. Commissioner Brown has elected to step up and attend meeting in Commissioner Dorsett's absence.

Attorney Report

Health Insurance – Attorney discussed the process of conducting a Request for Qualifications in the event the District decides to contract with another Insurance Broker/Agent if the Board so desires.

Sun Trust loan should close prior to Dec 4th. Several discussions regarding the document preparations have taken place. The Precision contract has been signed and a copy has been sent. We are holding the original copy until the financing has been completed. Proposal was to pay

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100% upfront to maximize the discount and purchase price. Chairman and Chief have read contract prior to signing.

Key Strategic Issue 1.1 – A review of various ways to generate revenue was conducted by Attorney Pringle. Whichever process the Board wishes to proceed with will probably require referendum and study to justify, support, and defend what we want. SAFER grant is also out there and available. Commissioner Barbosa inquired on the SAFER grant and was explained by Attorney Pringle as to the provisions and purpose of grant. Chief added that the Fire Chief's Association is collectively looking at this grant and working on consistent language for all departments wishing to apply.

Unfinished Business –

1) Budget Stabilization Fund

As decided at last month's meeting, Commissioner Barbosa and FD Baker discussed this item, and Commissioner Barbosa stated that FD Baker was scheduled to bring information to meeting; however, FD Baker was unable to attend. With him not here, the item will be held over until the next meeting, per Chairman Lees.

2) Key Strategic Issue 1.1 – Funding Uncertainty

Chief began by advising that 2.5 is current cap and it won't be long before we reach the cap if property values continue to fall. If the Board wishes to keep the level of service same, it will require additional revenue. If the District is looking to have the cap raised before the next budget, the election would have to be held prior to the end of May. Proper Referendum language would need to be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections by January 1. Attorney Pringle explained the notice requirements and fees. Lengthy discussion regarding ad valorem vs. fire fees, along with requirements, timing, and potential outcome occurred. Chairman Lees advised that before looking at election issues the Board must first determine which avenue, ad valorem or fire fees, it wishes to pursue. Following a brief discussion, it was determined the ad valorem cap referendum would be the ballot item. During cap discussion 3 mils was determined to be not be enough, while 3.5 mils seemed too high. Chairman Lees believes that 3.25 mils is a reasonable number.

Motion (4550) to direct Attorney Pringle to prepare notification and referendum verbiage raising the Ad Valorem cap to 3.25 mils for a Special Election to be held in May was made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Barbosa... during discussion Attorney Pringle stated that the Resolution and ballot question will be prepared for December meeting. Following discussion, motion passed.

New Business

1) Lieutenant Job Description

Motion (4551) to approve Lieutenant Job Description made by Commissioner Barbosa, seconded by Commissioner Brown... passed.

DVP Report – none

Public Comment – non agenda items – none

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Commissioner Comments

'Robert's rules of Order' publication can be provided by the District. Commissioner Brown would like a copy of the latest addition of booklet.

Chairman Lees suggests having folders attached to email rather than full pdf documents for the commission packets. This will be done for the December's packet.

Deletion of emails from laptops – Attorney Pringle strongly urged Commissioners not to delete anything from the laptop.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Barbosa

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Chief interjected that the 457 plan, election of officers, VEBA contribution, and architect handicap design issue will be brought up in December.

Chairman Lees stated there was motion and second for adjournment and asked for vote. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 7:07