



*Municipal Service District of Ponte Vedra Beach  
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**MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 10, 2021**

The Trustees of the Municipal Service District held their monthly meeting on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady Star of the Sea (OLSS) – Browning Center at 6:00 PM.

**TRUSTEES PRESENT**

Brad Wester – Chairman  
Al Hollon – Vice Chairman  
Gary Jurenovich - Treasurer  
John Cellucci  
Holly Kartsonis  
Mack McCuller - absent  
Kitty Switkes

Wayne Flowers – Attorney

Chairman Wester called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE, ORDER, CONDUCT AND CIVILITY**

Chairman Wester read the statement of public notice, order, conduct and civility.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board of Trustees meeting minutes from April 12<sup>th</sup> were discussed. A motion was made to approve the minutes, it was seconded and unanimously carried.

Chairman Wester reported that Trustee McCuller is absent tonight. Chairman Wester reported that we have a lot on the agenda and to please be brief in your reports unless it is something pertinent.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - CHAIRMAN WESTER  
BEACH ACCESS / BEACH RE-NOURISHMENT**

Chairman Wester reported that he handed out the beach access plan report from Olson and Associates which is a draft report. The three brought to your attention will be:

1. Parking on public property which is parking on public roadway.
2. The public purchase of private property for the use of increased beach access and parking
3. The bus, shuttle, and trolley services.

All these services are put forward to increase the funding from the Army Corp. Chairman Wester reported that he would like to have a vote tonight by the Board as seen fit to uphold or not our reaffirmation on the letter we wrote in 2019. This letter was a very proactive approach before this study came out. Chairman Wester reported that we are not against beach renourishment, and we are not against access to the beaches, and we have a track record of improving our beach access. Chairman Wester reported that he does not have an update on beach access or improvement to any beach access points.

Chairman Wester reported on the beach access plan prepared by olsen associates. The sole purpose of this reports is to do a preliminary study on beach access as it relates to public beach access to see if we are eligible and can meet the Corp criteria for funding of beach renourishment. It studies the number of beach access points and how the public can get to these beach access points. Chairman Wester reported that he sees a couple of deficiencies in the report. First and foremost, on page three, section two, nowhere in this report when talking about beach access points does it mention the MSD. The MSD are stewards of 75% of the beach access points mentioned in this report. This is a disservice to leave the MSD out of this report. Second on page eight, there was discussion of the three bullet points to increase public access to help qualify for public funding. Chairman Wester reported that this will change the character of Ponte Vedra Beach forever and therefore we need to take a position on this and reaffirm our original letter. Chairman Wester asked everyone to read this and to send him any questions and he will compile them to send to the County.

Chairman Wester gave an update on Phase 1 which is the FEMA sand replacement that goes from the Duval County line down to Guana. They do not have the full scope recognized however the rolling average is 8 cubic yards per linear foot and at this point they have two access points recognized to bring in the sand and they are 965 and 1141 Ponte Vedra Blvd. There is no start date currently. The future phases are recognized in the beach access plan report we just discussed. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that the statement he received from the property appraiser shows a decrease in home values.

Chairman Wester reported that the report is a draft report and reiterated again that we can all agree and correct me if I am wrong, but we are not against beach renourishment and not against public access. We have a long-standing track record with the County for improving beach access points in the name of beautification, ease of access to the beach and public safety. Chairman Wester read the letter that Treasurer Jurenovich sent in October 2019 to the Army Corp. and the County. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that we need to have a seat at every meeting the County has. Trustee Switkes reported that the FEMA sand is not going to fix the critically eroded areas, but she agrees with our statement in the 2019 letter. She asked if the Corp could come to one of our meetings. Chairman Wester reported that there will be many upcoming meetings and he agrees that we do need a seat at the table and that there are other ways to get the funding without changing the face of Ponte Vedra Beach.

Chairman Wester reported that he will draft a letter with reaffirmation our position on the 2019 letter, discussion of the three bullet points and that the MSD should be recognized as stewards of the beach access points. Trustee Switkes asked who would receive the letter. Chairman Wester reported the County Attorney, County Administrator, County Commissioners, and the Army Corp of Engineers. Vice Chairman Hollon made a motion to authorize the Chairman to draft a letter reaffirming our letter from 2019. Chairman Wester reported that in the letter he will state that we endorse beach renourishment and public beach access. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **TREASURER JURENOVICH - SHERIFF / NEWSLETTER**

Treasurer Jurenovich reported he e-mailed out the Treasurer's report and there is nothing out of the ordinary. Trustee Switkes asked if he could find out why the home values have decreased as she

thinks it could be that the beach front homeowners in the critically eroded areas got their taxes lowered. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report, it was seconded and unanimously carried.

Treasurer Jurenovich introduced Director Beaver, Captain Edenfield and everyone knows Deputy Tedder. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that this year we did a one-year addendum since Sheriff Shore was leaving. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that we want to partner with the Sheriff, but we must have some accountability. Chairman Wester asked Director Beaver to explain to the Trustees what it costs the Sheriff to hire deputies. Director Beaver said that in 2016 the starting pay was \$36,500 and today it is \$45,000. It costs the sheriff office about \$565,000 to have additional deputies in the MSD and we cannot continue to provide our service at the cost it is today. Chairman Wester reported that we need to have the Sheriff and we need to figure out how to renegotiate this contract. Trustee Kartsonis reported that what she has heard at prior meeting is that we are not seeing the deputies like we used to and noticed a change in the service we were getting. Director Beaver reported that you are getting the service that is in the contract and you should see a deputy on the Blvd. at least eight times during a shift. Vice Chairman Hollon reported that he is opposed to private security and believes the Sheriff is doing a good job and we need to maintain our relationship. Director Beaver reported that they are taking their command staff next week and knock-on doors in the County to see how satisfied or dissatisfied they are with the Sheriff's department. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that our contract is for five deputies and all cars should have MSD on it so that our residents can see this. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that he is willing to negotiate but would like some sort of accountability and asked if you are okay with me unexpectedly coming to your office twice a month and we pull up Smart Cop and see who is scheduled and patrolling and where they are. Director Beaver reported that is not a problem and they should be held accountable. Chairman Wester reported that we will address this at our next meeting and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Treasurer Jurenovich reported that he discussed the TRIM Statement regarding property values and at the next meeting we will start discussing the budget. He reported that the newsletter will be sent out in December and asked all Trustees to start submitting pictures.

#### **REPUBLIC – VICE CHAIRMAN HOLLON**

Vice Chairman Hollon reported that the yard debris pickup was a day behind, and we still have yard debris on vacant lots.

#### **CTTF / SIDEWALK - TRUSTEE CELLUCCI**

Trustee Cellucci reported that he received the CTF newsletter and distributed it to all Trustees. He reported that we have run into a problem getting American made flags and we might have to wait until July 4<sup>th</sup>. He reported that there is nothing new on sidewalks. Chairman Wester reported that the Club wants to be involved in the design and he is working with Greg Caldwell. Chairman Wester reported that we will discuss this later about the bed tax and sending a letter to the County. There was discussion about the sidewalk on the west side and the proximity to the golf course.

#### **BEACHES ENERGY / WEBSITE - TRUSTEE KARTSONIS**

Trustee Kartsonis reported she looked at the street lighting on Ponte Vedra Blvd., where the proposed sidewalk is to be installed, and there are lights on both sides of the Blvd. She reported that we could get rid of a couple if the Club agrees. She reported that she e-mailed Chairman Wester the proposal for the three additional lights on Ponte Vedra Blvd. by Sawgrass and it came in around \$10,000 similar to the last one and it is within the budget. Chairman Wester reported that the bid by Future Works is \$10,858.50 and made a recommendation to authorize Trustee Kartsonis to move forward. A motion was made to approve the work order, seconded, and unanimously carried. Trustee Kartsonis reported that the sea turtle letter was sent to Beaches Energy. She reported that she is working with the website to have a home for the CTF newsletter and added a video from Republic that she received from Trustee Switkes. Trustee Kartsonis mentioned that we have not e-

mail the CTF newsletter in the past and asked if we should. It was decided that the website would be sufficient.

### **ROAD AND BRIDGE / STREET SIGNS- TRUSTEE MCCULLER**

Trustee McCuller is absent.

### **JEA / LANDSCAPE - TRUSTEE SWITKES**

Trustee Switkes reported that she does not have anything for landscaping as everything looks good. She reported the JEA bill is good and received an update today regarding the JEA water line. As of today, they have approximately installed 1,700 linear feet of 12-inch water main and are averaging about 140 linear feet a day. By the end of the month, they will have the four new fire hydrants installed. Chairman Wester asked Trustee Switkes to continue updating the Board on the linear feet installation. Trustee Cellucci asked if we should update the A1A/Corona corner with landscaping. Trustee Switkes reported that she would like to remove the juniper, but some of the irrigation needs to be replaced. Trustee Switkes reported that she will report on this at next month's meeting. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that the monument sign needs painting and asked her to see if she could find someone to paint it for ongoing maintenance.

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT – ATTORNEY FLOWERS**

Attorney Flowers reminded the Board that we will be receiving the preliminary estimate of property values and at next meeting you need to start the budgeting process as you have to adopt a millage at the July meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS AND KEY DATES**

#### **TOURIST DEVELOPMENT PLAN/TAX (ORD. 2019-24) – CHAIRMAN WESTER**

Chairman Wester reported he sent to all Trustees a draft and the Tourist Development Council will hear this draft on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Wester reported that he will send to Council and the County Commissioners our thoughts as a Board before the meeting to leverage funding from the County. It will provide more money to Ponte Vedra Beach as they categorized new things the bed tax will go to. Chairman Wester has been told that St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach have been lobbying for their fair share of the bed tax. Chairman Wester asked if anyone has any questions regarding this. Trustee Switkes reported that she knows some about the bed tax and she believes that the only money received in Ponte Vedra Beach is going to the PGA Tour (\$250,000). Chairman Wester reported that the motions for the 2019 ordinance was to redraft the ordinance to levy it one cent and modify category 5 to include beach expenditures and to modify category 3 and 4. This is timely with the beach access plan we discussed earlier as the MSD has 75% of those beach access points that are in the plan. Chairman Wester reported that as a Board we should send something to the County Administration endorsing this ordinance as drafted, supporting the increase in the bed tax and ask for our proportionate share to fund things like new sidewalks, new public access infrastructure, and improve our existing beach access points. Some of the County Administration have asked us to vote on this and get back to them. Vice Chairman Hollon made a motion to authorize the Chairman to advise the County of our agreement for the tax increase and to request that our fair share of the tax be returned to us. The motion was seconded, and unanimously carried. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that he is off the Board next year and maybe should get on the Tourist Development. Trustee Switkes reported that there is no one from our area on that Board.

#### **PARKING UPDATE – CHAIRMAN WESTER**

Chairman Wester reported that it goes to the County Commissioners on June 1<sup>st</sup> and will represent the Board with a presentation. Chairman Wester reported that we should send out something to the people on the Blvd. regarding the new ordinance. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that we should do a door hanger since some people do not have mailboxes and there are renters.

#### **SHERIFF CONTRACT – TREASURER JURENOVICH**

Chairman Wester reported that this was discussed earlier.

**JACK POPE POSITION – TRUSTEE KARTSONIS**

Chairman Wester reported that he did ask Trustee Kartsonis to talk to the County about a position. Trustee Kartsonis reported that she spoke with Mike Roberson, and he asked her to send a formal letter quickly so that it will be in the budget discussion for next year. The letter needs to say that we are interested in a shared building review position. Chairman Wester reported that we have never voted as a Board on this, where some of the money for this position would come from the MSD and some from the County for a building review position in Ponte Vedra Beach mirroring what Jack Pope did. Trustee Kartsonis reported that we have money in the budget. Vice Chairman Hollon reported that it is important that we have someone up here to have a second eye. Trustee Kartsonis reported that she sent a letter out and it just needs the Chairman's signature. A motion was made to send a letter similar to what Trustee Kartsonis drafted to Mike Roberson. It was seconded and unanimously carried.

**DOUBLE YELLOW LINE – TRUSTEE KARTSONIS**

Will be discussed at next month's meeting due to time.

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Commissioners Meeting are May 18<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**NEXT MSD MEETING IS JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH – ROOM 3 IN THE BROWNING CENTER**

**ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn; it was seconded and unanimously carried.  
Submitted, Ann Jurenovich, MSD Secretary