



Municipal Service District of Ponte Vedra Beach
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MEETING MINUTES
MAY 9, 2022

The Trustees of the Municipal Service District held their monthly meeting on Monday, May 9th at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library at 6:00 PM.

TRUSTEES PRESENT

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

Wayne Flowers – Attorney

Chairman Hollon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. We will begin with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board of Trustees meeting minutes from April 11th, 2022, were discussed. A motion was made to approve the minutes, it was seconded and unanimously carried.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF – CAPTAIN WERLE

Chairman Hollon introduce Captain William Werle who attended last months meeting but is back to give us a presentation. Chairman Hollon reported so that everyone is clear on the role of the Sheriff he asked Captain Werle about their accreditation and what it means. Captain Werle reported that they are state and nationally accredited which is standard of best practices. Chairman Hollon asked what the length of time it takes for a new applicant to become a deputy. Captain Werle reported that a law enforcement officer has to become state certified, go to the academy and then go through the process of testing and then field training so it takes about a year and a half or two years. Chairman Hollon asked when you have a new deputy how much does the Sheriff's office put towards them for the first year. Captain Werle reported that the first year is the most expensive as you have cost for salary, vehicle, computer, armor, and guns which is tens of thousands of dollars more than a second-year deputy. You then have classroom and field training and all together it is about \$200,000 a year for a first-time deputy. Chairman Hollon reported that we have our extra duty deputies working 7am 10pm and do you think we need extra duty deputies working after midnight? Captain Werle reported that the number of deputies in your area which is the Delta Sector, there are always three working. Chairman Hollon reported that several residents have concerns about speeding in certain areas. Is there a way that we can get a motorcycle unit? Captain Werle reported that you can request any of

this that can be incorporated into the extra duty detail. Chairman Hollon asked for statistics from January – through the end of April and handed them out to the Trustees and asked Captain Werle to go through them. Captain Werle reported that all calls for services are noted as dispatched calls for service which could be a resident or a deputy. He reviewed the statistics. 865 total traffic stops, 158 citations and 612 warnings and this does not equal total traffic stops as there could be verbal warnings or multiple citations. Crashes were 94, most of these are on A1A as the northbound section is classified as MSD. Officer initiated calls for service 1,585. Chairman Hollon asked what that means. Captain Werle reported that this is when a deputy puts in a call for service and not a resident (example, he sees a suspicious vehicle or person). The next category is when a resident makes a call for service and that is called dispatch call for service and that number is 717. Routine patrol are the deputies following up on a location 159. There are other calls for service, but these are the ones that we captured. Chairman Hollon asked from what you have seen do you think it is necessary for us to have extra duty officers after midnight. Captain Werle reported that based on the stats, we have not seen any increase in the number of crimes. Chairman Hollon asked if any of the Trustees have any comments.

Vice Chairman Switkes reported that Micklers has been overflowing with cars due to the equipment being there for the FEMA berm project and, in the past, we have used PSA officers to control traffic there. Is that an option we can use instead of using our extra duty officers? Captain Werle reported that they have been having a hard time recruiting PSA officers and the ones they have are usually working at schools. PSA officers are an option and have discussed this with Commissioner Blocker and Deputy Tedder that with all the bushes, trees and curbs it might be more a sustainable effort to fix the parking lot. Deputy Tedder reported that he has been trying to get some PSA officers out there and after school is out and we are hoping to have two there during the weekend. Last weekend at Micklers we issued 36 citations and none were for St. Johns County residents. Vice Chairman Switkes reported that she has received calls about electric bikes and what is the rule for them on sidewalks. Captain Werle reported that the laws have not caught up with the different type of engines and pedal assist bikes. Vice Chairman Switkes reported that they are on the sidewalks and they are expecting the pedestrians to move out of their way. Captain Werle reported that he will follow up on this. Chairman Hollon reported that we are now having extra duty on Sunday from 9am to 3pm to enforce no parking on the Boulevard.

Trustee McCuller asked regarding the statistics are they based on us hiring the off-duty deputies? Captain Werle reported that the statistics given are a combination of regular and off duty deputies geographically located in the MSD. Trustee McCuller asked if there is any way you can break out the extra duty so that we can see if there is any value gained by hiring these officers? Captain Werle reported that he does not have an answer to that right now. Captain Werle reported that we did a comparative analysis of six months when you had a contract and six months with extra duty. Everything was about the same except the traffic stops were 882 during the contract and without the contract and extra duty you had 1,017.

Trustee Wester asked about CPTED which is Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. He reported that we improved some beach access with pavers and had some of the foliage cut back so there is a better sight line. Is there anything that we can do at Micklers. Captain Werle reported that the whole CPTED thing is new but well thought out landscaping is always good. Trustee Wester reported that we want to work with you for crime prevention and beautification in our community. Trustee McCuller reported that our Board has had discussion about having our own police department since losing the contract with the Sheriff. If we were to go that route, would we lose any service that we have now? Captain Werle reported it would be like the city of St. Augustine that if someone calls and wants a county deputy, we will respond but we do not patrol that area anymore. If we are called upon, we will respond. The Sheriff's office has the jail and we manage the 911 dispatch services for St. Johns County and the city of St. Augustine Beach and they pay a fee for that service.

Trustee Cellucci reported that we were told that the hourly rate for off duty is going up from \$40 to \$55 an hour and asked what the PSA rate. Captain Werle reported that the PSA rate is the same. Trustee Cellucci reported that in reviewing the extra duty invoices there have not been any parking tickets in the last two weeks and should we ask specifically for the officer on duty to do this? Captain Werle reported that you can ask for any customization when using off duty officers. The best bet is to have your extra duty officers understand the ordinance and enforce it.

Treasurer Jurenovich reported that when the MSD started in 1982, we had our own police department and then in 1990 we contracted with the Sheriff's office. Treasurer Jurenovich gave a handout and reviewed it. On page 1 this is our trim statement and property values in the MSD 2.39 billion dollars. Page 2 is a pie chart where 20% of St. Johns County ad valorem tax dollars goes to fund the Sheriff. Page 3 shows that the MSD sends \$16.29 million to the county every year which 20% of that goes to the Sheriff which is \$3.2 million dollars. Page 4 is the contract with the Sheriff and we signed the contract for this year and they did not renew. Page 5 our 2021 contract was for \$30 and our 2022 contract based on the numbers would have been \$40 an hour. The off-duty deputies we are now paying \$40 an hour and on May 15 it will increase to \$55 an hour. If we had a contract based on \$55 an hour that would be \$598,000 annually. Page 6 are some of the numbers on how much we have spent per month for off-duty and took the last three months and we are basically spending about \$10,000 a month. The unique situation we are in is that we have \$435,000 in the budget this year for the sheriff. In the MSD Charter, we cannot have more than \$200,000 in reserves and we have \$200,000 in reserves. If we do not spend the \$435,000 it will have to be returned back to the public. Right now, we have extra money in our budget and we can spend it on law enforcement or return it to the residents. This is the unique opportunity that we have to provide the protection and service we used to have in the MSD. If we continue with the Sheriff for the remainder of the year, we will have about \$345,000 that we need to return. He explained the hours that the contract provided and the off duty provide and it is 70% less hours. Page 7 is my proposal to start our own police department and provide the safety to our residents. Buy cars, hire a chief and two other deputies along with equipment and do an interlocal agreement with the Sheriff for services. My suggestion is that with the \$340,000 we have left over is to spend \$163,000 to start our own police department and return \$176,000 to our residents. Page 8 at the end of this fiscal year, we hire a chief of police and this can be done within a week from the people I have spoken with and have spoken with some pretty good candidates. The chief would get paid \$110,000 and is an exempt employee, social security and workers comp, full family health care and 401K would be paid which total around \$145,000. We would hire two deputies at \$40 an hour and these would be non-exempt employee, social security and worker comp, full family health care and 401K which comes to around \$200,000. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that the two officers would work 4am to 2am and having an officer working on the weekends is a must. It is the visual of someone out there driving around all the time like we used to have. My suggestion is having a deputy #1 working from 4pm – 2am Sunday through Wednesday and a deputy working from #2 working 4pm – 2am Thursday – Saturday. Week number two they would rotate. This would give us about 125 hours of coverage per week which is double what we are getting now. Liability insurance, fuel projected cost is \$385,000. Page 9 we can start our own police department for \$385,000. Furthermore in order to provide protection this board needs to look down the road and in 2023 I would hire an additional deputy. We have not had a working office in years and files have been shuffled for those years. My suggestion is that the MSD purchase a one-bedroom condo at The Colony and it could be and MSD office and the headquarters for our police department. We can own an asset which is three or four years down the road that the board should think about. Finally, from 1982 – 1990 when we had our own police department, we received fines and forfeitures for tickets written and this money could be used for training of the deputies. There are other savings on insurance cost and savings if you hire a retired officer who is on Medicare but it is about having an officer driving around the MSD. The board has always talked about accountability and in the past four months there have been 31 different deputies working. There is not any neighborhood policing and this is the first time we have had any statistics but there is a better way to provide better service to our residents. Treasurer Jurenovich asked the board to review his proposal.

Chairman Hollon reported that he does not think some of the numbers are correct and Treasurer Jurenovich reported that they are spot on. Chairman Hollon reported that you have \$598,000 and right now if we went 365 days a year from 7am to midnight that is 17 hours which is 6,205 hours @ \$55 an hour that is \$341,275. Right now, we do not have any exposure for expenses as we don't have to pay for social security, health insurance or liability insurance. Chairman Hollon reported that these deputies have done everything we have asked them to do and we have been told twice that we should not pay extra duty after midnight. We have had them working on Saturday and just started having them on Sunday during the summer months. Chairman Hollon reported that we have other things to do tonight and he does not think the numbers are a fair comparison. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that it is obvious where you are coming from and the numbers presented are spot on. Since I sign the checks, we are getting 62 hours a week and for less money you can get deputies working for the board and who do not leave the MSD. Chairman Hollon reported that you are missing that we have a nationally accredited Sheriff's department working for us and have not heard one complaint from anyone about these deputies. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that the people who will take these positions are 99% going to be retired St. Johns County Deputies and you will get quality employees. The MSD is a premier community and we should keep it that way.

SAN JUAN SIDEWALK FEASIBILITY STUDY – KIMLEY-HORN

Chairman Hollon introduced Mr. Edwin Santos and Nicolas Perez from Kimley-Horn who are filling in for Wendy Krehbiel. Chairman Hollon reported that this is the initial draft and Mr. Santos will review it and answer any questions from the Board and we will not have any questions from the public at this time until we get the final report. Once we get the final report, we will have another meeting that will be opened up to the public. Mr. Santos reported on the study and they reviewed crash history which did not involve any pedestrian or bicyclist and most were with park vehicles. We did a field inventory walking on foot and documenting the existing conditions, which side of the road the sidewalk should be constructed, utilities, cross walks and conflicts. Some of the conflict documented were personal landscaping extending into the right of way or up to the asphalt where some of that would have to be removed for construction of a sidewalk. We noticed two locations that had a canal and if a sidewalk was to be constructed there would have to be a handrail installed. South of Ponte Vedra Boulevard there are mature trees. There are a couple of options, you can maneuver the sidewalk around the trees or end the sidewalk where the mature trees begin. We believe that removing the trees would take away for the aesthetic feel of the road and also increase the cost of the project. Our finding is that the sidewalk should be installed on the west side of the road as this will lead to the fewest conflicts. We recommend crosswalks be installed at the western legs at Pablo Road, and Ponte Vedra Circle. The cost estimate is a preliminary estimate and we came up with \$500,000. We confirmed with FDOT on the estimate and their two-mile cost estimate is what we used for comparison. It was opened up to the board for questions.

Trustee McCuller asked if they broke out any segments of the sidewalk or if it was just one sidewalk from Solana Road to the Boulevard. Mr. Santos reported that no they did not break out any segments. Trustee McCuller asked if he knew what the cost per foot was. Mr. Santos reported that they used the FDOT and it is based on per mile and is \$138,000 and that is just for material and construction. You would have to add on the survey and design.

Trustee Wester reported that this does not include any support from the county but we can provide them with this study. My goal and my pledge is within the next two months is to organize a meeting with the residents and have county staff there along with Commissioner Blocker because their participation will be needed for design and utilities and they should be able to help us offset some of the costs.

Trustee Switkes asked if we should pave the road first or put the sidewalk in first as that road needs to be paved. Trustee Wester reported that the county said that they are not going to widen the road so they will likely keep the edge of payments where it is now and the sidewalk will be 2-3 feet from

edge of pavement. Now we have something credible for licensed professionals.

Trustee Kartsonis asked if you considered moving mailboxes and some of the paver driveways in your cost estimate? Mr. Santos reported that these are intrusions that were included in the cost estimate. Trustee Kartsonis asked if they considered the cost of irrigation. Mr. Santos said that irrigation should not be impacted as the sidewalk is only four inches deep. Treasurer Jurenovich reported that it is the right of way and the sprinklers should not be in the right of way and it is the homeowner's responsibility. Trustee Kartsonis asked if there was any traffic calming study done. Mr. Santos reported that his understanding was that the county is doing the traffic calming study. Trustee Kartsonis reported that the county said there were not enough accidents to do the study. Trustee Wester reported that the county is going to do this and wait for the Boulevard to get the final paving done and albeit, we need traffic calming and a sidewalk and they are two separate issues. Trustee McCuller asked if the sidewalk will go up to the driveway or will the driveway be torn up? Mr. Santos reported that per the ADA standards, it should be a continuous walking surface and some of them are within the slope but this is something that you will need to discuss with the design team.

Trustee McCuller reported that he heard that it is an option to stop the sidewalk at the north end of San Juan Drive due to the trees or is there a method of going through the trees with a limited sidewalk configuration. Mr. Santos reported that both of those would be the options. Trustee McCuller asked if you can adjust the width of the sidewalk in that area? Mr. Santos reported that he thinks you can reduce a sidewalk down to 32 inches, but only for two feet.

Treasurer Jurenovich reported that the estimate is pretty low if compared to the sidewalk we did on the Boulevard where there were not many houses. Mr. Santos reported that the cost estimate they used was using FDOT standard unit prices. Treasurer Jurenovich reported if we can get the county to design this for us would be a cost savings.

Chairman Hollon asked if there was anything else Kimley-Horn needs from the board before they can give us a final report. Mr. Santos reported only if there are any specific issues that were not addressed in the initial report. Chairman Hollon asked if a resident has some questions, can we submit them to you? Mr. Santos reported that this would come within the public outreach after the final report has been delivered. Trustee Kartsonis asked about the double yellow lines and would suggest not putting a double yellow line on San Juan. Chairman Hollon reported that we look forward to a final report and you can address that to Trustee Wester.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jim Shields - 3800 Sandy Shores, Jacksonville – Mr. Shields is here to ask permission from the board to have the Big Bang race on June 25th. The race begins at 8:00am and we will have PSA's there at 7:30am. The board does not have a problem with the race.

Sean Norton – 44 Solana Road – Mr. Norton reported that he personally had a speed assessment done from March 17th – March 22nd. Rather than having the device put down by the church it was placed by my house. There were 25,590 vehicles and 5,188 were enforceable violations. The average speed was 28mph. The fastest was 61 mph. Three or four times a day the traffic is backed up on Solana due to the 15 second cycle of the light. If they could do something with the timer of the light, we could get into the 85th percentile. Mr. Norton understands that the cycling of the light is FDOT, but if the board could get together with them and have the cycle be 30 seconds, we would not have people seeing the green light on Solana and increasing their speed in hopes to make the light. Mr. Norton asked if the citations that were given do we have a breakdown of what roads these citations were given. Mr. Werle reported that the information should be on the invoice. Chairman Hollon reported that the officer prepares the invoice and give us citations, traffic stops, etc. Mr. Norton asked can we find out how many tickets were given and what road were they given out on. Mr. Norton asked for motorcycle units months ago and there has not been any. Mr. Norton asked if there is anything that can be done with the 15 second cycle. Chairman Hollon reported that we can ask

FDOT. Trustee Kartsonis asked who is going to contact them about the light. Chairman Hollon reported that he will contact someone.

TRUSTEE REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - CHAIRMAN HOLLON **REPUBLIC / SHERIFF PATROLS AND PAYMENTS**

Chairman Hollon reported that the library told Treasurer Jurenovich that they want the lights off at 7:45pm. Chairman Hollon suggested that we start the meeting at 5:30pm. A motion was made to start the meetings at 5:30pm, it was seconded and unanimously carried. Chairman Hollon reported that we discussed the off-duty patrols and he is continuing to work with Republic regarding returning cans up the driveways.

TREASURER JURENOVICH

Treasurer Jurenovich reported he e-mailed out the financials and there is nothing new to report. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report, it was seconded and unanimously carried. The only small comment is we need a new Treasurer in five months.

JEA / LANDSCAPE – VICE CHAIRMAN SWITKES

Vice Chairman Switkes reported that JEA is still hooking up people to the water line. The JEA water bill is good, except we had some extra charges for backflow preventors which we already had those done and will take care of that. She reported that the landscaping is under control. Trustee Kartsonis asked about the fire hydrant on Rutile and Solana as it is very close to the road. Vice Chairman Switkes reported that they are closer to the road. Vice Chairman Switkes reported that she will ask and report back at next meeting.

CTTF / NEWSLETTER / FLAGS - TRUSTEE CELLUCCI

Trustee Cellucci reported that he attended the CTTF meeting this afternoon and they did a review and most of the discussion was the Palm Valley sidewalk and doing it in segments. Regarding the newsletter he reported that he needs to introduce himself to the publisher. The flags for Memorial Day will go up on the 27th.

BEACHES ENERGY / WEBSITE - TRUSTEE KARTSONIS

Trustee Kartsonis reported nothing new for the website. The sea turtle lights are out as of May 1st and Beaches Energy are working on the additional lights at Sawgrass and the additional streetlight at 44 Solana Road. They are also adding some additional lights in the 100 block of the Boulevard.

ROAD AND BRIDGE / STREET SIGNS- TRUSTEE MCCULLER

Trustee McCuller reported that he has nothing new to report except his item in New Business.

BEACH AND SIDEWALK– TRUSTEE WESTER

Trustee Wester reported that the beach access at San Juan and the Boulevard is now county owned. He reported that they made some improvements but they were not ADA approved and will work with the residents on Ponte Vedra Circle who want to contribute to upgrading the access and this will probably be the next paver paved beach access walkway.

Justin our landscaper, First Coast Land Care, did an outstanding job with the garbage collection and we had zero complaints. We got them under contract and they were out there the next day and continued to pick it up twice a week. The county now has taken this over and were extremely appreciative that we hired our own to get the garbage cleaned up. This was a great partnership and if we need them in the future, we should use them. Chairman Hollon reported that the county sent an e-mail thanking us for having the garbage picked up.

Trustee McCuller reported that you are talking about the Circle and I live on the Circle and several of my neighbors have discussed about not improving the access as it will attract residents from

Duval County so you might want to take a poll of the residents. Chairman Wester reported that he understands and it is an access that needs to have a sight line to see the access and pavers do help. If this was one of the county accesses in the past, we would have already improved this access as it is highly used.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – ATTORNEY FLOWERS

Attorney Flowers reported that he has communicated with the county attorney regarding the lighting and noise and their attorney is new and he is in the process of reviewing what he has. He also reminded the board that we need to have a serious discussion about the budget because in July we need to adopt a tentative millage rate.

Trustee Cellucci asked if we should have a public workshop regarding having our own police department. Chairman Hollon reported that we do not need a public workshop and will discuss at next months meeting. Trustee Wester reported that we need at least some time to review the numbers that Treasurer Jurenovich provided as he did a lot of work on this and at the next meeting decide if we need to have a workshop.

ADJOURN

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