



***Municipal Service District of Ponte Vedra Beach***  
***P.O. Box 1323 Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32004-1323***  
***(904) 285-2221 www.pvmsd.org***

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **JULY 8, 2024**

The Trustees of the Municipal Service District held their monthly meeting on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at Ponte Vedra Branch Library at 5:30 PM.

#### **TRUSTEES PRESENT**

Al Hollon – Chairman  
Kitty Switkes – Vice Chairman  
Rick Brown – Treasurer  
Charles Callaghan - absent  
John Cellucci  
Brad Wester - absent  
Michael White

Wayne Flowers – Attorney

Chairman Hollon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. We will begin with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board of Trustees regular meeting minutes from June 10<sup>th</sup> were discussed. A motion was made to approve the minutes, they were seconded and unanimously carried.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jim Priester – Mr. Priester reported that he is running for Sheriff, and he is a 27-year veteran. Recently retired to run for Sheriff and is a fourth-generation cop and not a politician. He gave his credentials and reported that the department needs leadership. He reported that he is in favor of getting the law enforcement contract back to the MSD as he thinks this is a valuable relationship. He reported that he will spend your tax dollars on things that are needed. Trustee Cellucci asked him if he was aware that the contract had five deputies, and he reported yes. Vice Chairman Switkes asked if we are losing deputies to other counties. Mr. Priester reported absolutely as JSO is switching to a new retirement service which will boost their starting salary to seventy thousand and Sheriff Hardwick has our starting salary at fifty-six thousand. Vice Chairman Switkes asked since the budget has gone up \$38 million where is the money going. He reported that Sheriff Hardwick went over budget \$688,000 to remodel an office for himself. Chairman Hollon thanked him for coming.

#### **RECOGNITION OF PRIOR MSD TRUSTEES**

Chairman Hollon recognized Gary Jurenovich as a former trustee being on the board for 16 years as Chairman and Treasurer.

## **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - CHAIRMAN HOLLON**

#### **REPUBLIC / SHERIFF PATROLS AND PAYMENTS**

Chairman Hollon reported that last month there were 77 citations and 211 warnings with most being traffic. Chairman Hollon reported that the contract with Republic expires at the end of the month and FCC starts August 1<sup>st</sup>. Greg Caldwell from St. Johns County is here tonight as the Director of the contract along with Scott Floyd from FCC. Under Republic we paid \$13.77 per household for two days side door pickup. The old contract has that for special services it will be based to not exceed 80%. Under the new contract it asks for supplemental service and if the customer and the contractor cannot agree upon a reasonable rate they can request Mr. Caldwell to decide on the rate or the customer can get a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. Once the contract with the county was signed in December, Chairman Hollon reported he reached out on February 7<sup>th</sup> and was told by FCC they were waiting on the routes. On June 19<sup>th</sup> Chairman Hollon was given the price of \$35.82. They have since reduced it to \$28.61 for two-day side door pickup of household trash. Under the current new contract FCC bid they will be paid \$21.22 for pickup of one day service curb side including household trash, yard waste and recycle. To get a reasonable rate for the MSD falls upon Mr. Caldwell to set a reasonable amount. Chairman Hollon reported that he is available at any time for further discussion. Trustee Cellucci reported that we get the first day for free. Chairman Hollon reported that the first day we pay from the curb to the side door so what we are paying for first day is side door and second day curb side and side door. Chairman Hollon ask Mr. Caldwell if he has anything he would like to add. Mr. Caldwell reported that the county did not go out to renew the contract but the original contract with Republic expires at the end of July and we have had this contract since 2003. This is a 21-year contract, and we met with FCC and 13 other vendors to get the best price for our residents. We had six options and Republic put in for one of the six and FCC put in for all six options. FCC was the second lowest and we went from \$15 to \$21.22. The \$28.61 is broken down (using round numbers) to \$17 for second day pickup and the \$11 is for the side door. Mr. Caldwell reported that he is going to work on trying to get this number down. Chairman Hollon reported that within the contract it states that 75% of the equipment must be brand new, you have a labor cost, cost of profit and then the CPI. Chairman Hollon reported that he does not know why we must pay a Ponte Vedra premium when the others are paying \$8.97 for curbside collection of household trash. Mr. Caldwell stated that we have a truck in the MSD five days a week. Chairman Hollon reported that there are at least 2 or 3 hundred homes that do not use side door, and we would like to get a refund on those homes that are only using curbside. Mr. Floyd reported that most people will not notice any difference in their pickup, and we retained 46 employees from Republic. Chairman Hollon reported that he was shocked to be quoted \$35 when we were paying \$13. Mr. Caldwell reports he understands, and we are meeting at 2pm with FCC and you are more than welcome to come at 3pm and we will inform you of what we discussed. Vice Chairman Switkes asked Mr. Floyd about yard trash and is there a special way you want yard trash put out, like bagging debris, stacking of palm fronds, etc. Chairman Hollon reported that FCC will use the same guidelines that we have with Republic. Vice Chairman Switkes asked how many claw trucks do you have. Mr. Floyd reported that we have one but have contracts with multiple vendors.

Scott Pearson – 180 San Juan Drive – Mr. Pearson asked where the funds are coming from for this increase. Mr. Caldwell reported that the increase is from \$15.61 to \$21.22 countywide. Mr. Pearson asked about the \$21 and asked what we are getting. Chairman Hollon reported curbside one day, recycle and yard waste. The \$13 went to \$28 for the second day and side door.

Chairman Hollon thanked Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Floyd for attending the meeting and he reported that he will see them Wednesday at 1:30pm. Vice Chairman Switkes reported that she and Phillip Green are the only ones using side door in her neighborhood and is all for an audit. Trustee White reported that to do that we have to have someone ride in the truck and then we knock off a couple

hundred dollars. Chairman Hollon reported there are some homes who are not configured for side door. Chairman Hollon reported that he has been in contact with another vendor to shadow Republic and come back to me with a cost and we do have the ability to opt out of the contract. Trustee White reported that the cost next year is going to be more after they figure out what they bid on and the cost of new equipment. Chairman Hollon reported that he will get the information from the vendor who is shadowing Republic on Friday, and we will have to have an emergency meeting. Attorney Flowers reported that we are going to have to have an emergency meeting to decide what we are going to do, and if we switch to another vendor as we will have to go through a procurement process before the end of the month. Trustee White asked if we have an agreement with FCC. Chairman Hollon reported not yet. Vice Chairman Switkes asked if you get an outside vendor will this be for only one day. Chairman Hollon reported that is to be determined.

#### **JEA / LANDSCAPE – VICE CHAIRMAN SWITKES**

Vice Chairman Switkes reported that for landscaping we had the photocell replaced for the light at Corona and A1A. Had all the palm trees trimmed professionally at Pablo, Solana, Le Master and Overlook. Received a request to have the palms trimmed at Merle's median and will schedule this for next month. At Pablo Court we upgraded some of the irrigation and replaced a battery at the putting green. She reported that we went to a third day for irrigation but if it starts raining we will go back to two days a week. She reported that she has not planted anything new due to the heat. Regarding JEA we had a high-water bill due to Waterbridge. Spoke with them today and if they are not going to monitor it that she will. Have not received anything on the repainting of the fire hydrants.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT / STREET SIGNS– TREASURER BROWN**

Treasurer Brown reported that the beginning balance in the Prime money market was \$1.201 million with transfers out of \$48,000 for expenses and two deposits from the county for \$37,175 and interest earned \$5,321 leaving an ending balance of \$1,195 million. The beginning balance in the First Horizon checking account was \$35,286 and the ending balance was \$30,300. There were no extraordinary items this month. There was no activity on the street signs. Chairman Hollon asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried. Chairman Hollon reported that he will follow up with the Sheriff's Department to get the report from FHP for the street sign that was hit.

#### **BEACHES ENERGY / WEBSITE – TRUSTEE CALLAGHAN**

Trustee Callaghan is absent tonight.

#### **NEWSLETTER / FLAGS / INSURANCE - TRUSTEE CELLUCCI**

Trustee Cellucci reported that he spoke with the insurance agent and to expect an increase of 8 to 12 percent increase for the budget. The flags came down today and had to replace a bunch of brackets that broke and have four months till Veterans Day. The flag at Corona and A1A is 5x8. Regarding the newsletter we contacted a lady about social media, and it came to about \$1,000 a month. Went to Crystal and asked her what she could do. The hosting fee is \$150 for maintenance and sending out periodic newsletter for social media \$3,000 a year and she would do it from July to the end of the year for \$1,500. She will create social media for and will guarantee a 24-to-48-hour turnover and will continue to do the website and get more people by e-mail. The additional cost comes down to social media. Treasurer Brown asked if he had talked to Trustee Callaghan as he increased the budget to \$5,000 for next year. Trustee Cellucci reported that the total number for her next year would be \$4,450. Trustee Cellucci will bring it up at the next meeting and will continue to do the newsletter. Attorney Flowers reported that it would be nice to get a scope of work for the Board to review.

#### **BEACH AND SIDEWALK– TRUSTEE WESTER**

Trustee Wester is absent tonight. Vice Chairman Switkes asked if there are any updates on the sidewalk. Chairman Hollon reported that we are getting push back on the sidewalk and we are not

going to get anything done prior to the elections.

### **TRUSTEE WHITE – CTTF / ROAD AND BRIDGE**

Trustee White discussed doing a feasibility study on Solana and San Juan to study the drainage to get it done before any final design commenced on the sidewalk on San Juan. The price received was in hopes to be added the county cost and this might be breaking the procurement code. He reported that he called the procurement manager to get an answer, so we know how to proceed. Attorney Flowers reported that he had called them too and has not received an answer either. Chairman Hollon reported that we should do the drainage with or without the sidewalk as we have money in the budget. Trustee White reported that the best we could get is that the county tells us that we are not breaking any procedures. Eisman & Russo are moving forward with the next stages and have completed the feasibility study on Ponte Vedra Blvd. and are reaching out to the residents where there are problems. There are a few locations where they would like to create a new outfall, and this will begin in the coming weeks.

Trustee White reported on the water quality test and met with two professors at UNF, and they were very interested in being a part or participating in the water quality of the lagoon system. Chairman Hollon asked if we need the states permission to test the water. Trustee White reported that we will have the test results back by the next meeting. Chairman Hollon reported that there are residents who have drains that are in their yard draining to the lagoon and the county cannot use public funds on private property. Trustee White reported that he has a list of three streets Le Master, San Juan and Morning Side. He discussed the issues and there is a drainage easement on some of those plats and the county is not acknowledging them. We need to get a title search done on these. The Le Master and Morning Side has had a drainage ditch on the east side of the Morning Side property since 1944. We need to clarify if there is any existing easement at the rear lots of these Morning Side properties. On San Juan the plat is a 1937 plat that gives an easement address at 221 and 223 which was adopted as a developer easement. The county has the right to run water through those pipes. Trustee White thinks we should do a title search on those properties. There was discussion about the easements on Le Master and is a 10-foot easement that the property owners own. There is a private easement north of Denis' house which is what is causing his property to collapse. Chairman Hollon reported that the county has a list of all the drains that are going into the lagoon both public and private and run titles on all of them. Trustee White reported that he does not want to waste time on private drains.

### **ATTORNEY REPORT – ATTORNEY FLOWERS**

Attorney Flowers reported that he has nothing new to report.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **JACK POPE POSITION – CHAIRMAN HOLLON**

Chairman Hollon reported that he met with Joy Andrews July 1<sup>st</sup> and has been trying for years to get this position and asked why we can supplement the salary of a county employee. She asked do you want growth to review the plans or inspections. Chairman Hollon reported inspection as we want someone on-site.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2024 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Chairman Hollon reported that we need to set a millage tonight. He reported that we are up in the air about the cost of sanitation. Attorney Flowers reported that we set a tentative millage tonight and the county sends out to all property owners the tentative millage and the dates of all our budget meetings. You can reduce the millage whatever you noticed but you cannot raise. There will be another advertisement announcing the final budget hearing and the rate. Chairman Hollon reported that since we do not have a number for the sanitation contract that we set the tentative millage at .2464 which is the millage now. Treasurer Brown reported that the reserves need to be 25% of the expense budget and the highest that we should entertain would be the rollback rate at .2225. Treasurer Brown reported that the largest number we have in there is for the sidewalk and we do not

know if this will be done. Vice Chairman Switkes reported that she is fine to keep it at the rollback rate and likes what Treasurer Brown says but would like to reduce it. A motion was made to set the millage rate at .2464, it was seconded and passed with a vote of 4-1 with Treasurer Brown opposed. Attorney Flowers reported that he would like to set the final budget hearing tonight. There was discussion about setting it for Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Secretary Jurenovich confirmed Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> in the small conference room at 5:30pm with the max capacity of 15 people.

**KEY DATES**

County Commissioners Meetings – July 16<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup>

Next MSD meeting will be August 12<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Browning Center Room 3 at 5:30pm

**ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn; it was seconded and unanimously carried.

Submitted, Ann Jurenovich, MSD Secretary