



Tallahassee Fire Protection District Minutes of July 3, 2017 – Special Meeting of the Board of Directors To discuss Potential Mill Levy

Mike Meyrick, President, called the Meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. on Jul 3, 2017.

Directors present: Mike Meyrick, Donna Toeroek, David Matassoni and Tim Benton

Directors absent: Greg Cook (excused - deployed)

Other Members present: Jennifer Walsh

Firefighters/Public present: Frank Martinez (public)

Other Members not present: Gordon Grosslight (deployed)

Tallahassee Fire Protection District (TFPD) is identified in these minutes as “District”

Tallahassee Volunteer Fire Protection, Inc. is identified in these minutes as “TVFP”

Purpose of Special Meeting: Discussion of a sustainable and dependable income to maintain services the District provides today. A potential Mill Levy amount that is sufficient enough to carry the District forward for the next 3-5 years without having to go back to the public for an increase. And how does the District communicate this to the community?

Discussion Items:

- How is a Mill Levy initiated?
 - Law requires a public vote during a formal election.
- What is the annual cost to the District to “keep the lights on” at the Main Station and the sub-stations and ensure basic maintenance of the vehicles/stations, insurance, etc.?
 - Answer is approximately \$7,500 per month = \$90,000 per year
- Income from Deployments and Grants cannot be considered as income because they are not a dependable and steady source of income.
- What is the right number of “Mills” to request the taxpayers to vote on in the November 2017 election? Other similar Fire Districts are in the 9 Mill range and taking into account the annual expenses of the Tallahassee District, 10 Mills would be an acceptable level.
 - The Board estimates 10 Mills will bring in approximately \$108,000 in 2018
- Communication to the Public:
 - Open House on 22 Jul 2017 would be the District’s first opportunity to speak to the public
 - The Board agrees that a great deal of communication will need to take place with the public to help them understand why a sustainable and stable income is necessary to keep the District up and running.
 - More discussion will be forthcoming in the months ahead on ways to best communicate with the community.
- REACH Air Ambulance Services: Board discussed the potential of being able to pay for this service for the entire District in the event that the Mill Levy is passed. Otherwise, the District couldn’t afford to pay for this service.
- Ballot Verbiage: A draft was provided by District attorneys Collins, Cockrel, & Cole. It includes a waiver to the TABOR rule which would limit the amount the District could receive from the combined income of Mill Levy, deployments and grants. The additional funds gained through deployments and grants would enable the District to potentially improve/expand/update equipment and services into the future.
- Issue Committee: Item is not a Board matter, however, as citizens of this District the topic was brought up in the course of the discussion. A person to head this Committee is needed.

Action Items:

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) / Talking Points: are needed for everyone to be on the same page and to be able to effectively communicate the District goals with one voice to our community. (Lead: Mike Meyrick/Dave Matassoni)
- REACH Air Ambulance Services Contract: Still waiting on a final quote (expect by the end of July) from them before a decision can be made on whether or not it’s a viable option to propose to the community in our communication for the Mill Levy. (Lead: Mike Meyrick)
- Approach the County Commissioner / Chamber to get involved in this Initiative. Ask if able to support our Open House event. (Lead: Frank Martinez and Mike Meyrick)
- Pro-Statement for Election: Item is not a Board matter, however, as citizens of this District the topic was brought up in the course of the discussion. There is already a good draft, it just needs tweaking. (Lead: Dave Matassoni/Mike Meyrick)

Public Input/Questions:

- Does the District have to pay for the Election?
 - Board response: Yes, approximate cost of past District election was \$800
- Should the District ask for 12 Mills to plan for future sustainability?
 - Board response: Board believes that 10 Mills is sufficient at this time.
- Discussion on the District's assistance to other communities was asked about?
 - Board response: There are 2 trucks available for deployments and the District gets paid by the Federal Government when the trucks deploy to Federal fires. It is not a mandatory requirement that the Tallahassee District firefighters/equipment deploy; however, the District is paid for the trucks that deploy and the firefighters also get paid, so this is welcome additional income. The firefighters also receive invaluable real-life firefighting training on these deployments.

Adjournment: Motion by Mike Meyrick to adjourn. Seconded by Tim Benton. Meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer L. Walsh, Secretary.