

**APTA – Alligator Point Taxpayers Association
Minutes of Board Meeting – September 1, 2007**

President Ken Osborne called the meeting to order at 10:20 am. He stated that the August Treasurer's report and the August minutes would be postponed until our next meeting in October at which time, both August and September Treasurer's report and minutes would be submitted.

Beach Renourishment: Dick Waters

Dick had nothing new to report. They are still trying to work to get the cost down. There was general discussion of both the scope of the project and the cost of the project. There can be movement in the cost based on several factors including the cost of the sand, inclusion of the "gap" area, change in number of parcels in the project and county participation. The commissioners have voted to do the TIF which can begin to reduce the cost in a couple of years. They have not set the percentage which will be allocated to the project which could be anywhere from 5% to 95%. There are 867 parcels in all of the different zones in total and Hidden Harbor 1 consisting of 31 parcels was not included. After repeated efforts, we were able to get these parcels included in an ordinance which will include them in the project. However, due to legalities, they will not be included in the assessment in the first year but will be included in the subsequent years of the project. This will also reduce the amount charged to all other participants.

We are on record since the first day of consideration of this project as appealing to the commission for county participation, we have done so at each and every discussion and we will continue to do so.

On behalf of the entire board, President Osborne expressed appreciation and congratulations to Ann Maruszak for the Beach Renourishment Matrix on the web site.

He also stated that some of the things being circulated are not just things against the beach renourishment but the very viability of APTA and its representation of the community are being attacked.

Communications: Ann Maruszak

She is staying very busy working on the matrix, the web site and emails. Ken stated that he had gotten objections to the emails sent to APTA Web being forwarded to him and the other board members. He will defer further discussion and response to the objections until the October meeting.

Public Safety: John Murphy

We still need new members for the volunteer fire department. Our ability to fight a fire is being impacted. Anything the APTA members can do to actively try to get volunteers would be appreciated.

There was no report on the Planning and Zoning or on the Board of Adjustment. There was a call for people willing to serve on some of our committees.

President Osborne then gave his report on the sales tax and the hospital. In the county budget, there is supposedly \$1 - 1.2 million for the hospital and health care. But according to some sources, it is actually \$1.9 million. One half percent in sales tax will raise about \$1 million – they can go up to one percent. The hospital wants ½ percent for the supplement to provide the ambulance and the other ½ percent for infrastructure. The hospital board said that they will take that extra ½ percent and build a debt-free 6000 sqft urgent care facility in Carrabelle with sales tax money at a cost of \$960,000. They also propose to build a 45,000 sqft hospital on the side of Weems so they can keep this “critical access certification” and they say they can build and equip this for \$20 million dollars. They are presently receiving ad valorem tax and there is nothing that will stop them from continuing to get the ad valorem as well as the sales tax. There is a chance that the hospital board and the city administrator will be here at our October meeting to give a presentation. Of the \$4.6 million that went into the hospital last year, \$1 million of that was allocated to Alligator Point from the highway funds from the gas tax. They gave it to us right at the end of Dennis and they took it from us about Feb/March of the next year. Sixteen people from Alligator Point used the hospital in 2006 and four people have used it to date in 2007.

Motion made to adjourn by Ben Houston, second by Camilla Godfrey, motion passed. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Camilla Godfrey, Secretary.