

Alligator Point Taxpayers Association

Board of Directors Meeting

The August meeting of the Alligator Pt Taxpayers Association Board of Directors was called to order by Secretary John Murphy at 9:00 am on Saturday, August 14, 2010, at Mission by the Sea Church on Alligator Drive.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Jim McCloy, seconded by Allan Feifer to accept the minutes of the July 10th Board of Directors meetings, adopted without objection.

Approval of Treasurer Report:

Motion by Allan Feifer, seconded by Jim McCloy to accept Treasurers report adopted without objection. Current balance is \$37,849.

Committee Reports:

Membership – no report

Communication – no report

Beach Erosion – no report

Development – Allan Feifer brought up the issue of commercial signs in residential areas. A similar situation on St George Island was brought before Planning & Zoning about a year ago, but because of the lack of clear direction in county ordinances regarding the issue, P&Z chose not to address. There seemed to be little interest in pursuing the sign situation at Alligator Pt, so the discussion was tabled.

Feifer also discussed recent testing by Bald Pt State Park at the site of a former cattle dipping vat. Because arsenic was used in the process, the state conducts periodic tests to assure there has been no contamination outside the immediate area.

Beautification – Barbara Withers mentioned the unsightliness of the fill dirt piles along Alligator Drive. Hopefully the situation will improve upon completion of local road projects.

President Sam Rogers arrived at 9:15 am and assumed the role of chair.

Commissioner Cheryl Sanders reported the result of recent budget workshops was an increase in the millage rate to 4.7 mils. County officers cut their operating budgets but it wasn't enough to make up for the shortfall in revenue. Allan Feifer informed the Board that neighboring counties have dramatically cut their budgets. Commissioner Sanders said part of Franklin County's budget cutting was the abolishment of the county engineer position. Because of the increased millage, she plans to vote against the budget.

Ken Osborne discussed the school tax which makes up 60% of the total bill. Franklin Co. spends \$19K per student which is one of the highest per student spending rates in the state. David Hinton, School Board representative for District 2 responded saying much of their expenditure is dictated by the Legislature. Because of Franklin County's low economic status, they receive a large amount of money through grants, thus the entire budget is not made up of only tax revenue. He also stated that free lunch (in addition to breakfast) is provided to all students. Allan Feifer noted that Franklin County is among top counties in the state in teacher pay but near the bottom in student performance. The \$18 million budget is divided between the consolidated school (\$16 million) and the charter school (\$2 million). Hinton said that upon first being elected to the School Board, Franklin County was among the lowest in teacher salaries, but that has since changed thus attracting better teachers. Local school employees also receive fully funded health insurance.

The committee appointed by President Rogers to study parking options at public access points met with County Engineer Dan Rothwell and a representative from the Sheriff's office. Five categories were identified as critical in dealing with the current situation: 1) Change public use patterns. Better signage directing visitors to the beaches of Bald Pt St Park would relieve some of the traffic at Alligator Pt. 2) Law enforcement. The FCSO promises more stringent enforcement once clear regulations and signage are in place and the public has had time to adjust to the changes. 3) Parking at the "S" curve. Proposed are 10-14 perpendicular parking spaces on the south side of Alligator Dr for automobiles, only...no vehicles towing trailers. The spaces will be paved with oyster shells and clearly marked. Signs prohibiting parking in the right-of-way will be installed. Parking for vehicles towing boat trailers will be limited to two spaces adjacent to the boat ramp on the north side of Alligator Dr. 4) Parking at Carnival Drive. Proposed are 8-10 perpendicular parking spaces paved with oyster shells and clearly marked. 5) Parking at Chip Morrison Road. Proposed are 7 parallel parking spaces paved with oyster shells and clearly marked. Greg Walker, whose house is adjacent to the beach access was concerned that the proposed parking spaces might encroach on his property. Commissioner Sanders said she will work with DEP regarding the proposal to erect signage directing visitors to Bald Pt St Park. President Rogers will ask the County Engineer for a conceptual drawing of the overall plan to present at the general membership meeting. In response to a query regarding all "official" public access points, Commissioner Sanders agreed to bring that information to the next Board meeting.

Ken Osborne solicited support for the countywide voting proposal.

Steve Fling informed the Board that bidding process for the county ambulance service had resulted in the selection of "Lifeguard" which is based in Santa Rosa Co.

Commissioner Sanders reports the lane adjustment for the area in front of the South Shoal development will begin soon. Additionally, FEMA has given tentative approval to the relocation of Alligator Dr in that vicinity.

Jim McCloy thanked Juanita Gibson for her work in preparing and mailing the ballots for the APTA election. He also spoke to the potential issue of a storm resulting in properties being flooded with oil-contaminated water. According to his research, each property would need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Motion by Ken Osborne, seconded by Allan Feifer that the meeting be adjourned, adopted without objection. The meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Murphy, Secretary

Officers and Directors absent: Jim Cummins, Bob Deibel, Andy Kandel, Bill Kimbrough, Bucky Mitchell and Dick Waters.

Officers

***Sam Rogers President, Eddie Sosebee 1st Vice president, Joe Hambrose 2nd Vice President, John Murphy Secretary,
Bill Kimbrough Treasurer***

Board of Directors

***Jim Cummins, Bob Deibel, Allan Feifer, Harper Field, Andy Kandel, Jim McCloy, Bucky Mitchell, Ken Osborne,
Dick Waters, Barbara Withers***