



APTA – Alligator Point Taxpayers Association

Minutes of Board meeting – February 12, 2005

First Vice-President Dick Waters called meeting to order at 9:00am. A quorum of Board members was present. The minutes were distributed to Board members by e-mail; VP Waters called for additions or corrections; Feifer moved that the minutes be accepted, Kimbrough second; motion passed. Bill Kimbrough gave the Treasurer's report: Total assets including CD are \$28,374.58. Feifer moved report be accepted, Maruszak second; motion passed. The Not-for-Profit Annual Report form has been received and will be filed this month.

Prior to the Committee Reports, Waters called on Cheryl Sanders, County Commissioner, to speak to the Board. Sanders reported that relative to Alligator Point, she met with DEP Secretary Castille, who informed her that there would be only one more dredging of the Apalachicola River this year that is committed to the new high school site. Castille recommended to Sanders that the request for beach restoration be amended to include an alternate sand source, offshore sand (shoals) to be pumped onto the beach. It was also reported that there is an additional \$11M from the state for beach restoration and that the County Board will request \$2M for Alligator Point from this amount. The county will have to come up with a matching \$1M but there is already over \$500K in the Bald Point Trust Fund that can be used. As far as Sanders knows the ACOE is out of the picture; any work will require going out for bids. In response to a question, Sanders clarified that the \$11M is in addition to the previously approved \$63M in which the Alligator Point project was specifically mentioned but provided no money; this bill should rectify that.

Dick Waters (as chairman of the Beach Renourishment Committee) pointed out that we, as private citizens, have no standing with the ACOE and asked Sanders to write a letter, or have Allen Pierce write a letter, to ACOE reemphasizing the County's desire to use the already dredged sand for the purpose of restoring the beach at Alligator Point. He pointed out that this would not stop us from amending our proposal but maybe we could get two sources. Sanders reiterated that only sand she knows that's going to move is the dredging in May.

Feifer asked what the chances are of going to see the governor and getting something moving. Sanders answered that she has been working on this project since 1998 and one thing or another has always come up. She pointed out that every time there is money allocated, the deadlines pass and the work isn't done but the money is gone. She allowed that we could go to the governor with her blessing but she is not sure that it would be fruitful or not.



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Committee Reports

Beach Renourishment (Dick Waters)

Waters thanked Paul Parker for his work on this project with Secretary Castille.

Development Committee (Joe Hambrose, Allan Feifer)

The first BoA meeting did not have a quorum; the next meeting had a quorum and voted down the variance request for lot 23 – Alligator Point subdivision. When presented to the Commissioners, it was tabled and it is not clear what its status is now. It is important that this variance not be issued for many technical reasons but also because it does not appear to be a hardship for the owners. There was an extended discussion on the requirements on septic systems in or near the critical habitat zone and that St. George's Island has a requirement for aerobic systems.

Membership Committee (Joann Deibel)

There are 305 paid members. Newsletters will be mailed by Tuesday; we are saying in the newsletter that “this is the last one” if dues are not paid. We will review the need to call non-members after we see the results from mailing the newsletter. The Neighborhood Watch program may be useful when it is active.

Beautification Committee (Joann Deibel)

Joann called the county to have a road crew (prisoners) to pick up trash last week. The knuckle truck comes by twice a month. Question asked why a dumpster isn't required at a construction site while a portable toilet is? Portalets are required by ordinance. Sanders said that something should be written up and given to the county attorney to get an ordinance written to require a dumpster. It was proposed that the ordinance be limited to Alligator Point. Waters noted that we have two ordinances APTA would like to see: Septic tank requirements in critical habitat zone and dumpster on construction sites. Sanders proposed that we submit a write-up to her attention; she will bring it to the Commissioners' attention so they can direct their attorney to prepare something. Feifer agreed to prepare a proposal.

Safety & Security Committee (John Murphy)

The roof of the firehouse has been repaired (\$1500) and the fire department has requested APTA contribute to the cost. Motion made to table request until Steve Fling is present by Munroe, Feifer second; passed.

Neighborhood Watch program is still being organized and worked on.



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Water Department

Engineering has been done on the pipe replacement in the Sea & Shell location. New wells should be started soon, still working on permitting issues. General cleanup is progressing nicely – getting rid of workless stuff in the yard, and old PVC pipe. Bill to extend water district will have one more public notice and then will be submitted to the Legislature. This is a necessary preparation for a regional water system. There is a reported lawsuit by 1000 Friends of Florida against St. Joe Co over Summer Camp not monitoring the construction, water runoff, and other environmental concerns.

Panhandle Resolution (Joe Blackmon)

Joe reported on the meeting held to coordinate the activities in the Panhandle of Florida. He pointed out that no members of any county board attended the meeting. In addition the focus of the meeting was the problems, mostly urban problems, of the western part of the Panhandle that are about 15 years ahead of the issues in our community which are mostly rural. We need to focus on getting protection now in preparation for these problems; it is important to pay attention to details and our consideration of septic tanks, setbacks, density, etc. is appropriate. One of the proposals is to have a bypass road from Hwy 98 and Alligator Dr. through the St. Joe property to Carrabelle; APTA wants the bypass to start just south of the bridge and not connect to Alligator Dr. Waters interjected that ABARK and 1000 Friends do not want to have a bypass road at all but have a wildlife corridor. APTA does not believe that these are mutually exclusive. Joe recommended that we not sign on to the resolution generated by this meeting since it does not relate to our issues.

Monroe moved that APTA not sign on to the resolution; Parker second; motion passed.

Harbor Circle Paving (topic brought up by VP Waters)

Apparently the County Highway Department wants to pave Harbor Circle – not on the paving list. There was a federal court order that limits the “dam” to a one-lane road. What is needed is lime rock (stone) on the right-of-way. The road was grated in the last couple of days but there are still low spots that flood in any rain.

County Comprehensive Plan

The original Plan was returned by DCA. It did not include any input from the public during the visioning process. There is another public hearing scheduled at the next Commissioners’ meeting (Tuesday, 5pm). There were 8 key issues presented by DCA and Allen Pierce has responded to these. A big issue is the land use changes made for St. James Island that were done at the last minute, were never reviewed by the public and should not have been included.



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APTA has put together a position paper and it was included in visioning process but never made it to the Comp Plan. We are not going to be closely aligned with ABARK since there are several issues on which we do not agree with them.

Communication Committee (Ann Maruszak)

Ann presented a draft of an advertising policy for use on the web page. Policy was sent out in an e-mail to Board members. Policy was discussed; Board agreed that they need not approve every ad. Munroe moved that the policy be approved with rates of \$200/qtr, \$300/semiannual, and \$500/annual. Feifer second. Discussion followed in which an amendment was proposed to include a setup fee to be determined. Amendment passed. After more discussion, it was moved by Munroe and seconded by Feifer that the motion be tabled so that the policy can be rewritten to reflect changes made by the Board. Motion to table passed.

Call for new business

VP Waters called for any new business. Paul Parker reassured everyone that as a member of Tourist Development Council he will work for proper use of the revenues and insure that Alligator Point gets its fair share.

Motion to adjourn made by Feifer, seconded by Cummins, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim R Cummins, Sec.