

APTA – Alligator Point Taxpayers Association
Minutes of Board Meeting – October 13, 2007

President Ken Osborne called the meeting to order at 9:00am. He called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the August and September meetings which had been sent to the board members via email. Motion made by Bill Kimbrough, seconded by Don Munroe to approve minutes of both meetings as submitted. Motion passed. He then called for the Treasurer's report for August and September. Full details of both months had also been emailed to board members. Bill Kimbrough stated that the ending balance for the month of August was \$30,642.00 and for September it was \$30,635.00. There were no corrections or additions to these reports. Motion made by Don Munroe to accept, seconded by Jim Cummins, motion passed.

Prior to the committee reports, President Osborne mentioned a couple of items that he thought we should be thinking about concerning the beach renourishment (BR) process. One was that if it comes down to requiring a referendum on the BR project and the county refuses to pay for it, should APTA take on the expense for the referendum? The estimated cost would be \$3,000 - \$4,500. Secondly, should the BR pass, should we hire our own accountant to keep up with charges/expenses, etc. of this very complicated process? Ken also asked if anyone knows the status of Mr. Glazebrook's patrols on AP.

Communications Committee – Ann Maruszak

Ann stated that she purchased an external hard disc for APTA's laptop so that we can do storage and backups and asked for reimbursement which was given. She recommended some changes in the way the newsletter will be published revolving around advertising. Her recommendation is that we consider a different way of publishing instead of the costly multi-color, multi-page. We could reduce it to a less costly format by reducing the size, making it plainer (no graphics) and stop soliciting and printing advertisements. Allan Feifer has a high speed color printer at his office in Atlanta which he offered at minimal cost if we wish to use it. He can duplex but not fold. Modern Mailers was also suggested. We have no outstanding obligations for advertising so nothing would prevent us from printing without ads in the future. Question was asked as to how much came in from advertising and how much the printing costs were. We have no one available to sell ads. Ken asked for a motion to print the next issue without advertising; motion made by Jim Cummins, seconded by Eddie Sosebee, motion passed.

Development – Allan Feifer

The water line is not available to South Shoals and water will not be provided to the development until contractual issues have been resolved. The water lines that they had installed in the development were done without DEP permits and DEP has issued a stop work order. No other development issues. Nothing from John Murphy on Planning & Zoning. Joe Hambrose reported on BoA that they turned down a house to be built entirely in the wetlands on St. George.

Membership – Joann Deibel

She has received 5 memberships in the past month and it is uncertain if they were paying for 2007 or 2008. She will make calls and check their status. We have a total of approximately 280 members. It was reiterated that the membership fee is now \$30.00.

Beautification – Joann Deibel

Someone has planted 4 agave (century) plants in the welcome garden. While the thought is appreciated, this is a very intrusive type of plant and is not one that is favored for the welcome garden because it is extremely high maintenance. We need to remove them from the garden and if anyone would like to have them, contact Joann. This will also be posted on the website and in the newsletter.

Public Safety – John Murphy

The decals are still selling and still available. We do need to put in the newsletter to please remove the decal from the vehicle if you sell it. We have had one new volunteer for the fire department and one potential volunteer so that situation has improved but we are always in the market for people.

There was a question from the audience as to the status of the road. It is uncertain whether or not the funds are frozen. Supposedly the county has the money and we have been told that the surveyors are out now and the contract will be let for paving when the surveying is done. Question as to whether they could possibly pave part of Bald Point road instead of the north end of 370 which is in very good condition. Possibility that we could press the state for funds to improve Bald Point Road since over 55,000 visitors entered the state park from that entrance last year. We continue to press for them to get started on the road and they continue to assure us that it is in the works. When they do start paving, they will be enforcing their 50' right of way so some people may have to move fences that are encroaching on the right of way.

Prior to BR discussion, the maps of the proposed area were positioned so that all present could walk around and see the scope of the project. These maps will be posted at the Harbor Point Realty office for public to view. The blue dash dot line is the coastal construction control line. The purple dash is the projected limit of construction landward of the erosion control line. The solid red line is the mean high water line. The yellow dash dot is the predicted post-construction mean high water line. The yellow dash line is the predicted toe line of the fill. Jim Cummins mentioned that his research indicated that once the state establishes an erosion control line and then proceeds with restoration/renourishment, they have taken on with the county an implicit commitment to maintain that erosion control line which means that the upland owner has lost that riparian right of accretion or erosion due to the action of the water. They have basically drawn a line in the sand and stated that everything upland of the line belongs to the upland owner and the state guarantees that they will maintain that. There is an implied commitment that the state will continue the restoration project for as long as the erosion control line exists. So if at some point in time in the future, the state decides that this was a bad idea, and they want to stop the project, they have to abandon it in the same way in which they created it. This was essentially the basis for the Destin law suit which is still before the Supreme Court – they have not yet made a ruling. That could still have an effect on us as well.

Ken continues to deal with emails as they come in. Some are quite vicious, accusing us as an organization and individually of criminal intent. There have been others with accusations against the engineering firm which were proved to be not true. We realize

that minds are made up for or against the BR project and all we want to do at this point in time is to provide accurate information to everyone who wants it. However, unless this body today tells him differently, when he stands up at the public hearing to represent APTA, he will state that the majority of the APTA board is in favor of the project. He stated that if any board member wished to have a new vote today, they should make the motion. No response from the members.

The public hearing will be at 3:00 pm on October 16 at the courthouse. The commission is due to vote after the hearing. Ken continues to press the county to participate in the funding of the BR project. He was turned down on getting any of the proposed sales tax increase money but there was a proposal for an additional 1% bed tax with all of that going to the BR funding. That is running into some opposition but will probably come up for discussion.

As a fall back position, Ken wants to approach the county with figures on how much frontage of this total project is county responsibility i.e., unprotected road, public beach access points on Chip Morrison and on Alligator Drive which total 1870' and there is 464' that is county owned just south of South Shoals which comes up to 2334' or 12-13% of the total project. If the bed tax proposal fails, he would like to propose that we push them to at least cover that percentage of the total cost. Motion made by Frank Gibson that this be used as our fall back position if the bed tax funding proposal fails, seconded by Joe Hambrose, motion passed unanimously.

There was further discussion of things that can positively impact the individual costs and possible sources of money to reduce the total costs. The group in formal opposition to the BR is raising money to file legal opposition to the project. There is a 30 day window for any person to enter comments with the circuit court judge after the MSBU vote.

Jim Cummins made suggestion that web page postings be credited to some source whether it is the APTA board, news articles, or individuals making the statements.

Regarding the hospital funding, there will be a public referendum on November 6 on an increase of 1% in the sales tax with ½ of the funds to supplement Weems and build a new hospital and the other ½ to build an urgent care facility in Carrabelle. Bill Kimbrough brought up the fact that we must help each other out here at Alligator Point.

After other general discussion of the comp plan and the transportation corridor, motion made by Sam Rogers to adjourn, seconded by Joe Hambrose, motion passed and we were adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Camilla Godfrey, Secretary

Members absent: Hinchee & Waters