

Alligator Point Taxpayers Association

Board of Directors Meeting

The February meeting of the Alligator Pt Taxpayers Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Sam Rogers at 9:00 am on Saturday, February 12, 2011, at Mission by the Sea Church on Alligator Drive.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Eddie Sosebee, seconded by Jim Apthorp to accept the minutes of the January 8th General Membership meeting, adopted without objection.

Approval of Treasurer Report:

Motion by Eddie Sosebee, seconded by Jim Apthorp to accept Treasurers report adopted without objection. Current balance is \$35,725. Treasurer Kimbrough informed the Board that the D&O insurance was renewed last month. Also that we are ahead of last year in terms of donations received.

President Rogers reported the issue of right-of-way abandonment by the county has been removed from the agenda as a result of the request being withdrawn by Fred McCord.

Committee Reports:

Membership – Jim Cummins reported 2011 membership renewals currently stand at 175. A decision was made to include all 2010 members in the mailing of the February newsletter regardless of whether they've renewed yet for 2011.

Public Safety & Security – Eddie Sosebee gave a report on recent activity regarding traffic and parking issues. Speed limits/signs have been changed by the county to reflect APTA's recommendation.

Parking spaces at the Chip Morrison public access were set up as requested with signage forthcoming. The Carnival Road access parking was set up as a single block. APTA had requested it be broken into smaller segments so that no single lot would bear the brunt of all cars parking in front it. Wheel stops and signage still needs to be installed. At the S-curve, the new parking area includes spaces for vehicle/trailers. Sosebee asked Alan Pierce if adjustments could be made to make the parking more in keeping with APTA's recommendations. President Rogers will also follow up with a letter to Commissioner Sanders and another to Paul Parker regarding the project funding commitment from the Tourist Development Council.

Steve Fling asked if the speed limit along the stretch of Alligator Drive in the area of the "canal" streets could be dropped to 25 mph because of the amount of foot traffic in that area. Jim Cummins believes we should let things settle down from the most recent speed limit adjustment before we pursue additional changes.

Water report – Ken Osborne reports the APWRD estimates a need for \$7.5 million in improvements (booster pumps; 250k gallon water tank; water lines) to address future water supply demands. He further noted that Carrabelle currently carries a debt load of \$33 million, and he believes they need to expand their customer base in order to generate revenue. APTA will continue to wait on the political changes in Tallahassee to settle down before approaching the Governor’s office regarding potential new water sources for Alligator Pt and replacements for the APWRD Board of Directors.

Steve Fling addressed the Board regarding his concerns that Franklin County may be using the additional one cent sales tax for projects other than EMS upgrades. Now that the Carrabelle urgent care center is complete, he believes the funding should be split between Weems Hospital improvements and the ambulance service. According to Fling, Commissioner Parrish has ~~mentioned the possibility of providing Alligator Pt with its own ambulance if we are willing to staff it~~ **offered to buy us an ambulance and pay us to run it**. Fling believes four trained EMTs are sufficient to staff a Basic Life Support ambulance. He assured the Board that the EMTs would come under the liability umbrella of Franklin County. When asked what the coverage area of the ambulance would be, Fling said that has yet to be addressed. Fling also questions the status of the Bald Pt Trust Fund. The County borrowed money from it at some point to address other needs, and Fling is concerned it may not have been repaid to the fund. He would like to see a position taken jointly between APTA and APVFD asking the County to restrict use of these funds to their intended use. Fling announced the VFD and Bald Pt State Park are exploring the possibility of starting an annual “Alligator Pt Clam Festival” as a fund-raiser for the fire department.

President Rogers read a letter from a resident regarding owners/renters who fail to secure their garbage, thus affording the bears the opportunity to create a mess. Marvin Heymann said that FWC was willing to come out and issue warnings to those residents who failed to bear-proof their garbage. Barbara Withers suggested the possibility of having a volunteer cleanup day for roadside trash. Ken Osborne is concerned about the potential harm to humans that bears present. There was a lengthy discussion over how to get property owners to do their part in discouraging bears from entering areas of human habitation. President Rogers will ask Commissioner Sanders for more frequent roadside cleanup visits by prisoners. Eddie Sosebee suggested educating the community on bear prevention techniques, and the possibility of legal steps as a last alternative. Jim Cummins suggested FWC literature on the subject be distributed to residents and rental companies. President Rogers will send local property management companies a copy of the most recent APTA newsletter along with a request that they require rental houses to have a bear-proof garbage can (Harbor Point Realty currently requires this of their clients). Rogers also asked that bear prevention information be placed on the APTA website.

Motion by Barbara Withers, seconded by Jim Cummins that the meeting be adjourned, adopted without objection. The meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Murphy, Secretary

Officers and Directors absent: Allan Feifer, Harper Field, Joe Hambrose and Jim McCloy.

Officers

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

Board of Directors

***Jim Apthorp, Jim Cummins, Allan Feifer, Harper Field, Marvin Heymann, Jim McCloy, Bucky Mitchell,
Ken Osborne, Dick Waters, Barbara Withers***