

APTA – Alligator Point Taxpayers Association

Minutes of General Membership Meeting April 10, 2004

President Ken Osborne called the general membership meeting to order at 9am and gave a summary of the by-laws for the general membership meetings. These meetings are held twice a year to give the general membership an opportunity to make changes in the by-laws or to bring up topics of special interest. No agenda items were submitted. Topics today will include an overview of the St. James Island Overlay. Prior to that President Osborne called for any member items.

Bill Kimbrough, Treasurer, brought up the issue of which bank APTA should use, as our current CD is maturing this month. After some discussion about using local businesses, the vote by the membership (12 to 4) was to let the Treasurer decide on the choice of bank.

Steve Fling brought up the possibility of speed bumps to reduce traffic speed. Cheryl Sanders, County Commissioner, responded that they like to call them “speed humps”, but the only time one was put in the county, it caused so much problems and liabilities, that it was taken out. While speeding is an enforcement issue, a speed hump is present 24 hours a day. She said that anyone who wants to have it considered should come up with a plan and present it to the Commissioners.

President Osborne asked Sanders if there were any issues she would like to deal with before the St. James Overlay discussions as she had indicated she did not want to be present during that discussion. She mentioned that there is an additional over-65 homestead exemption of \$25,000; this exemption has income and other restrictions. It will be effective Jan 1, 2005. Another thing is the Army Corp of Engineers has informed the County that they will not be moving the sand this spring/summer due to low water and migrating fish. Permits are not yet approved but they hope to have them by November. Paving will be done in the western part of the County but she acknowledges that Alligator Drive is in bad shape.

Questions: Has Allan Pierce resigned? No resignation has been submitted to the County Commissioners (Sanders is Chairman), even though it has been widely published in the newspaper. It is not a done deal yet.

Q: What about the T-groins? No money yet but the County is working to get permits and perhaps some grant money for construction. We are so close to having a solution for Alligator Point, she does not want funding to stop the process.

Q: Is Carrabelle expanding their sewer system and why? In one word: greed. They have been flatly turned down by the Commissioners. Interestingly, they wanted to expand their district east all the way to Alligator Point but excluding Lanark Village. She agrees that there is a need for a regional water plan but questions that Carrabelle is the entity to do it; probably should be the County.

Comments: Alligator Point needs to get someone as a representative on the Planning & Zoning Board, which is down to five members. Please let Sanders or Planning Office know who can serve. A word of caution: Do not use her e-mail – it is virus infected.

(Commissioner Sanders left the meeting, so that she would not hear the St. James Overlay presentation.)

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President Osborne went over several things concerning the St. James Island Overlay done by St. Joe Company. It has been in the paper and copies are available at the meeting. The information was supposed to be transmitted to us but it was not done. There is a link on our APTA web site to the maps and other info. Some things that are not obvious and need to be pointed out; the maps show upward of 4000 properties, even at only 1 lot/acre, and some of the “clustering” areas are for lots of 2900 sq. ft. – some people at this meeting have houses that are 2900 sq. ft.! Issues that folks need to be thinking about: road access location, evacuation routes, water, housing densities and lot sizes. If land values go from \$1/acre to the value of its intended use, the “hundred year” plan will collapse to a “twenty year” plan in a blink of an eye.

President Osborne has attended 19 meetings on this whole overlay process with various environmental/conservation groups; Riverkeepers, 1000 Friends of Florida, APECO (Paul Johnson), and Florida Wildlife Federation. The conservation groups are mostly paid lobbyists and are probably the most powerful group on affecting St. Joe but their agendas are very focused and not necessarily in agreement with those of APTA. There were copies of their overlay proposals and it is clear that they want to move development to the eastern end of the County. These groups have been invited to present at APTA meetings but so far only one has accepted and to get a balanced presentation we need more organizations. It is critical that we get our neighbors involved so that we can get our message out. Many of these meetings are not really citizen committees since no citizens are showing up, only the lobbyists. The Comp Plan is supposed to be submitted on April 22, but at the last Commissioners’ meeting, Allan Pierce stated that it could be submitted without the St. James Island Overlay. We need to be at the April 22 meeting.

After a call for any additional topics, Monroe moved that we adjourn the general meeting; Maruszak second. Meeting adjourned.

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Minutes of Board meeting – April 10, 2004

Meeting called to order by the President, Ken Osborne, immediately following the general meeting. A quorum of Board members was present. The Secretary read the meetings of the previous meeting on March 13, 2004. One correction was made for Dan Garlick's name. Kimbrough moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected, Hurley second; motion passed.

Treasurer's report

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| Checking beginning balance | 25,542.60 |
| Checking ending balance | 26008.36 |
| Other Assets: CD @ 5.25% (matures 4/12/04) | 7885.21 |
| Sea turtle acct (in checking bal.) | <u>699.11</u> |
| Total assets (3/31/04): | \$34,592.66 |

Barnett moved to accept report; Monroe seconded, motion passed.

We have a \$1619 bill for the attorney and planner for evaluating the KOA development that needs approval. Barnett moved that we authorize paying bill; Monroe seconded. Motion passed. Monroe offered an amendment that we authorize an additional \$3000; Hambrose seconded; Barnett concurred. Amendment accepted; motion passed.

Our CD is maturing this month. The best rate one-year rate is 1.92% at Citizens Bank. Monroe moved that we move the CD to the best available return in a bank; Dehaven second. Vote: 6 yes, 0 no. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Road and Beach Erosion (Dick Waters)

Not much to add to what Sanders said; sand fences must be prepared prior to May 1. President Osborne noted that we need to get a "voted commitment" from APTA for the beach renourishment if we want it to happen and then take a pro-active position to get permits and funding. Waters noted that we have already given that vote and that the County has hired someone to go through the entire process. He agreed to rundown that person and them to come to a meeting and report.

Development Committee (Joe Hambrose)

Attended the Board of Adjustment meeting: the Marshalls house has been withdrawn; the County is relooking at the septic system requirements and regulations. BoA has agreed to a policy of limiting the footprint of houses in the critical habitat zone to 1000 sq. ft. (can be 2 stories) and that they will always favor extending into the front set-back rather than the critical habitat zone. It is important that APTA protest actions it disagrees with, either at the meeting or by letter to have a legal standing at any future court case.

A variance was given for lights at the Blue Parrot restaurant that are illegal. DEP and FF&W have made it clear to the owner that he will not get permits, regardless of the variance.

KOA campground update: Fling will resubmit his plan next Tuesday at the P&Z meeting.

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Communication Committee (Ann Maruszak)

April newsletter is done. Juanita Gibson received them and mailed out 326 issues.

Membership Committee

Joann Deibel has agreed to be new membership chairman.

Safety & Security Committee (John Murphy)

Steve Fling reported that VFD has gotten one more hydrant and will come up with a contract for hydrant maintenance. A total of 8 new ones have been installed including 4 or 5 funded by APTA. He presented a plan for financing a new ladder truck to be able to get above the third level of a structure. A MSBU proposal will have the current rate of \$42/yr continue for houses up to two levels but increase to \$210/yr for houses with 3 or more levels. In addition vacant land will be assessed at a rate of \$30/yr up to 5 acres and \$60/yr above 5 acres. This will be presented at the Commissioners' meeting and/or a public hearing.

Turtle Patrol (Bill Wargo)

Bill Wargo was introduced as the new Turtle Patrol coordinator. He recognized Vicki Barnett and the service she has done for the community over the last four years. He is really excited in becoming the new turtle person on the Point. He is looking for volunteers and he will have a table set up at the BBQ. He explained that Vicki had prepared a letter to residents concerning the upcoming turtle season (May 1 to October 31) over his name that will be mailed on April 15.

Beautification Committee (Joann Deibel)

No report.

Other old business

The dock ordinance is just sort of floating along. Anyone who lives on a canal should pay close attention to this ordinance.

The ad-hoc group on Summer Camp meeting was mainly a technical discussion of storm water and drainage issues.

No report as yet on why no meeting on the future of Bald Point State Park. Who is on the advisory committee?

Vicki Barnett gave a quick update on some turtle issues. Have the new sign and it only cost \$464. It has been delivered to the Bald Point park ranger who will put it up.

The community BBQ will be held on April 17 at 4pm. Westi Jo DeHaven gave an update for Joann Deibel including work assignments and sponsors/donators. The Fire Department is going to be a co-host and do the cooking. After Kimbrough suggested we invite the candidates to come to the BBQ, Cummins made a motion to inform (not invite) the candidates of the BBQ to join us for a non-political gathering; DeHaven second. Vote: 5 yes, 2 no. Motion passed.

Rand Edelstein has resigned from the Board. He indicated that he is overloaded with other civic duties. Joe Hambrose, head of the nominating committee, gave a summary of previous voting

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for board members. President Osborne opened the nominations to replace Edelstein. DeHaven nominated Paul Parker; Monroe seconded. Maruszak nominated Bunky Atkinson; Cummins seconded. Hambrose nominate Camilla Godfrey; no second. Monroe moved to close nominations; Barnett seconded. Motion passed. On a secret ballot President Osborne announced that Paul Parker wins by a close count.

Call for new business:

It was pointed out that APTA needs to take a position on the proposed MSBU rate increase for the VFD. DeHaven moved to support the VFD actions for an increase; Hambrose seconded. Barnett amended the motion to make the support be via letter. DeHaven seconded. Motion passed.

Candidates will address the group right after we adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Dehaven, seconded by Hurley, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim R Cummins, Sec.