

APTA – Alligator Point Taxpayers Association

Minutes of Board meeting – September 11, 2004

Meeting was delayed so that the Water Board could continue their meeting originally scheduled at the same time and place as APTA. There was some question as to whether the County Appraiser was present, but no one identified himself or herself. Meeting was called to order by President Ken Osborne at 9:10am. A quorum of Board members was present. The minutes have previously been distributed; President Osborne called for additions or corrections; Monroe moved that the minutes be accepted, Parker second; motion passed. Treasurer's report was given: APTA now has all of its assets at Wakulla Bank; total assets are \$25493.52. The Sea Turtle account is \$275.26 in the hole. Monroe moved report be accepted, Parker second; motion passed.

Committee Reports

Communication Committee (Ann Maruszak)

No new reports.

Road and Beach Erosion (Dick Waters)

The beach renourishment project is still on. Mike Grumbaski, the consultant for the project, is scheduled to come to the next meeting to answer any questions.

Development Committee (Joe Hambrose, Allan Feifer)

Taylor Moore's house has been sold – rumor has it that the condos are to be started this fall, no info. Will this require a zoning change?

President Osborne reported that he, Joe and Frank went to the “budget workshop” on Tuesday and had a nice dinner. It turns out the “workshop” was a ratification hearing. APTA was allowed to present its requests but there is little hope of approval. Next year our requests should get a more positive response. As part of this discussion, it was pointed out that the state mandates the way assessments/appraisals are done; the appraised value must be 85% - 100% of true market value. As an example within the AP Water District the value of the appraised property has gone up 93% this year. The current County budget is planned with a tax rate of 4.86 mils compared to a 5.2 mil rate last year. This will amount to an approximate 20% increase in tax revenues due to overall appraisal increases.

Membership Committee (Joann Deibel)

No report.

Beautification Committee (Joann Deibel)

No report.

Safety & Security Committee (John Murphy)

No report.

Turtle Patrol (Bill Wargo)

So far this year there have been 37 crawls, 13 emerges, over 926 hatchlings. First dead turtle found. Kim Wren has been invited to speak at the October 9 meeting.

APTA – Alligator Point Taxpayers Association

Call for new business

Ann asked if there was any limit to the amount of tax increase that could occur in a single year. Bob answered that the appraisal is not limited and by law must be 85%-100% of true market value. As property come up for sale they affect the market prices, so some of the recent sales have not yet been factored in. The actual tax increase is limited for people who have homesteads to 3% or the urban cost of living index. This means that there is an “actual” appraisal and a “taxable” appraisal, which includes the homestead exemption. Non-residents do not have a limit on the amount of tax increase.

Joe Blackmon complained that he has called about the trash on the road but has not gotten a return call. He saw county trucks dump trash on the side of the road.

Cheryl Sanders, County Commissioner, was present for the meeting and came forward to speak and answer questions. She gave Dick Waters a copy of the resolution passed by the County Commissioners supporting the beach renourishment. She also explained the issues of the county crews dumping stuff by the side of the road; she has called Van Johnson but acknowledged that the stuff is still not picked up. In response to a question from Ken, Cheryl explained the issues with a County Manager: mainly, that by law everything must go through the manager and adds an additional layer of administration between the Board and the public.

Cheryl explained some of the problems with trash pickup especially with the storms coming in. She also explained that the road crew has taken some preemptive action to maintain the road but they will remove the rubble and replace it with rock.

Cheryl mentioned an excellent location for a boat ramp with 50’ on each side of the road but could not find it on the map. This needs to be researched.

Paul Parker proposed an alternate trash pickup method including household disposal as well as constructions debris. A committee was formed to investigate: Donna Decker, Betty Cummins, Bill Wargo, and Paul Parker.

Committee reassignments will be considered during the October meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Monroe, seconded by Parker, motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim R Cummins, Sec.