

## **APTA – Alligator Point Taxpayers Association**

### **Minutes of Board Meeting – June 9, 2007**

Meeting was called to order by President Ken Osborne at 9am. He called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion made by Ben Houston to accept minutes as presented; seconded by Paul Parker; motion passed. He then called for treasurer's report. Treasurer Bill Kimbrough stated that our total assets are \$29,987.29. He also stated that we are not a non-profit organization. We are like a political action committee and donations to our organization are not tax deductible. We are also not subject to the sunshine law in Florida. Motion made to approve report by Frank Gibson; motion seconded by Ben Houston; motion passed.

#### Beach Renourishment – Dick Waters

Two issues: 1) Funding gap questions should be answered by end of the month; and 2) Parking/access areas – we will definitely have to have a facility on the Bald Point end. We have had favorable response from the park service because they would get a facility built on their land but at no cost to them. They need a handicapped facility at that end anyway. We should have that answer by the end of June also. As far as the permitting goes, there are still 3 issues out there – turtle lighting, snowy plover nesting sites and debris removal. Progress is being made on resolving these issues. Next critical date appears to be July 16. Question as to when bids might actually go out: after the MSBU rate is set, they will start advertising for bids, possibly after the mid-July commission meeting. Question about possible concern that the MSBU approval would be occurring during the time that the budget workshops would be in progress: since workshops must be held for the MSBU approval as well as the budget, it just means that the commissioners will be cramped for time to get all the required workshops and public meetings in before final approval. Question if the county would maintain the restroom facilities at the public beach areas: yes, there is already an employee who maintains the facility at Carrabelle Beach.

#### Communications – Ann Maruszak

We have had over 40,000 visits to our web site since it was remade 3 years ago. This has proven to be an excellent source of information for our community.

#### Beautification/Membership – Joann Deibel

We have five new members. The marina has a corrected list of members which they are monitoring for boat ramp usage. The grapple truck is due for pick up next week.

### Public Safety – John Murphy

There is a possibility of an increase in the MSBU which funds the fire department. The insurance charges for the department are taking most of the money. The premium for the liability/property coverage is currently at \$23,000 annually. They are trying to get under the county coverage umbrella. We do need more volunteers for the fire department, especially in the administrative areas. Any grant money received is used for equipment and not for operation expenses. The county is not responsible for providing us with fire and water – only ambulance. Fireworks are scheduled for July 7<sup>th</sup>. Our new deputy, Kit Mashburn is living here now. Question about how money is distributed from the MSBU: whatever we pay, we get back in our community.

### Development – Alan Feifer

Nothing before the BoA pertaining to our area. The county commission continues to grant variances against the recommendation of the BoA. Our ability to pump water is down which is effectively suppressing development. There has been talk about a possible hook up with the Panacea Water Department which would greatly increase development potential in our area. Our new wells are disappointing in both quality and quantity. Nothing new on South Shoals – the road issues are almost solved. There has been a tentative agreement reached to continue working on the road. It was also mentioned that 370 is not an officially dedicated road.

President Osborne reported on the county commission agenda. The Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority (NFTCA) is pushing the bypass road relocation – four lane 319 through Sopchoppy. There is a possible connection from 370 to the new bypass road. Our position has been and continues to be no access from old 98 to any new development. We prefer that all access to the developments be only from the new bypass road. We need someone to represent APTA at these NFTCA meetings. If you have the time and can attend mid-week meetings, some possibly as far away as Panama City, please let Ken know. County has signed joint participation agreement with DOT for Alligator Point road resurfacing. They have authorized an outside engineer to engineer the resurfacing project. Regarding the hospital/ambulance service, the county is subsidizing each at approximately \$250,000 per year. The county turned these funds over to the hospital in a lump sum and as of this past Tuesday, the hospital reported a bank balance of \$250,000 and a bi-weekly payroll of \$150,000. We can't get a report on the status of the ambulance service. It was brought up that they have not been able to provide generally acceptable financial statements. They still have billing problems as well as staffing problems. We need to get this renourishment handled before we get too involved with other issues.

Alan Feifer reported that the Concerned Citizens of Franklin County group had obtained a copy of the playbook provided by the Florida Association of Counties to all the counties for their use as talking points to defeat the property tax reform. He noted that this book was actually paid for by the taxpayers of Florida. CCFC will have a meeting Thursday June 14 at the Firehouse at Eastpoint. One of the proposals before the state

legislature on tax reform would bring Franklin County back into the fold and it would no longer be exempt from the tax reform rollback. The county tax assessors have 8 criteria available in figuring property tax. They may use any or a combination of any of them to figure the property tax for the county.

Ken brought up the fact that it is time for him to appoint a nominating committee for new board members. He made the following appointments: Don Munroe(Chair), Ed Sosebee, Ben Houston, Joann Deibel and Camilla Godfrey will serve on the committee. Motion made to approve this committee by Bill Kimbrough; seconded by Frank Gibson; motion passed.

Motion made to adjourn by Paul Parker; seconded by Joe Hambrose; motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Camilla Godfrey, Secretary

Members absent: Munroe, Decker, Hincee, Mensching and Suber