



KEY LARGO FIRE RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT

Seat 1: Tony Allen; Seat 2: Kay Cullen; Seat 3: Bob Thomas; Seat 4: George Mirabella; Seat 5: Marilyn Beyer

DISTRICT WORKSHOP

Discuss Changing the Key Largo Fire Rescue & Emergency Medical Services District Boundaries

November 09, 2015

1. **AGENDA**

1.A. **Call to Order**

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.B. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.C. **Roll Call**

Vicky Fay called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Tony Allen, Marilyn Beyer, Kay Cullen, George Mirabella and Bob Thomas. There was a quorum.

Also present were Vicky Fay, Ronnie Fell, Jennifer Johnson, Scott Robinson, Peter Rosasco and Theron Simmons. The meeting was held at Station 24.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MEETING MINUTES**

2.A. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – November 9, 2015**

MOTION: Commissioner Allen made a motion *to approve the November 9, 2015 District Workshop Agenda*. Commissioner Cullen seconded the motion, and the Board Unanimously passed the motion.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gary Boswell, Deputy Monroe County Fire Chief and 20+ year Key Largo resident addressed the Board and suggested workshops be held throughout Key Largo and Tavernier as changing the boundaries could alter the service and impact the Key Largo millage. Sergio Garcia, past Key Largo Fire Chief and 33 year resident, indicated the legislation was written to expand the District. Garcia offered to work on a plan for the District and Tavernier. He recommended the District clarify if Monroe County will contribute to the vehicle replacement fund. He also felt that a plan needs to be created for Tavernier and future workshops need to be conducted. Commissioner Thomas this was the first workshop to discuss changing the KLFR&EMS boundaries. Commissioner Mirabella indicated that a strategic plan with level of service needs to be provided to the District.

4. **DISCUSS CHANGING KLFR&EMS DISTRICT BOUNDARIES**

Prior to the meeting, Commissioners Allen, Cullen and Thomas met independently with Casey Kybers regarding his concerns of extending the KLFR&EMS District boundaries to include Tavernier.



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4. **DISCUSS CHANGING KLFR&EMS DISTRICT BOUNDARIES (Continued)**

Jerry Wilkinson indicated with the current Tavernier tax base and using Key Largo's present millage that Tavernier station would have to be run for \$583,000.

Commissioner Cullen requested that Chief Bock prepare a proposed budget for the Tavernier Fire Department and Ambulance Corps to compare with the proposed budget presented to the Commissioners at the October 19, 2015 District Meeting. Sue Heim compared Chief Bock's Operating Budget with the Tavernier-Key Largo Ad Hoc Committee Budget. Jeff Hynes discussed the proposed personnel portion of the budget. The County owns the building and the land. Sue Heim would like to see a time line and task list for this project. William Wagner, an Upper Keys resident for 33 years and current Tavernier resident, indicated a strategic vision and budget need to be created. Casey Kybers mentioned the union does not want to take over anybody. Commissioner Thomas expressed concern with the lack of Mutual Aid response from the Tavernier Fire Department during a recent incident. Burke Cannon, Tavernier resident and retired firefighter, wanted the District to know this request is because of the high taxes.

The estimated budget is between \$1.2M-\$1.3M mill for both operations and capital expenses depending upon the level of service. Peter Rosasco recommended the District approach changing the District boundaries with caution. The District is currently at 0.8223 mill and is capped at 1.0 mill. The projected Ad Valorem Taxes generated by Tavernier would be \$563,309 (at a 97% collection rate).

Even if the District raised their millage to 1.0 mill, there would still be a budget shortfall. At the present millage rate of .8223, there would be a deficit of approximately \$683,000. Rosasco also recommended the District review Tavernier's equipment list and vehicle replacement schedule. Theron Simmons indicated \$683,000 is a huge shortfall. If legislation is approved, the District could raise the cap to 1.5 mill. Simmons believes may be able to be done; however, legal needs to conduct research. Commissioner Allen asked if there could be a stand-alone millage rate for Tavernier. Rosasco indicated the District would need to determine the County's willingness to contribute Infrastructure Sales Tax funds. The ambulance billing would reduce the shortfall by about \$55,000 to \$75,000.

If the District would like to change the boundaries, Theron Simmons indicated a referendum is required. The referendum would need to be approved by a 51% vote. Commissioner Allen will be the Board liaison with Tavernier, and questions for Chief Bock should be provided to the District Clerk. Another workshop will be scheduled in January or February 2016.

5. **ADJOURN**

Commissioner Allen made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m., which was seconded by Commissioner Beyer.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

November 16 2015 District Meeting (if required)