

FIRE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (FSG)

MINUTES – Draft

February 7, 2018 9:00 A.M.
5300t Laurel Road, Venice FL 34275

I. CALL TO ORDER (9:12 A.M.)

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Pamela (Pam) Schierberg, Edward Murray, Kathleen Rogers-Wilson, and Helen Moore. Michael (Mike) Brown (en route)

Also attending: Fire Chief Shawn Carvey, Deputy Fire Chief Frank Giddens, Finance Director Linda Senne, Finance Controller Joe Welch, and Fire Admin. Assistant Tammy Short

Absent: Salvatore (Sonny) Favaloro and Terry Lewis (resigned from Board)

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Michael Rafferty

- a. Inquired best way for constituents to communicate with members.
- b. Requested for audience participation to the end of the meeting.

IV. APPROVE MINUTES

Minutes approved as presented. Motion by Helen Moore, Seconded by Edward Murray.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. UPDATE – INFORMATION FROM STANTEC BY CHIEF CARVEY

Chief led discussion on assessment fee options. Availability (2-tier system) vs Calls for service. Council chose not to consider the calls for service method due to increased costs for ALF and other similar facilities.

Chief reported on conversation with Mike Burton of Stantec. Recommendations for considering: keep structure value, add a flat rate, and a square foot base for calculations. Note that the land leased MHPs would still not pay as much.

Discussions included:

- Residential vs commercial and flat rates.
- Exempt properties (government, non-profit)

(9:24 a.m. Chair Michael Brown arrives.)

B. METHODOLOGY OPTIONS

Members discussed:

- Department needs, shortfalls, possible independent audit.
- Other possible options as structure value not fair on residential
- Equitability amongst users with associated risks (residents, day visitors, seasonal visitors, industrials)
- Assessment fee public feedback
- Corporations getting initial tax breaks to come into the city yet tax breaks remain and they are not paying fair proportion for fire service. They also have increased associated risks. Stantec's recommendation is to keep commercial at structure value.
- Mutual aid agreement and fund recovery. Question requested data on Venice's responding as mutual aid calls out of area (Pelican Point).
- The County charges .66 mills for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for ambulance service. Also has an ambulance fee if transported. Venice does not receive monies.
- Funding mechanisms available for consideration.
- Millage rates maximums and annual caps, one cent sales tax funding.
- Provisions have been made for increasing staff as growth continues within city limits and surrounding communities.
- Capital replacement plan and reserves.
- Sustainability of various funding options.

(10:15 a.m. break – 5 minutes)

- Tax oversight committee.
- Property tax values and millage rates for recent history.

(10:30 a.m. Helen Moore leaves.)

- Current deficit
- Fire fee letter to public.

C. ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Volunteers.
- Hybrid fees & Grants
- Alternatives include ad valorem adjustments.
- Benevolent Fund
- Sliding scale for fees.
- Venice taking on Advance Life Support (ALS a/k/a ambulance).

D. REFERENCE MATERIALS

- Request made regarding accessibility of Stantec's excel sheets.
- Reviewed website access to documents and reference materials.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Meeting Schedule

Need to meet more often.

Next meeting on 2/13/18 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at same location.

Also 03/07/18 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

B. Consensus to move audience participation to end.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Meeting recessed at approximately 11:15 a.m.

Disability Information

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact Lori Stelzer, City Clerk at 941-486-2626, 401 W. Venice Avenue, Venice Florida 34285, prior to the meeting. (FS 296.26)

Appeal Notice

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Committee/Board, with respect to any matter considered at such hearing/meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings and that, for this purpose, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based, and which record is not provided by the City of Venice. (FS 286.0105)