

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
Southwest Ranches, Florida

Thursday 7:00 PM

November 6, 2014

13400 Griffin Road

Present:

Mayor Jeff Nelson

Vice Mayor Gary Jablonski

Council Member Steve Breitzkreuz

Council Member Freddy Fisikelli

Council Member Doug McKay

Andrew Berns, Town Administrator

Keith Poliakoff, Town Attorney

Martin Sherwood, Town Financial Administrator

Russell Muñiz, Town Clerk

Special Meeting of the Town Council of Southwest Ranches was held at 13400 Griffin Road in the Southwest Ranches Council Chambers. The meeting, having been properly noticed, was called to order by Mayor Nelson at 7:07 PM. Attendance was noted by roll call and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Presentation by Finance

Town Administrator Berns explained the purpose of the meeting and gave a summary of the handout prepared by Town Financial Administrator Sherwood. Mayor Nelson provided some history on this issue including past efforts to study this issue including the fire operational study performed by PSSI, Inc.

Town Financial Administrator Sherwood went over each page of the handout prepared for the Town Council which contained the following items relative to the Volunteer Fire Rescue Department:

- FY 2015 Adopted Budget
- Cost Projections for FY 2015-2019 and thereafter
- Program Modifications submitted for budget consideration
- Historical Perspective of the Town's contribution from FY 2003 through FY 2014

5. Discussion on Southwest Ranches Volunteer Fire Rescue Department

The following members of the public addressed the Town Council: Jo Ann Hollingsworth, Newell Hollingsworth, Gay Chaples, John Eastman, Robert Busch, Cindy Cimetta, Kathy Kienzle, Dean L. Parkerson, Bob Hartmann, Barry Neunzig, Delsa Amundson, Leslie Kastner, and Debra Goff Rose.

Mayor Nelson wanted it known for the record that none of the current Town Council has ever stated that they wanted to abolish the Southwest Ranches Volunteer Fire Rescue Department. He asked Davie Fire Chief Joseph Montopoli to address some questions he had.

Chief Montopoli responded to questions concerning Davie's ability to provide coverage in the western portion of the Town by indicating that Davie's model is based on adaptive response. He was confident that Davie could provide adequate coverage to the western portion of the Town.

Council Member Fisikelli spoke about a recent call for service made from his residence and inquired what station would have provided coverage in the event of an additional call. Chief Montopoli indicated that Station 91 would have provided service.

Mayor Nelson felt it was imperative that the Volunteer Department acquire a brush truck. He felt that staffing could be maintained at two people on the truck. He indicated that "Big Red" should be kept for community purposes. He also indicated his support for reducing the stipends.

Council Member Breitkreuz thanked the members of the Fire Advisory Board for the time they have put into examining this issue. He thanked Chief Bennett and Assistant Chief Kastner for their efforts in keeping our community safe. He also thanked Chief Montopoli and the members of the Davie Fire Rescue Department for the job they are doing in serving our community. He drew everyone's attention to page 48 of the PSSI, Inc. operational study. He indicated that the map on that page indicates that the response time for western portions of the Town are taking 7 minutes and 40 seconds or longer to respond. He felt that was not acceptable. He felt that in the long run a future station needed to be placed on the Broadwing property owned by the Town. He also agreed with Mayor Nelson that a brush truck was needed. As for the stipends, he was concerned that cutting them too much could impact the Chief and the Assistant Chief's ability to adequately staff the station.

Council Member McKay agreed that the Broadwing site was a good idea. He asked that placement of a station on that site be a priority.

Vice Mayor Jablonski thanked the Volunteer Fire Rescue Department and Davie Fire Rescue for their service. He spoke of his request of Town Administrator Berns to place a cost per residence for the operation of the Volunteer Fire Rescue Department. He indicated that the amount was \$118 per residence.

Council Member Fisikelli asked if Davie Fire Rescue has a rescue unit at the station on 172nd Avenue. Chief Montopoli answered in the affirmative.

Council Member McKay objected to the Volunteer Fire Rescue Department being paid. He wanted the stipend reduced substantially and the savings could be set aside for a hardened building in the next two or three years. He also inquired about the warranty period for the radios being proposed to be purchased. Chief Montopoli spoke of Davie's purchase strategy and indicated they use service contracts to extend the life of the radios.

Council Member Breitkreuz reiterated his concern with response times in the western portions of the Town. He felt that Station 112 was staffed differently than Station 91 on Volunteer Road. He felt that residents of the western portion of Town were being shortchanged and being put at risk. He asked Chief Montopoli if the adaptive response model could be moved from Station 112 to Station 91 to provide enhanced options for the western portion of Town. Chief Montopoli responded that Station 91 had a higher call volume and therefore justified the adaptive response model for Station 112.

Chief Bennett reminded the Town Council that both the operational study performed by PSSI, Inc. and the Town's Fire Advisory Board agreed that the current model with both Davie and the Volunteer Department was the best model.

The following motion was made by Council Member Breitkreuz, but was not seconded nor voted upon.

MOTION: TO PURCHASE A BRUSH TRUCK FOR THE SOUTHWEST RANCHES VOLUNTEER FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT; MAINTAIN STAFFING ON SHIFTS WITH 3 PERSONNEL; REDUCE THE STIPENDS PAID FROM \$175 TO \$150 FOR DRIVERS AND LIEUTENANTS AND FROM \$125 TO \$75 FOR ALL OTHER PERSONNEL; PURSUE GRANT FUNDING FOR STATION 112; PURSUE FUNDING FOR TEMPORARY QUARTERS AT THE BROADWING SITE; MOVE THE VOLUNTEERS TO THE BROADWING SITE; SET A FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR THE VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT TO ACHIEVE.

The following motion was made by Mayor Nelson seconded by Council Member McKay but was not voted upon.

MOTION: TO REDUCE THE STIPEND TO \$50 FOR ALL PERSONNEL; ELIMINATE ENGINE 82, SELL EQUIPMENT AND PURCHASE A BRUSH TRUCK; REDUCE STAFFING LEVEL FROM 3 TO 2; SEEK FUNDING FOR A PERMANENT STRUCTURE AT STATION 112.

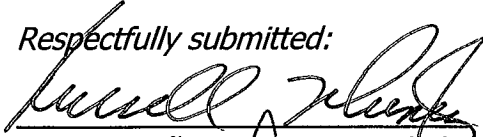
Council Member McKay withdrew his second, and Mayor Nelson withdrew his motion.

The following motion was made by Council Member Breitkreuz, seconded by Council Member McKay and passed by 5-0 roll call vote. The vote was as follows: Council Members Breitkreuz, Fisikelli, McKay, Vice Mayor Jablonski, and Mayor Nelson voting Yes.

MOTION: TO REDUCE THE STIPENDS FOR DRIVERS FROM \$175 TO \$150 AND FROM \$125 TO \$75 FOR ALL OTHER PERSONNEL BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2015; PURCHASE A BRUSH TRUCK; PURSUE A MODULAR TRAILER FOR THE BROADWING SITE; SEEK FUNDING FOR A BUILDING AT STATION 112; REDUCING STAFFING FROM 3 TO 2; REDUCE SALARIES FOR CHIEF AND ASSISTANT CHIEF TO A TOTAL OF \$30,000; ELIMINATE ENGINE 82; VOLUNTEERS TO MOVE TO BROADWING SITE WHEN SITE IS READY.

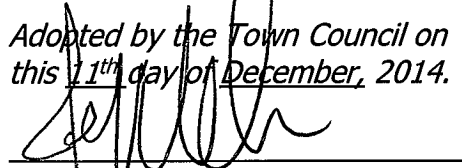
6. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Russell Muñiz, MMC, Town Clerk

*Adopted by the Town Council on
this 11th day of December, 2014.*



Jeff Nelson, Mayor

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTES 286.0105, THE TOWN HEREBY ADVISES THE PUBLIC THAT IF A PERSON DECIDES TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THIS COUNCIL WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT ITS MEETING OR HEARING, HE OR SHE WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THAT FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THE AFFECTED PERSON MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDING IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE CONSENT BY THE TOWN FOR THE INTRODUCTION OR ADMISSION OF OTHERWISE INADMISSIBLE OR IRRELEVANT EVIDENCE, NOR DOES IT AUTHORIZE CHALLENGES OR APPEALS NOT OTHERWISE ALLOWED BY LAW.