

**MINUTES
TOWN OF JUPITER ISLAND
BEACH PROTECTION DISTRICT MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024**

TIME: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 – 11:30 AM
PLACE: Town Hall Island Room – 2 Bridge Rd., Hobe Sound, FL
PRESENT: Present were Mayor Penny Townsend, Vice Mayor Marshall Field VI, and Commissioners Anne Scott, Patricia Warner and Joseph Taddeo. Also present were Town Manager Robert Garlo, Town Clerk Kimberly Kogos, Town Attorney Thomas Baird and IT Director Bill Sutton.

Mayor Townsend called the meeting to order at 12:38pm.

1. Consent Agenda

Category A- To be reviewed and approved (as is or as edited) by the Town Commission

- a. Minutes of the June 11, 2024, Beach Protection District Meeting

There were no revisions to the minutes and were approved as presented.

MOTION: *Commissioner Scott/Commissioner Warner moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2024, Beach Protection District Meeting.*

ACTION: *Motion Passed 5-0*

2. Beach Restoration Project Bid Award

Director Duchock explained that the Town began a bid solicitation process for beach restoration on May 10, 2024, and held a bid opening at Town Hall on June 14th. Bids were received by Weeks marine and Great Lake Dredge and Dock. He stated that the low bidder was Weeks Marine, Inc. He compared the previous beach nourishment project bid in 2020 and highlighted the key cost changes. Director Duchock recommended awarding a contract to Weeks Marine, Inc. for the bid amount of \$28,565,000. If awarded, a prepared contract and associated Resolution will come forward at the September meeting.

Commissioner Scott asked if there are enough dredges to complete all the projects going on. Director Duchock stated that he does not foresee an issue.

Town Manager Garlo noted that the Queen Conch is now on the endangered species list for protection. Director Duchock explained that a Queen Conch has not been spotted within the Town's area. He noted that projects in other areas have been postponed in order to relocate any found species. At this time, the Town's Beach Project is not in jeopardy, as there is no evidence of this species within the Town's project area.

MOTION: *Commissioner Taddeo/Vice Mayor Field moved to approve awarding a contract to Weeks Marine, Inc. for the bid amount of \$28,565,000.*

ACTION: *Motion Passed 5-0*

3. Beach District Budget Update

Director Duchock explained that at the June 12, 2024, Town Commission meeting, the Commission and staff reviewed the Beach Protection District proposed budget and approved a maximum ad valorem millage tax rate of .9593 mills for FY 2024-2025. He noted that two updates have occurred since that approval:

- the Beach District received bids for the FY 2025 Beach Restoration Project, and
- the Town received the Preliminary Taxable Values from the property appraiser on June 21.

He explained that the Beach District budget had been updated to reflect those changes. He added that although the updates increase the budget, staff continues to recommend setting the proposed maximum ad valorem millage tax rate to .9593 mills which represents a 8.57% increase over the rolled back rate of .8836 and is the same millage rate as the current year's rate.

Vice Mayor Field stated that he is concerned about dipping into reserves on an on-going basis. Director Duchock noted the concern.

4. Annual Physical Monitoring Report (Gahagan & Bryant)*

The Contractor was not able to attend today so this item is postponed to a future meeting.

5. Beach Status*

Director Duchock noted the sea turtle nest count as of 7/13/24:

353 Leatherback nests
5591 Loggerhead nests
546 Green Turtle nests

Director Duchock explained that beach conditions were mostly stable over the past month due to calm sea conditions. He noted no escarpments or active hotspots with a few potential hotspots that he will continue to monitor. He provided aerial views of the beach, noting various conditions along the shore and dune line.

6. Other Items

a. Beach Protection District Goals and Objectives

Director Duchock explained that HB7013 will require the Beach Protection District establish and publish goals and objectives for the District, including performance measures, and to report on those annually.

He stated that the first annual report is required to be published on the Town's website by December 1, 2025. He noted that staff has provided additional information detailing the District's current goals and objectives and is seeking discussion and recommendations from the Commission.

Mayor Townsend asked if there are other Beach Districts who are doing this as well. Director Duchock stated that he is reaching out to the Sebastian Inlet and Jupiter Inlet Districts on this task. He explained the district program can be broken into program elements including 1) Beach Renourishment, 2) District Funding, 3) Other District Activities, and 4) St. Lucie Inlet. Mayor Townsend suggested adding the Coastal Element (the protection of natural resources from the impacts of development and for protection of the residents from natural disaster and sea level rise). She also suggested adding the following tasks:

- Protect wildlife habitat
- Protect natural functions of and enhance coastal barrier, beaches and dunes
- Preserve existing dune vegetation

Discussion ensued regarding the potential of purchasing a dredging company such as Weeks Marine. The Commission asked Director Duchock to provide preliminary information.

b. Other Items*

There were no other items.

Mayor Townsend adjourned the meeting at 1:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Kogos, Town Clerk