

# SIESTA KEY ASSOCIATION MEETING

October 1, 2015

## WELCOME

Michael Shay called the meeting to order. A quorum was present: Beverly Arias, Helen Clifford, Joyce Kouba, Catherine Luckner, Michael Shay, Robert Stein, and Joe Volpe.

## MINUTES

The September minutes were approved.

## COMMUNITY REPORTS:

### **Sheriff's Office**

**Sgt. Mruczek**

Sgt. Jason Mruczek has returned to Siesta Key, and is newly in charge of the Siesta Key Substation. (The office is temporarily located in a trailer, but will soon be moved to the beach.) The sergeant said there were no big crime trends currently going on. Michael Shay spoke highly of Sgt Mruczek, saying he was very hands-on and attentive, and responded quickly to calls that need his attention. He encouraged anyone to call if they need help.

### **Code Enforcement**

**Susan Stahley (Michael Shay)**

Michael reported that Code Enforcement Officer, Susan Stahley, continues to work on illegal rentals.

## GUEST SPEAKER:

### **Sarasota County Fiscal Year 2016 Budget**

**Commissioner Alan Maio**

Commissioner Maio presented the County Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and outlined improvements for Siesta Key. He also said they were already working on FY 2017. The County Fiscal Year started October 1 of 2015, and extends through

September 30 of 2016. Maio spoke of the new budget and how it might affect Siesta Key. He first addressed several areas of misinformation: Sarasota County has no short fall for Fiscal Year 2016. The County is not going bankrupt, has sufficient 150 M dollars reserves, and has a triple A bond rating. The County recently recast its debt service, saving 69 M dollars. The County replaced impact fees with mobility fees which give the County more flexibility in using the fees.

FY 2016 proposed budget is \$1,092,000,000. Commissioner Mayo provided a handout illustrating how each dollar of property tax is allocated:

- 58 cents of each dollar goes to the Sarasota County School Board: 34.1 cents go to the State School system; 24.5 cents goes to local schools.
- 11 cents of that dollar go to Sarasota Florida Water Management, West Coast Inland Navigation, and Sarasota Memorial Hospital.
- 31 cents of that dollar goes to Sarasota County. The 31 cents is divided between the Sheriff's Office, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, Tax Collector, SCAT, Health and Human Resources, parks, libraries, and other services. It also goes to Sarasota County Debt, Mosquito Control, and Sarasota County EMS.

Siesta Key and the City of Sarasota each run about 30% of the bed tax. Siesta Key contributes 10.7% of the gross County ad valorem taxes. The Key is 5 billion dollars in assessed property value. Sarasota has the second lowest millage rate in Florida State.

Siesta Key has received: 15.4 M for south Siesta Key beach renourishment, 2.4 M for an Intercoastal water line, 12.3 M for central County water reclamation plant and \$50,000 for the Lido Beach Dredging peer review

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Big Pass Dredge Project**

Catherine Luckner reported that the Army Corp's response to the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) request for more information about the proposal to dredge Big Pass and renourish Lido Beach must be submitted by October 2. The Army Corp did not answer all of the DEP's questions, so there may

be a second request for information. The draft peer review was submitted to the County for comment and we are awaiting the final report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- The International Coastal cleanup, September 19, resulted in 20 bags of trash collected from Siesta Key by 29 volunteers.
- No meeting date has been set by the Florida State Siesta Key beach focus group.
- Bob Stein stated that there is nothing new to report on the roundabout.
- The owners of 162 Beach Rd. have submitted a fourth request for a variance to be able to construct a home 100% seaward of the Gulf Beach Setback Line. The request comes before the County Commission on October 14.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The membership drive begins in November. Membership fee has not gone up. Everyone who joins will get two tickets to the annual SKA breakfast.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

An attendee asked about the new medians installed as part of the Siesta Key beach improvements. When the FDOT considered the crosswalks on Midnight Pass, a significant problem to installing raised medians was that emergency vehicles would not have a driving lane. So, how will emergency vehicles navigate around these new medians? Michael will investigate this issue.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Kouba,  
Secretary, Siesta Key Association

*SKA minutes reflect the column by Diana Carlson and published in the Siesta Sand newspaper with additions by the association secretary.*

**Next SKA monthly meeting is Thursday, November 5 at 4:30 pm.**