

CATHERINE D. ROBINSON
MAYOR

JOHN ROGERS
VICE-MAYOR

DAN DAVIS
CITY MANAGER



Crossroads of Flagler County

COMMISSIONERS:

ELBERT TUCKER

BILL BAXLEY

JOHN SOWELL

BUNNELL CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MINUTES

Monday, June 26, 2017

6:00 PM

City Commission Chambers - Building 3
Bunnell, FL 32110

A. **Call Meeting to Order and Pledge Allegiance to the Flag:** Mayor Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and led the pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

B. **Roll Call:** Present: Mayor Catherine D. Robinson, Vice Mayor John Rogers, Commissioner Elbert Tucker, Commissioner Bill Baxley, Commissioner John Sowell, City Manager Dan Davis, City Clerk Sandra Bolser and Fire Chief Ron Bolser.

C. **Presentation: 10 Year Major Fire Department Equipment:** City Manager Davis explained the workshop was called because staff is starting to put the budget together and since Chief Bolser has taken over the fire department he has been working on the inventory so that he could start his budget. He ran into some issues that needs to be brought to the Commission's attention. Staff is looking for direction from the Board.

Fire Chief Ron Bolser provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding a 10 Year Major Equipment Plan for the Bunnell Fire Station. Chief Bolser advised while researching the department's needs he discovered the air packs and bottles will expire during the next budget year. The cost to replace just the air packs and bottles will be \$110,000 on top of the regular annual budget. He advised the City should also start setting aside money annually for a ten-year replacement plan for all major equipment. Mr. Davis summarized the budget sheet and explained the we will need to almost double the budget just to deal with the air packs that must be replaced in the upcoming budget. The City will have to budget \$233,000 just to sustain the fire department for next year.

A bigger issue is at least one of the fire trucks needs to be replaced in two years. This is where we keep talking about a 5 and 10-year capital plan. The City should start putting away monies to cover the apparatus replacement in 10 years. This is in addition to the department needs for next year.

Board Discussion: Commissioner Baxley asked if he understands correctly the upcoming budget for the fire department is \$233,000 and the City also needs to set aside another \$365,000.

Commissioner Sowell asked Chief Bolser to explain the ISO rating. Mayor Robinson asked if the City did go with the County if the City's ISO rating would be lower. Commissioner Tucker advised records show that Flagler County's Fire Department can beat the City's Fire Department to the scene because it takes longer for the volunteers to get to the station. He added his position on the fire department hasn't changed that we are already paying taxes on the County's fire services. The City will never be able to staff that department the way it needs to be staffed. Commissioner Tucker stated it will be much worse when the increase of \$25,000 homestead exemption passes. Based on the stats he received before from Chief Petito, most of the calls in the City of Bunnell are medical. Commissioner Sowell stated as a citizen, when he sees a fire truck, the expectation is when the fireman steps out of the truck he is fully trained as a firefighter and to be able to render life saving measures as needed. Although some of Bunnell's firefighters are paramedics they cannot offer any medical aid at all, because we do not have a medical director. They can act under the Good Samaritan rule, but they cannot establish an air way or push a drug. He added that he feels the department has done an exceptional job with what the department could afford.

Commissioner Baxley stated that based on what is presented it will take the City over \$1,000,000 by the year 2019.

Vice Mayor Rogers asked if the air packs had to be in the upcoming budget and if the City could finance a fire truck because once the Fire Department is gone we will never be able to bring it back. Finance Director Gurnee advised that it might be possible to finance a truck. She reminded the Board the City still has an outstanding loan for the City Complex for around \$800,000 which will be coming out of the general fund budget. The general fund owes the water sewer fund about \$500,000. The general fund is now in a positive unrestricted net asset position that we are supposed to be by our fund balance policy. Doing a loan for a fire truck could endanger the City of not being in compliance. Vice Mayor Rogers stated the City could probably qualify to lease an engine. Mayor Robinson agreed the City should look into a lease and any and all options before the decision is made. City Manager Davis stated that leasing or financing is still going to cost about the same. As the Finance Director stated we need to get to a place that we are living within our means. This report is a prioritized budget and exactly what the department will have to have next year. This could be considered the budget submission for 2017/18 at a bare minimum. As far as the engine goes, we could probably get one engine, and let the 2009 engine be the backup, but we already have one engine that is over 20 years old. Even if you look at lease payments you are still looking at around \$300,000 each year. Every single year Derrick asked for career staff. City Manager Davis advised even if the Commission decides to go to the County for fire services we should still budget some money for next year while the logistics are worked out. Commissioner Sowell advised he has not spoken to anyone at Flagler County about this at all. His personal preference would be for Flagler County to move into our station and make it a fully staffed station permanently. Commissioner Tucker suggested a workshop with the County to find out what they could do for the

City. Chief Bolser advised he spoke with the County back when this was first discussed a while back. Chief Petito assured him that if this ever took place, the County Fire Department would take our volunteers if they have Fire Certifications. City Manager Davis stated he agrees to having a workshop with the County, but is not sure if it something that needs to happen right away. Commissioner Tucker stated that the County is going into their budget also, so he feels we need to have a workshop with the County soon. Mayor Robinson advised she is okay with a workshop, but she also wants to look at the lease option.

Public Comments: None

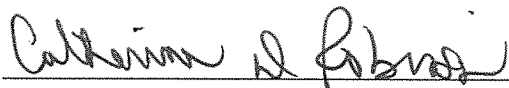
D. Call for Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn meeting at 6:06 PM.

Motion by: Vice Mayor Rogers

Seconded by: Commissioner Baxley

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.



Catherine D. Robinson, Mayor

7/10/2017

Date



Sandra Bolser, CMC, City Clerk

7/10/2017

Date