



**SANTA ROSA
ISLAND AUTHORITY**

**SANTA ROSA ISLAND AUTHORITY
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
MAY 27, 2015**

BOARD MEMBERS
Tammy Bohannon
Chairwoman
Dave Pavlock
Vice Chair
Thomas Campanella
Secretary Treasurer
Jerry Watson
Acting Secretary Treasurer
Karen Sindel
Member
Janice Gilley
Member
W. A. "Buck" Lee
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Authority Members
FROM: Executive Director
DATE: June 1, 2015
RE: Minutes of May 27, 2015 Budget Workshop Meeting

A budget workshop meeting was held on Wednesday May 27, 2015, immediately following the Committee Meeting to discuss the 2015/2016 SRIA Budget. Members present were Mr. Dave Pavlock, Dr. Thomas Campanella, Mr. Jerry Watson, Ms. Janice Gilley and Ms. Karen Sindel, who left the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Ms. Tammy Bohannon, Chair, called the meeting to order and presented the following item.

Item # 1 – Budget FY 2015/2016

Ms. Dottie Ford, Director of Finance, handed out the budget to each Board Member, as well as a packet showing the 5% reductions from each department. (See attached)

Ms. Bohannon stated this was the first time she had seen it and asked if all of the department heads were present.

Mr. Lee explained Bob West wasn't present, due to surgery.

Ms. Ford explained she did the 2016 budget first, and then took a 5% reduction in each department.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Pavlock stated the SRIA needs to know exactly what services Escambia County is taking over. He pointed out if the plaintiffs win, and there is no taxation, all budget changes would be negated.

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There was discussion regarding whether or not the SRIA will get to have any input regarding what services Escambia County will be taking over.

Ms. Bohannon voiced concerns over the levels of service Escambia County will be able to provide.

Ms. Bohannon and Ms. Sindel agree that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) wants to see a 5% reduction, using the 2015 budget.

Dr. Campanella stated the BCC ignored the report the SRIA presented to them, showing there is no parity currently between the rest of the County and the Beach. He stated there has been no commitment from the BCC yet. He doesn't believe the levels of service will stay the same for the leaseholders if Escambia County takes over.

Ms. Sindel stated the County needs to tell the SRIA how they are going to step in, and we can request to work in tandem with the County. She said the Beach is the crown jewel of the County and believes a lot of tax money will come back out to the Beach.

Ms. Bohannon encouraged the SRIA Board to take a position of strength, deciding the steps to reach the ultimate goal of budget reductions. She does not want to cut the maintenance department budget. She wants to let the County take over certain services and see how well it goes. She encouraged the Board to go home and study the budget.

Mr. Pavlock stated even if the lease fees are cut by 50%, the SRIA will still have the same expenses, and said the budget needs to reflect the growth in revenue the Island is experiencing.

Discussion was held on the Bucket 1 services the County has suggested they take over.

Ms. Ford stated there were items in Bucket 1 that the County could take over, however she felt lifeguards and maintenance should stay with the SRIA for now, and re-address next year.

There was discussion regarding whether the County would pay the SRIA to continue to provide certain services, or whether they would pay directly for the services.

Mr. Pavlock said the County wants the SRIA to manage the Island, and they need to send us what money they can, and then the Board can see how much lease fees can be lowered.

Ms. Gilley stated the Board should move forward with the Buckets, and also put accountability measures in place.

Mr. Pavlock stated the County could come in and take over roads and maintenance, while the SRIA keeps Bands on the Beach and the Blue Angels Airshow.

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Ms. Bohannon moved the Committee Meeting, the Budget Workshop and the Special Board Meeting for June 24, 2015 to June 22, 2015

Ms. Ford stated she would meet with every Board Member prior to the June 10, 2015 Board Meeting.

Mr. Watson asked when the BCC expected the SRIA to make a decision on the Buckets.

Ms. Bohannon stated it has not been specified.

It was decided to ask Steve Hayes to come to the June 10, 2015 Board Meeting to present Vision 20/20.

SPEAKER:

Ron Wilson – President of Pensacola Beach Chamber – He stated he supported the Bucket 1 items.

Ms. Bohannon asked how he felt about being placed under Visit Pensacola.

Mr. Wilson said he needed more information, and the Chamber had no unified stance on that at this time.

Ron Ellington – He stated the main goal is to reduce lease fees, and that everyone agrees that the same levels of service is expected. He stated the SRIA needs to identify what services they want the County to take over. He stated the County is actively looking at a Master Plan, including crosswalks, bike paths and traffic congestion.

Jim Cox – He encouraged the Board to give clear direction to Mr. Lee and staff regarding their expectations. He is pleased with the County assuming the Bucket 1 list. He encouraged a 5% reduction from the 2015 budget.

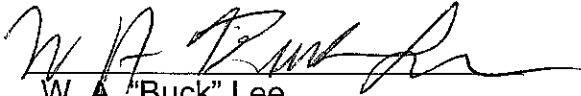
Julian MacQueen – He stated everyone wants to keep the same levels of service, and encouraged the Board to stop calling it a reduction, it is merely a transfer of services.

Discussion followed regarding lifeguards and Beach cleaning, which the SRIA provides the entire Beach.

Discussion was held regarding how the commercial lease reductions might work.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

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W. A. "Buck" Lee
Executive Director

WAL:jt

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