

PENSACOLA BEACH
SANTA ROSA ISLAND AUTHORITY

Board Members:

Elwyn Guernsey
Chairman

Dave Pavlock
Vice-Chairman

Vernon Prather
Secretary/Treasurer

Thomas Campanella
Acting Secretary/Treasurer

Fred Gant
Tammy Bohannon

W. A. "Buck" Lee
Executive Director

SANTA ROSA ISLAND AUTHORITY
PENSACOLA BEACH, FLORIDA
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2011

1-3. A Special Board Meeting of the Santa Rosa Island Authority was held on Wednesday, September 28, 2011, beginning at 5:07 p.m. Members in attendance were: Chairman Ed Guernsey, Dr. Thomas Campanella, Mr. Dave Pavlock, Mr. Vernon Prather, Mr. Fred Gant and Ms. Tammy Bohannon. Mr. Guernsey called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of meditation.

4. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Item # 1 - Discussion regarding the adoption of an SRIA Fee Simple Title Resolution. (Referred from the September 14, 2011 Regular Board Meeting)(Report by Chairman Ed Guernsey)

Mr. Guernsey read the 2011-77 Resolution aloud. He said it simply states that the SRIA joins with Escambia County resolving to support Fee Simple Title. He suggested an addition of the condition: "assuming the final court decision upholds the taxation on the land".

Mr. Dave Pavlock asked that the language be made clearer in the Resolution regarding the transfer of the part of the Island that lies in Santa Rosa County.

Mr. Vernon Prather also asked for the addition of "without legally binding the Santa Rosa Island Authority" to the Resolution, so it would read like the Escambia County Resolution.

Mr. Stebbins agreed to both of these revisions.

SPEAKER:

Marilyn Hess

Mr. Ed Guernsey called for a vote. The Resolution was unanimously approved as amended by the Board. (6-0)

Item # 2 – Discussion regarding ad valorem taxes vs. lease fees. (Report by Chairman Ed Guernsey)

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Mr. Guernsey reviewed his presentation that he will present to the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners on October 4, 2011. It shows that close to \$17 million is put back into Escambia County, due to activities directly related to Pensacola Beach.

Mr. Prather suggested that the value of the public assets that are paid for by lease fees be included on the presentation.

Mr. Pavlock thinks the figures presented were on the conservative side.

Mr. Guernsey proposed engaging Mr. Rick Harper, from the University of West Florida to do an independent study to fully educate the public of the value of the SRIA.

Upon motion of Mr. Vernon Prather seconded by Ms. Tammy Bohannon, the Board unanimously voted to adopt a Resolution to present to the Escambia County Commissioners asking that the ad valorem taxes due and paid on the lands will be held in escrow, and the prevailing party will be refunded either the ad valorem taxes or the lease fees, once all the lawsuits are settled. (6-0)

Item # 3 – Discussion regarding an independent study to assess the benefits and features of Pensacola Beach. (Report by Chairman Ed Guernsey)

Mr. Guernsey gave background on this item and stated he thought there were two (2) parts to consider: 1) Engaging Mr. Rick Harper to do an independent study comparing Pensacola Beach to neighboring beaches (Gulf Shores to Panama City) in relation to taxes, parking, public beach areas, and fees and 2) Developing a plan for Pensacola Beach, considering different scenarios.

Mr. Guernsey stated that the next year is critical and we need a carefully considered plan. He said we need to win the hearts and minds of everyone in the county, since all are impacted.

SPEAKER:

Robert Rinke

Mr. Pavlock is concerned about the impact the ad valorem taxes may have on the property values on Pensacola Beach and feels a study to show how the SRIA is a benefit to Escambia County government as well as the citizens of Pensacola Beach would be a good idea.

Mr. Guernsey stressed the importance of having a non-biased study done in order to establish a value that Pensacola Beach contributes to our community that is real and can change, based upon the response to the passing away of lease fees.

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Mr. Prather agreed that a professional study could be beneficial to the SRIA and voiced concerns regarding liability. He would like to invite Mr. Rick Harper to the October 12, 2011 Regular Board meeting to discuss the possibility of a study.


Upon motion of Mr. Ed Guernsey, seconded by Mr. Vernon Prather, the Board unanimously voted to have staff develop a proposal for Rick Harper to work on as a report for our use and benefit. (6-0)

Further discussion followed.

5. ADJOURN

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Guernsey declared the Regular Board Meeting of the SRIA Board adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



SECRETARY



CHAIRMAN

(Please note that the Santa Rosa Island Authority does not make verbatim transcripts of its meetings, although the meetings are tape-recorded. Any person desiring a verbatim transcript of a meeting of the Santa Rosa Island Authority will need to independently secure such verbatim transcript.)

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