

**BARRIER ISLANDS GOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22, 2006**

PRESIDENT: Mayor Don Taber, Town of Indian Shores
VICE PRESIDENT: Mayor John Robertson, Town of Belleair Shore
SECRETARY-TREASURER: Mayor Linda Wilson, Town of Redington Beach

President Taber called the February 22, 2006 meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** President Tabor then led the group in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.
2. **Roll Call:** Each person was asked to introduce him/herself.
Members Present: (Voting member – V; Alternate member – A)

Belleair Shore	Mayor John Robertson (V)
Clearwater Beach	Councilmember Hoyt Hamilton (V)
Indian Rocks Beach	Mayor Bill Ockunzzi (A)
Indian Shores	Mayor Don Taber (V)
Madeira Beach	Vice Mayor John Wolbert (V)
North Redington Beach	Mayor Bill Queen (V)
Redington Beach	Mayor Linda Wilson (V)
Redington Shores	Mayor J. J. Beyrouti (V)
Treasure Island	Commissioner Richard Kraus (V)

Guests:

Bill Smith, Jim Lawrence and Joan Herndon, Town of Indian Shores Councilors; **Steve Sutch**, Indian Shores Property Owners President; **Harold Radcliffe**, NRB, Resident; **Jerry Knight**, North Redington Beach Vice Mayor; **Ed Ruttencutter**, St. Pete Beach Commissioner; **Nick Fritsch**, Sand Key Civic Association; **Missy Pike**, Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce President; **Mary Maloof**, Treasure Island Mayor; Vince Robertiello, Candidate for Indian Shores Council; **Mike Kelley**, Belleair Beach Resident; **Mary Wilkerson**, Sarah's Seaside Cottages; **Dennis Jones**, State Senator; **Rod Jones**, Candidate District 54; **Martha Boos**, Madeira Beach Vice-Mayor; **Steve Schwalb**, Digital Eel; **Linda Fisher**, Pinellas Planning Council; **Ralph Stone**, Treasure Island City Manager; **Neil Brichfield**, S.U.C.A.; **Doreen Moore**, Madeira Beach Resident; **Rand Baldwin**, S.W. Fl Water Mgmt District; **Marlene Clausen**, Indian Shores; **Phyllis Johnson**, Sand Key Sun Reporter; **Mary Burrell**, Beach Beacon Reporter; **Mari Campbell**, Town of North Redington Beach Deputy Town Clerk. Other guests were present but did not sign in.

3. **Approval of Agenda**
Motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. All showed favor by voice vote.
4. **Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2006 meeting**
Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. All showed favor by voice vote.
5. **Approval of Treasurer's Report February 2006**
Secretary/Treasurer Linda Wilson presented the February 2006 treasurer's report showing a balance as of February 16th of \$1,998.40. Mayor Wilson stated she had spoken with the bank regarding the service fees adding the fees would no longer be charged and she was working on having the January fees refunded. She raised the possibility of changing banks. Motion was made and seconded to approve the report. All showed favor by voice vote.
6. **Old Business: Status of Gulf Boulevard Task Force relative to meeting with the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners on 14 February 2006 for presentation of city resolutions.**

Mayor Beyrouti gave an overview of the meeting stating it had gone well. He commended the members of the BIG-C and the municipalities for their attendance at the meeting. He stated that the two revenue sources being considered to pay for the undergrounding of the utilities are the Penny for Pinellas, a portion of property taxes or a combination of the two.

Peter Yauch, Director of Pinellas County Public Works/Transportation spoke regarding the new cost estimates of the undergrounding/street scaping of Gulf Boulevard. Mr. Yauch stated construction costs had risen considerably since 2002. He gave the estimates as:

Undergrounding Utilities	2002 cost: 48 Million	Projected 2008 cost: 66 Million
Street Scaping	33 Million	64 Million
Total	74 Million	130.5 Million

The members discussed that easements were included in the estimates. Mayor Beyrouiti said he felt they should be included in the estimate then credited later if the municipality acquires them at no charge. Mr. Yauch stated the estimates were a worst case scenario. Mr. Yauch added the intention was to have four crews working at the same time to complete the project within a 3-year time period and to minimize traffic disruption. He also stated that municipalities that had already completed projects would be reimbursed and this cost had been added into the estimates.

The members noted that cooperation between the county and the municipalities is going well. They also discussed the impact of DOT once the project began. President Taber explained that DOT has been watching and inspecting their undergrounding project.

Mayor Beyrouiti added the beautification committee will be meeting March 6th. He said the recommendation was for Pinellas County to visit each municipality to negotiate an interlocal agreement.

Mayor Beyrouiti spoke regarding the Florida Beach and Shore and their lobbying efforts. He stated each municipality had contributed in the past toward the lobbying. He made a motion to continue this practice this year. Mayor Wilson stated the amount would be \$454.54 from each municipality. Vice-President Robertson seconded the motion and all showed approval by voice vote.

Mayor Ockunzzi asked if anyone present was aware of a requirement to increase beach accesses in order to receive federal funding for beach re-nourishment. No one present was aware of any such requirement however Mr. Fritsch replied he would check with the Army Corp of Engineers and let Mayor Ockunzzi know their response.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Discussion of tax basis for residential and business establishments on the Barrier Island: Mary Wilkerson spoke on behalf of the Save our Properties Revolt; a committee formed in October 2005. She relayed to the council the purpose of the committee is to save the small inns and lodging facilities that are disappearing because of high property taxes. She explained the commercial properties in Pinellas County are taxed at the "highest and best" use. She gave the example of one of her properties which contains seven cottages but is zoned for sixteen. She therefore pays taxes on sixteen properties. She appealed to the council on behalf of the committee to try to intervene with the Property Appraiser's office to find a different way to levy taxes. Ms. Wilkerson stated that out of the 67 counties in Florida, there are several different formulas used to assess taxes.

The members and guests discussed who was responsible for setting the type of formula used in assessing the properties. Councilman Hamilton stated that Jim Smith; Pinellas County Property Appraiser was a constitutional officer and not under the direction of Pinellas County Board of Commissioners. The members agreed to invite Jim Smith to a future meeting to discuss alternative ways of taxing to try and save the small businesses.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Legislative Update: Senator Jones gave an overview of the legislative session beginning March 4th. He stated there was a 4 billion dollar increase this year but it was mostly non-recurring funds due to the hurricanes. He gave an overview of the measure passed last year making constitutional amendments harder to be approved. He added that on the agenda this year is a bill to require a 3/5 vote instead of a simple majority to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot.

B. Beach Update by Nicole Elko, Coastal Coordinator, Pinellas County: Mr. Fritsch read an email from Nicole Elko who was out of town. She stated the section one was completed on February 16th. She added that section two should be completed early to mid-April. She stated the sand quality was rock free with low shell.

9. **Adjournment:** Vice-President Robertson expressed his appreciation on behalf of the BIG-C by presenting a plaque to President Taber whom is resigning before the next meeting. Vice-President Robertson stated he would be interim president until new officers are elected in April.

Commissioner Kraus asked for an item to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting concerning enforcement of crosswalks on Gulf Boulevard.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

The next meeting will be held March 29, 2006 at the Town Hall in Redington Beach.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Queen, Mayor
Town of North Redington Beach