

**WORKSHOP MEETING  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TOWN OF REDINGTON SHORES  
TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006 – 7:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

Present upon roll call: Commissioner Adams; Commissioner Branch; Commissioner Wojcik; Vice Mayor Holmes; Mayor Armstrong

**PRESENTATION OF POLICE SERVICE**

Mayor Armstrong introduced Sheriff Jim Coats and Chief E.D. Williams, each of whom presented proposals for upcoming contract negotiations. Sheriff Coats began by stating the Sheriff Department has had a 30 year partnership with municipalities, and now serves 10 different cities in specialized areas. Sheriff Coats pointed out the “sophisticated crime analysis and records management” that is designed to meet the communities’ needs. Sheriff Coats offered 3 options for the contract: 1) One full time deputy per shift at a first year cost of \$580,598.10; 2) share one deputy per shift plus two special enforcement deputies with the 3 Redingtons at a cost of \$205,611.76; 3) share five deputies with the 3 Redingtons for a cost of \$257,795.14. Sheriff Coats also offered “ride-along” observations to any interested parties to see how the deputies work.

In answer to several questions from residents Sheriff Coats said that the deputies assigned would commit to 2-3 years in the same Town; there would be a “cap” on salaries; extra help would be available in emergencies as the need occurs. Vice Mayor Holmes asked if service would still be available when needed to Redington Shores if priority is given to unincorporated areas, and if there is no contract with the Town. Sheriff Coats said yes, but it would not be “priority one.” The sheriff also indicated there would be an 8-10% increase in the contract for the next year.

Chief Williams, Indian Shores Police Department, began his presentation by introducing former Mayor Don Taber, current Mayor James Lawrence, and the 9 members of the police department in his 17<sup>th</sup> presentation to the Town. Chief Williams spoke of his 42 years in law enforcement, and listed the background and years of service of all of the police officers. Chief Williams indicated that the training for smaller agencies is the same as for larger organizations such as a county sheriff’s department. The Chief offered a proposed 5 year contract at \$341,479.00/year – a 3.7% increase from last year. Chief Williams then elaborated on various aspects of the handout distributed to the Commission, including training, arrest records, emergency management, equipment and maintenance of the county park. There were several residents who expressed support for the police department, but also appreciate the backup support from the sheriff’s department. It was generally agreed to that the close proximity of the Indian Shores Police, and the fast response time is an advantage, as well as the fact that the officers know so many of the residents personally. Sheriff Coats said there is an “escape clause” included in the proposed contract, and that staffing needs can be changed. Mayor Armstrong encouraged the residents to write to and talk to their District Commissioners, and said that a decision on a contract will be made at the May 2 Commission meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Undergrounding Updates**

Mayor Armstrong said that there are about 20 properties that have gang meters – 3 or more meter cans – that have been told there will be a cost incurred for the undergrounding. Originally the Town’s residents were assured that there would be no charge to them; Mayor Armstrong asked the Commission to decide what is fair for everyone, and said the added cost to the Town to replace duplex gang meters would be \$22,229.64. A

discussion ensued among the Commissioners regarding this subject. Vice Mayor Holmes said that at the February 28 Workshop the Town had agreed to pay for single family and duplex meters. Commissioner Branch said that the Town needs to stand by its word. Mayor Armstrong said that about 4.4 million has been spent out of the over 5 million loan, and cost overruns need to be taken into consideration. A general consensus from the Commission was that all meter cans should be paid for by the Town, at a cost of \$75,553.02. Mayor Armstrong commended the Commission for their help going door to door to help the residents. Updates on the undergrounding are also posted on the Town's website.

#### Purchase of Parcel Adjoining Spitzer Park

Commissioner Branch said he has met with the Town's attorney, Jim Denhardt, and the agent for the owner, Larry Newlin, regarding the sale to the Town. It was determined that no restrictions on the land's use would be applied if the Town buys the land. It was agreed that an independent appraisal will be done by the Town, and an offer made to Mr. Newlin with a limited time frame for a decision. A motion was made to order an appraisal by Commissioner Adams; second by Commissioner Branch. Roll Call: all yes.

#### Phase 2 & 3 Engineering

Mayor Armstrong said that Cumbeys & Fair was the only engineering firm that responded to the advertisement for engineering services for Phase 2 & 3 of the Stormwater improvement project; therefore, they will most likely be selected.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Resident Gail Conroy asked if the paving and drainage project involves the Surfside Beach Club area loop. Mayor Armstrong said it does not.

Several residents voiced their support for the retention of the Indian Shores Police, and were encouraged to contact local Commissioners to express their requests.

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, May 2, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.

Workshop Meeting – Tuesday, May 30, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Herr  
Administrative Secretary