

The January 20, 2022 meeting of the RLE Advisory Committee was called to order by Chairman Dallas Seveland. Other committee members present were Crystal Ferguson, Gary Levit, Paula Gawlik, and Carol Setzer. Guest present was Lieutenant Joyner and Fire Marshall Ken McCann. There were 15 people in attendance. The meeting was opened with invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman:

Votes for Chairman and Vice Chairman were counted: 5 votes for Dallas Seveland for Chairman, 2 votes for Crystal Ferguson for Vice Chairman, 2 votes for Carol Setzer for Vice Chairman, 1 vote for Paula Gawlik for Vice Chairman. Due to the tie for Vice Chairman there was a revote 1 for Crystal Ferguson, and 4 for Carol Setzer. Seveland stated that everyone remains in their current assignments.

Agenda Item Public Comment (1): NONE

Approval of Minutes (2A) November 18, 2021:

Motion made by Setzer, seconded by Gawlik to accept minutes with corrections of November 18, 2021 (2A). Motion carried.

Committee Reports (3):

Building & Grounds: Ferguson reported that they were getting quotes for the Clubhouse repairs. Also, they were repairing the library, just finished lights and now working on removing the shelving and the carpet. After the library is finished the district office is moving into the library and that building is turning into the recreation building.

Code: Levit stated that there were two yards cleaned and that he is still going around checking. Seveland mentioned that we are no longer allowed to report anonymously and that if people still wanted to report without their names they can contact Levit or Seveland and they will report for you. Levit also mentioned that when reporting about squatters they have to be on your property, if they are not on your property then you can let them know and they will research the property and they will let them know.

Levy County: No representative.

Public Safety: No representative.

Recreation: Gawlik reported that the ceramics club was closed for December and January due to increased risk of COVID, might open again in February if COVID decreases. Hasn't heard from the garden friends, poker club, or the dominos club. The women's club is still meeting at restaurants. Mentioned that the boat ramp at Tiger Lake has a lot of pot holes in it and a big rut in it. Thinks that it is because there is a lot of people using that one because Lake Bonable is closed. Questioned is there a reason Lake Bonable boat ramp is closed? Spicuzza responded that the boat ramp is closed due to not enough parking spaces for the boat trailers. Gawlik asked if there is another boat ramp. Levit responded that there is only the one at Tiger Lake. Asked if the boat ramp is going to be repaired? White responded that the repairs are already out for bid. Levit asked about doing a Neighborhood yard sale. Gawlik replied that she would like to but needs people to participate. Seveland mentioned how it is difficult to put on events without any volunteers and stated that we need them to help with these events.

Roads: Setzer stated that according to Pete Hodges, MSTU Project Coordinator, the bid for Beach Blvd. has been awarded to Anderson Columbia. They are to start in Feb. The award amount was \$1, 212, 847.90. The quad stop sign replacement for phase 3 is schedule to open on Feb 2, 2022. Also, the Tiger Lake project opens for bid on Feb. 2, 2022.

Committees/Guests (4):

Sgt. Bloom stated that RLE Estates is not a high crime area. Pointed out that keeping yards cleaned helps to prevent crime in the community due to the broken window theory, which is when a yard or home looks bad the higher risk of people breaking in. Stated that for county wide they have had an increase of scammers or fraud, pretending to be the IRS, the police department, and the biggest one is on online dating. Scammers are mainly targeting the older generation that are retired. Levit asked about drugs in the community. Joyner stated that it takes time to catch them that if you keep calling it helps with identifying trends to make it easier to find them which is called Crime Mapping. Dallas said that they caught the biggest house for drugs and that calling does help.

Russell Ward - Assistant County Attorney- Stated that he was there to help the board with their previous vote on the options for the volunteer fire department since the vote ended in a tie. Stated that if the vote ends in a tie and the Chairman voted in the original vote that he couldn't be the tie breaker as well. The tie would result in the board has failed to speak and is silent. That the Chairman can give his recommendation and it would be just from the chair not the board due to the board being silent.

Consent (5): NONE

Old Business (6):

6A. Ken McCann - Marion County Fire Marshall came to answer any more questions the board may have about the options for the volunteer fire department, apologized for the Chief not being able to make it due to illness. Seveland stated that the Marion County Fire Rescue (MCFR) has been open about Station 1 not closing down, and that the volunteers can still volunteer if Rainbow Lakes Estates (RLE) goes with MCFR. If RLE stays with the Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) the ISO rating will go up to a 10. If we go with MCFR 41%

of residents will go down to a 3. Currently RLE is paying Marion County \$54,000. In the future, it will go up to \$74,000 then to \$120,000 if the VFD stays the way it is now. Ferguson asked what happens with the equipment that was recently purchased for the VFD. McCann stated the equipment will remain at the station because it is remaining open. Seveland stated they would be paying us for the value of the equipment over the 3 years, and that station 2 will be closing since they are not using it. Seveland asked about the highest rank officers at the station. McCann responded the highest rank at the station will be a Captain. Ferguson questioned if the response times would change. McCann responded the response times will not change. MCFR is already responding inside of RLE. As long as the Volunteers remain active their response times will not change. MCFR can't staff the station. The current station is not up to standards to be a staff station. Seveland stated that the only difference will be if we go with MCFR is the leadership and the training. Seveland stated that the volunteers currently cannot act at the scene of the fire unless there are 4 volunteers if they arrive before MCFR. McCann said that is true when entering the fire. It is called the 2 in 2 out rule which is a safety procedure. The 4 volunteers have to be combat certified. Seveland asked Spicuzza if we currently have 4 firefighters certified. Spicuzza stated that the VFD is averaging 3 combat certified volunteers. Seveland asked what the volunteers can do at the scene. McCann stated that depending on the level of training the volunteers have is what they are allowed to do at the scene. Gawlik asked if a Firefighter 1 was considered qualified at the scene? McCann said yes. Gawlik said that they currently have 5 combat certified volunteer Firefighter 1 according to the list Chief Keiper gave at the last meeting. Seveland asked how many of the new volunteers on the list have joined. Spicuzza said 3 out of the 4 have joined since then. Setzer asked if anyone knows how the volunteers feel about being under Marion County. Levit said he talked to them. They said they are a tight group and are loyal to leaders that they have, who are not really leaders. Seveland stated that if RLE stays in control of the VFD that the MSTU will hire a career Chief since no one in the MSTU is qualified to run a fire department. That will be more than the \$199 the County will charge. Setzer asked if ISO assessment is in 3 years. McCann responded that they don't like to go past 5 years between assessments. Setzer asked if the fire is near the lake do they use the lake water to help put out the fire. McCann responded that it depends on if the fire trucks can access the lake without going into the water. Dallas asked the board if they would like to revote tonight or wait. Motion made by Gawlik, seconded by Levit to adopt option 3 for the volunteer fire department. Setzer no, Gawlik yes, Levit yes, Ferguson yes, Seveland yes. Motion carried.

New Business/Board Items (7):

7A. Revising RLEVFD Inventive requirements to eliminate the monthly meeting - Seveland asked if they have to change it based on the board voting to go with MCFR. Seveland stated he liked the Firefighters having meetings because then everyone gets the same information. Motion made by Levit, seconded by Gawlik to leave the requirements as is. Motion carried.

7B. Revising proof of residency requirements to include property tax bill, or recent utility bill (electric, water, sewer & gas) sent to the property's address with the applicant's name. Spicuzza explain that as of right now the requirement is to show a valid Florida Driver's license or Florida ID for proof of residency. Explained that this would allow residents to bring in a deed or utility bill to prove that they are a resident to get the resident rates and discounts. Seveland said that by allowing mail it is opening everything up to squatters that are living on vacant land. Motion made by Levit, seconded by Setzer to keep the Florida driver's licenses or ID requirement. Motion carried.

General Public Comment (8):

Debra Leisten – Grandview - Stated that she can't get a valid FL driver licenses or ID because she has a driver licenses in Illinois and lives in both states. Wondering why she can't use the fitness center or get the discounted rate for being a resident. Discussion followed. Seveland questioned if there was a way to allow residence to participate. Spicuzza responded we can accept the deed. Motion made by Levit, seconded by Setzer to amend previous motion amended to include accepting property deed. Motion carried.

Levit questioned if we were still getting quotes for the lights? Discussion followed. White said that you can't put regular lights out there they will have to be stadium lights. Levit asked about if we can use solar lighting. Indiscernible comment from the audience. Discussion. Danielle Quaranta - Dahlia Ct. - Stated that she doesn't know about the solar lighting that she uses them at her house. Levit said that they are looking at getting lightning out there and want to know about other options. Spicuzza mentioned that before we move forward with getting quotes a copy of insurance needs to be provided to the District Office. Quaranta responded she will email it as soon as the meeting is over. Danielle said that if funding is an issue the baseball team is willing to rent out the field for the couple of days since they pay to use the other fields. Seveland asked Spicuzza if she can look into getting a pay as you go, solar, or stadium lighting. Seveland questioned how the baseball team gets funding. Danielle said they get money from sponsors and fundraising. Seveland asked how the team tryouts went. Danielle said that tryouts went great and that a majority of the kids on the team were from Inverness because that's where most of their games are. Discussion followed.

Announcement (9):

Seveland announced the next meeting will be on February 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.