

Indian River County Florida

*Indian River County Administration Complex
1801 27th Street, Building A
Vero Beach, Florida, 32960-3388
www.ircgov.com*



DRAFT - Meeting Minutes Emergency Services District

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

10:50 a.m.

Commission Chambers

Board of Commissioners of the ESD

*Joseph E. Flescher, Chairman, District 2
Peter D. O'Bryan, Vice Chairman, District 4
Susan Adams, District 1
Bob Solari, District 5
Tim Zorc, District 3*

**Jason E. Brown, County Administrator
Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
Jeffrey R. Smith, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
Leona Adair Allen, Deputy Clerk**

15. A. Emergency Services District

The Board reconvened as the Board of Commissioners of the Emergency Services District. The minutes will be approved at an upcoming Emergency Services District meeting.

15.A.1 17-0083 Lease of Fire Tower and Accessory Building at 43rd Avenue and 4th Street to Indian River County Historical Society, Inc.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board approve the lease with the Historical Society for the Fire Tower Parcel and the accompanying resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign the documents on behalf of the District.

Attachments: [Staff Report](#)

[Lease Agreement](#)

[Resolution](#)

Deputy County Attorney Bill DeBraal disclosed that the Indian River County Historical Society, Inc. (Historical Society) had approached staff about recreating the fire lookout tower located at 43rd Avenue and 4th Street into a historic exhibit. He provided the history regarding the Indian River County Emergency Services District's 4-acre property, and said that under the terms of the Project Grant from the Division of Historical Resources - Florida Department of State, the District and the Historical Society must enter into a Lease Agreement with the County for the use of the tower, office/accessory building, and parking area. He also described the conditions of the Lease and recommended the Board's approval.

Emergency Services Fire Chief John King supported staff's recommendation to approve the Lease with the Historical Society.

Ruth Stanbridge, Indian River County Historical Society, provided background on the fire tower and radio shack. She said the Historical Society considered the opportunity to make the tower a future community restoration, rehabilitation, and historical project. The Historical Society believed the County had disconnected the power source, water, and septic services during the construction of Fire Station 13 and/or when 43rd Avenue was widened, and requested that the connections be put back in place. She also pointed out that the security fence had been removed after a car accident, and asked if the County could replace it. She conveyed that the Grant for the project was written to cover the interior wiring, plumbing, new roof, parking area, and the necessary building materials for the radio shack. She spoke about the partnership with the Amateur Radio Club, and informed the Board that after the restoration, the radio club would bring their workshop to the radio building and open it up to visitors. She reiterated that

Grant monies cannot be used for infrastructure, and requested \$4,000 from the Board to assist with financing the infrastructure so the project can move forward. She informed the Board that there was a time constraint to move this forward because the quarterly report is due at the end of the month, and the Historical Society is required to release the funds back to Tallahassee or move the project forward.

Discussion ensued regarding insurance coverage and limitations; other County Leases; and the Historical Society not moving forward with the project unless the infrastructure is replaced.

Commissioners O'Bryan and Solari felt that expenses should be borne by non-profits, not taxpayers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Solari, seconded by Vice Chairman O'Bryan, to approve the Lease with the Historical Society for the fire tower parcel.

The Commissioners voiced their comments and concerns.

Dwight Baker, Vero Beach Amateur Radio Club Representative, expressed the importance of the Club during emergencies and hurricanes, and urged the Board to support the Historical Society's infrastructure funding request.

Bob Johnson, Coral Wind Subdivision, questioned whether Emergency Services District funds could/should be used to help support the Historical Society's efforts.

Chairman Flescher said he wanted to continue with the Florida Power and Light meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2017, and leave the window of opportunity open for a possible reconsideration of the Lease Agreement.

An amended motion was made by Commissioner Solari, seconded by Vice Chairman O'Bryan, to approve: (1) the Lease Agreement with the Historical Society for the Fire Tower Parcel, incorporating the following items: (a) access to the wireless internet connection; (b) reducing costs for the initial potable water hookup/meter fees and monthly recurring costs for the Ranger House; (c) attaching the waterline on the District's side of the water meter, as use is limited to inside the Ranger House bathroom, for a de minimis monthly cost; (d) attaching a small buried wastewater tank for the Ranger House with a scheduled pump-out routine; and (e) installing the perimeter fence that was damaged near the Ranger House; and (2) Resolution 2017-006, Emergency Services District approving a community interest Lease Agreement with the Indian River County Historical Society, Inc., for County owned property at the northwest corner of 43rd Avenue and 4th Street. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Chairman Flescher, Vice Chairman O'Bryan, Commissioner Solari, and Commissioner Zorc

Nay: 1 - Commissioner Adams

Carolyn Bayless, President of the Indian River County Historical Society, thanked the Board for everything they have done, and stated that the Historical Society declines the Lease Agreement, and would be returning the Grant money to Tallahassee.