

**Property Owners Association of The Villages
General Membership Meeting - Southern
January 4, 2024**

Called to order: by Cliff Wiener, President, at 7:00 pm.

- Board members present: All, except: Jerry Ferlisi and Steve Lapp, excused.
- Members present: Approximately 70.
- Organizations present: Realty Executives.
- Membership meeting minutes from 9/15/2023 read by Reb Benson and unanimously approved.
- Treasurer Report (December) by Ash Marwah, Income: \$37,608; Expenses: \$29,439; Net Gain: \$8,169; and, Operating Funds: \$113,472. Ash mentioned there was a Net Loss for 2023 of \$34,138.
- Membership Report: Ken Knodel mentioned that being a member helps ensure the POA bulletin gets to all residents and ensures we can address the issues impacting residents. He added that new members get a bonus card with discounts at various vendors and existing members can purchase the card for five dollars.
- Raffle: Three winners of \$30 each announced.

Announcements:

- Cliff introduced the various representatives in the room: Craig Estep, Sumter County Commissioner; Kenny Blocker, District Manager; Bruce Brown, Assistant District Manager; himself, District Supervisor; Dan Warren, North Sumter County Utility Dependent District supervisor; and, Reb Benson, Amenity Authority Committee member.
- Cliff mentioned the membership meetings are live-streamed on Facebook.
- Cliff mentioned all should sign up for e-notifications at DistrictGov.Org. Can select what information you want to be notified on such as weather warnings, etc.
- Cliff went over what the Vial for Life program by Sumter County Sheriff and CHIRP by Community Watch are about; mentioning vials and whistles were available to take home.
- Deb Butterfield mentioned the POA Facebook page that can be referenced for key information; adding we have over 2,000 followers now and recommended at the Facebook search bar folks put in POAATTHEVILLAGES and click on LIKE to follow.
- Cliff mentioned a 2nd Multi-Modal Path (MMP) discussion will take place on February 20th. First meeting had 65 people attend, including 12 from south of SR-44. He expects representatives from at least District 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 7 attending. A reminder email will be sent and POA Bulletin notice posted prior to the meeting.
- Shredding Event. Cliff mentioned the annual event will be on April 20th from 9am-12pm at the New Covenant United Methodist Church off CR-466, and is for members only. You can email POA4YOU@GMAIL.COM requesting a ticket. Have sent out about 350 of the 1,000 tickets so far.
- Member Meetings at Laurel Manor: Cliff mentioned Dr. Curtis on Alzheimer's on January 16th.
- Member Meetings at Everglades. Cliff mentioned meetings will be the first Thursday in January, April, July and October at 7pm; with an exception in July when the meeting is on the 18th (due to the first Thursday being July 4th).

Questions:

- Resident asked how expensive it is for the POA Bulletin? **Ans:** Cliff said it cost about \$25,000 in December and over \$185,000 per year to publish and print. He mentioned we were at 49,000 copies several years ago and now over 70,000.
- Resident said why not go only electronic with the Bulletin? **Ans:** We have over 4,000 e-Bulletin residents now, but many still want the paper version.
- Resident said they didn't like how a couple Sumter County Commissioners caved on the budget plan regarding fire and ambulance service. **Ans:** Cliff said folks need to attend the April and May Villages Public Safety Department Dependent District (VPSDDD) meetings and voice their concerns regarding the budget and policies this board will be adopting.

Speaker: Kenny Blocker discussed the Villages Public Safety Department (VPSD), which operates under the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD), and introduced Brian Twist, VPSD Chief.

- Chief Twist went over the VPSD mission of safeguard life, property and the environment and introduced Ken Wannan, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Division Chief, who discussed VPSD ambulance service that started October 2022, stating it has been a phenomenal year.
 - 15,586 transports with an average EMS response time of 7 minutes, 42 seconds.
 - 6 to 7 calls per hour during the day and 3 per hour during the night. No real busy season – constant steady state with about 80% of calls resulting in transport to the hospital.
 - Majority of calls in Sumter County followed by Lady Lake with only a few in Lake and Marion Counties or Fruitland Park (areas covered by interlocal agreements).
 - Takes about one hour to respond, go to the hospital and then back to the station.
 - Hospital transfer time is down to 25 minutes (use to be 40 minutes).
 - 15 ambulances...10 staffed 24/7 (in good response areas), 1 staffed during the day, 4 in reserve/spare. Staffing is 2 Paramedics or 1 Paramedic and 1 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with all providing Advanced Life Support (ALS). Three ambulances are on order (takes a couple years to procure one).
 - 80,000 miles annually on each vehicle covering 92 square miles.
- Chief Twist described the VPSDDD and future plans.
 - VPSDDD was established by Sumter County this past fall in response to a budget shortfall with the appointed board having its first meeting on December 15th.
 - VPSD has an Insurance Service Organization (ISO) rating of 2 (1 being the highest).
 - Station 46 is under construction in Finney and Station 48 in Middleton; with plans for Stations 47 and 49 on CR-470 (one south and one north of the Florida Turnpike, respectively).
- Questions, some pertinent ones:
 - Was the about \$15M cut in the budget? **Ans:** No, it was in the proposed Sumter County budget.
 - Will there be additional fire stations over what is planned? **Ans:** As the community grows, and see increased calls, will assess where to have a fire station to ensure they are within a 5-mile response area to maintain an ISO 2 rating.
 - If on a 911 call no one responds at the front door, what do you do? **Ans:** Depends, if we see someone in the house and no neighbors with a key then we will break into the house.
 - How good is the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program? **Ans:** An excellent program in The Villages.
 - Does every station have a hook-and-ladder truck? **Ans:** No, but plan to in the future – especially in every response area that has buildings over one story.
 - What are the VPSD goals for 2024? **Ans:** Get Stations 46 and 48 opened and staffed then Station 49; get the Dependent District up and running; and, get the 57 folks needed.
 - Are you going to update the VPSD website? **Ans:** Updating the website right now and creating one for the Dependent District.

There was a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm that was seconded and unanimously approved.
Submitted by: Reb Benson, Secretary