



MINUTES
Special Commission Meeting
Ed Burke Recreation Center - 11400 NE 9th Court
Biscayne Park, FL 33161
Wednesday, August 13, 2014 at 6:30pm

1 Call to Order

Mayor David Coviello called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

2 Roll Call

Mayor David Coviello - present

Vice Mayor Roxanna Ross - present

Commissioner Bob Anderson - present

Commissioner Fred Jonas - present

Commissioner Barbara Watts - absent (*arrived at 6:40pm*)

Present from staff were:

Village Manager Heidi Shafran

Village Clerk Maria C. Camara

Village Attorney John Hearn

Police Chief Cornelius McKenna

Finance Director Irwin Williams

Public Services Manager Krishan Manners

Assistant Public Works Director Cesar Hernandez

3 Pledge of Allegiance

4 Public Comments Related to Agenda Item

Barbara Kuhl: On the fee, on Manager's report, it is \$5,000 based on negotiated fee. But the contract states the total would be \$54,000. Need to clarify. From the summary, this is a finished price. But contract states there could be additional costs. Could easily exceed \$54,000. Miami Dade County is still considering allowing businesses to speak on this. Balsera may have to do even more. Don't see why any resident or business would be in favor of this. Already spent \$30,000, then another \$54,000, and could be \$20,000 more. Are we willing to pay \$100,000 to do this? Is there a chance we will get the percentage in favor of this. Before you blame prior commission, blame the planners. Do not like the fact that this is presented with no bids. Our citizens deserve fair market value.

Steve Bernard: If the Village were having a special meeting, why no e-mail blast? Why waive responsible bidding? You are responsible to your citizens. What is the timeframe? How many voters in the area? Are you going to listen to constituents? Your data and facts are not firm. You are supposed to respect us. This is not good for Biscayne Park. Hundreds that live here no longer trust you because of outsourcing sanitation. Asked for a review of reserves months ago. This is part of the process. If you don't want to do this, then it is arrogance. No notice of meeting. It's about spending \$54,000 or more. You don't know what the Village wants. Can't you ask when sending flyers? Are you going to accept the signatures based on what a lobbyist provides? Do this how you want to do it. \$54,000 is a huge amount. To do it without bid is wrong.

Milton Hunter: What is not clear is what their experience is in doing this and if they feel they can get the votes.

Donna Lane Downey: Did not receive notice until today. Changed plans to be here. Horrified that you would not put out to bid. Do not take one person's bid. Beyond belief that you would do that. Have not read documentation, so cannot speak on it. If writing is flaky, worried about that. Look at this as if it were your own home.

Linda Dillon: Agree with what has been said. For a \$2,000 garage project, obtained six bids.

Clerk read the following resident e-mails:

Susan Weiss: Opposed to annexation and always have been. Idea of hiring a lobbyist does not make sense. Why pay this amount if Village is in some sort of financial crisis. North Miami stands a better chance. There are issues with Code Enforcement and Police for this area. Just put me down for a NO vote.

Michael Spaventa: Not such a good idea and since we are so cash strapped, how can we afford a lobbyist. Anyone who is in favor of annexation should volunteer to pass out flyers to the neighborhood to be annexed. That would save the \$54,000 and other expenses.

5 New Business

5.a Annexation - Discuss next steps

Manager Shafran provided the status of our annexation application and the County's notification that a petition must be filed with the Clerk of the County Commission indicating the consent of 20% plus one of the electors in the proposed annexation area. The firm of Balsera Communications was consulted with to assist the Village in obtaining the required signatures.

Manager Shafran introduced Luis Mata from Balsera Communications. Mr. Mata feels that there is a favorable chance that this will proceed. Is sensitive to the cost and has provided a fair quote that is considerably discounted. Billing will stop at \$54,000, but we will not stop. We will continue to strategize.

After discussion, Vice Mayor Ross makes a motion to task staff to solicit proposals from at least two other firms. The motion is seconded by Commissioner Anderson.

All in favor: Mayor Coviello, Vice Mayor Ross, Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Jonas.

Opposed: Commissioner Watts

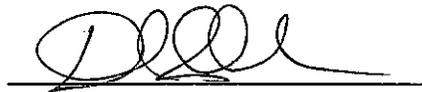
Motion carries: 4/1

6 Adjournment

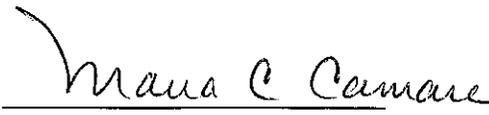
The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Commission approved on September 9, 2014.

Attest:



David Coviello, Mayor



Maria Camara, Village Clerk