

DUCK KEY SECURITY DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting March 5, 2024

Location: Hawks Cay Conference Center, Room C

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT/ZOOM (Z)

Rick Sherman, Chair (P)
Tim Abner, Vice Chair (P)
Laurie Oestreicher, Secretary (Z)
Megan Merryman (Z)
Laurie Keiling (Z)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: 2

Jon Porter
Bob Kelley

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tamara Lamarche - Executive Asst. for Comm. David Rice
Christina Corey, Assistant County Attorney (Z)
Frank Jackson – DKSAB Technical Asst.
MCSO – Detective David Fernandez, and Sgt. Andrew Leird
Luis Requejo – Ralons Security (Z)
Ron Oestreicher – DKPOA President, Resident
Judy Clarke, Chief Engineer, Monroe County (Z)
John Quinn, Sr. Analyst, OMB, Monroe County (Z)
Ivan Diaz, Florida Protection and Consulting
Paul Edwards, New Security Patrol staff, Ralons
FWC – Officer Brian Sapp
Sylvia Hernandez, Resident, past DKSD Chair
Chris Lancaster, Resident

PROCEEDINGS: (Initial problems with ZOOM linkup, meeting started late.)

- Meeting called to order at 4:10 by Rick Sherman, Chair
- Meeting held in person with ZOOM Hybrid Communication Media Technology (CMT)
- Date of meeting: March 5, 2024

Rick Sherman welcomed all and noted the meeting was being held at the Hawks Cay Conference Center, room C, as well as via ZOOM.

Roll call: Two members were present and two attended by ZOOM, two members were absent. Quorum achieved. See listing above.

Item II. Approval of March 5, 2024 Meeting Agenda.

Motion to approve by Laurie Oestreicher; second by Laurie Keiling, none opposed.

MOTION CARRIED

Item III: Approval of the meeting minutes of January 2, 2024

Motion to approve by Laurie Oestreicher; second by Tim Abner, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Item IV. Comments from the Public

Rick Sherman advised questions can be asked by the public at any time during the meeting.

V. STANDING REPORTS

MCSO – Detective Fernandez advised there were no crimes to report. Discussion was directed to the Detective about the Bimini Bridge traffic, specifically concerning the speed of drivers over the bridge, despite the Speed Limit being 10 MPH. It had been requested at the last meeting that MCSO post officers periodically at the base of the bridge with radar, and issuing tickets. Report was passed to Sgt. Andrew Leird, Supervisor of Traffic Enforcement, Marathon Substation. Discussions have been held with the MCSO Attorney, Patrick McCullah, regarding the 10 mph limit on the bridges, (refer to MC Ord. 015-2014), and whether MCSO was able to write speeding tickets, as the base speed limit in residential neighborhoods was 25 mph. Judy Clarke was of the understanding from our County Attorney that this had already been resolved. The ordinance for 10 mph on the bridges has been in place since 2014, for the safety of pedestrians, bicycles, and golf carts traveling over the bridges, which have limited visibility.

Detective Fernandez reported there were two speeders pulled over about a week ago, both instances they were residents.

Ralons Security – Luis Requejo reported that Duck Key has been quiet. Luis introduced the new security patrol employee to the board, Mr. Paul Edwards. Mr. Edwards addressed the board, advised them he has security experience of 5 years, prior to this he was a police officer in Jamaica for 19 years, and served in the Jamaican Air Force prior. He said he has been welcomed by the residents, and he is getting to know the island layout, and is happy to be here.

Hawks Cay Resort – No report

FWC – Lt. Brian Sapp reported that things have been quiet around Duck Key. We have had a migrant landing up in Key Largo recently. If you see obvious migrants offshore or on land, call MCSO, they will send out a response team.

Highlights and Information from FWC:

-Migrant activity seems to have picked up recently. If residents should see a refugee arrival or a chug on the shoreline, please call MCSO. FWC continues to support other state and federal agencies with the early detection and interdiction of migrant vessels.

-FWC continues to conduct high visibility patrols on the bridges, on U.S. 1, and in the waters of Monroe County. Our officers continue to discover fisheries violations that result in arrests and citations. These cases are always published in the newspaper, so the public sees the activity.

-FWC has made a big push for discovering, investigating, and processing derelict vessels in Monroe County. Vessels that have been deemed “at-risk” of becoming derelict are being asked to conduct propulsion test for safe navigation. Those that do not pass this assessment are being documented and cited.

-Lastly, if anyone should see any activity that seems illegal, they can report it to FWC by Text 847411 (Tip411) with keyword “FWC” and information about the violation or Call the Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (888-404-3922).

VI. OLD BUSINESS/Technology Report

Technology Update – Frank Jackson reported no problems with the camera equipment, all are operational. All Radar signs are operational and working. One radar sign has an issue intermittently. Will follow up with their tech support. So far resetting the unit seems to bring it back up. There continue to be intermittent issues with some cameras going offline, he will continue to work with Barnes Security and Bosch to get the issue resolved.

Frank also assured the board that he can continue to do the tech support, camera checks, and ZOOM setup for the board meetings with his new job.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Bridge Update - Judith Clarke, Chief Engineer, Monroe County Duck Key Bridge Update 3/05/24

Bimini Bridge: Waiting on contractor for grooving of the deck surface, expansion joints, and sealing the deck. They should be out there week of March 11.

Seaview Bridge: Concrete piles work – prepping to move in crane, by early next week, piles will be installed. Have asked contractor for recovery plan now that he is back working.

Harbour Bridge: Getting ready to close one lane to start work. Signal contractor coming down next week to evaluate site for setting up signal lights.

The issues with the contractor, Judy will be meeting with the Bond Company and our attorneys to understand how this works. The Bond Company wants him “moving”.

Ron Oestreicher, resident and President of DuckPOA, stated he is aware of the contractor having job cancellations on the West Coast (FL), financial issues – Judy said the delays they encountered elsewhere involved that proper permits were not obtained by the engineers on their team.

Judy reported the easiest way if we had to, is using a 2nd contractor on the project, without having to rebid the project.

The County has used this contractor in the past, he rebuilt the new ramp on Pigeon Key most recently, and he built the Marvin Adams Pedestrian Bridge on US1 several years ago up in Key Largo.

B. Security Bids – Introductions by the bidders

Luis Requejo, General Manager, Ralons Security Services, LLC:
Have served as the directing manager 15 years, 11 years in Monroe County. Ralons provides security at the Florida Keys College, both Upper and Lower Keys campuses, the City of Key West Marina and Ferry, and Duck Key Security District past 4 years. Ralons has 50 employees. (Bid was \$85,410 at \$29.25 per hour)

Ivan Diaz, Owner/Operator, Florida Protection and Consulting, LLC:
We are a small company, we have 3 large private security contracts, provide executive protection and VIP clients. I served in the U.S. Coast Guard as a Captain, before founding this company. Currently have 7 employees. (Bid was \$92,000 at \$29.95 per hour)

Questions/Concerns from Board and comments from residents in attendance:

Laurie Keiling stated that in the beginning when she moved to Duck Key, security was very present. Last year or so, she sees them just parked at the “park side” of the bridge, can’t reach them by phone. They will call next day.

Megan Merryman walks late in evening. She said she knows it’s not Frank, he drives nice and slow – but the guard comes whipping through very fast, doesn’t slow down to pass you.

Laurie Oestreicher said she finds the frequency of trips sufficient.

Tim Abner commented that you don’t want to be too planned, too frequent and regular, in your trips, should be changed up.

Frank Jackson, IT Tech and previous security employee with Ralons, reported that the guards have time check locations they have to log into. He always drives slowly. We

drive every street, don't miss any, 3 times per shift, takes about an hour, hour and half per circuit around the island.

Sylvia Hernandez, resident (previous Chair of Security District Board), asked Luis of Ralons if the number of trips around the island could be increased to 4 times per shift. He affirmed that yes, it could.

Laurie Oestreicher asked Luis what cell carrier they use for their cell phones? Luis stated they use T-Mobile.

Sylvia Hernandez, stated that AT&T or Verizon are the only carriers that work on Duck Key. Residents all have switched to one of these carriers. (Note: This is Cell tower positions in the Keys – AT&T & Verizon have the best tower coverage with the least occurrence of dead zones Keys-wide.)

Laurie Keiling asked Ivan Diaz of FL Protection & Consulting, how his rounds go? Ivan responded that they perform armed security at a school, and are heavily visible. The rounds are scheduled to the school class periods – foot patrols, and vary the rounds. Also handle security on a prestigious private island on Miami Beach.

Megan Merryman commented that she sees it as good that the security sits at the first bridge where incoming traffic can see them, know they are present.

Rick Sherman asked Luis of Ralons if he would change your cell phones to AT&T or Verizon for better cell service? He responded that his CEO was correcting that now as we speak.

Sylvia Hernandez commented that as a resident, I feel very comfortable with the changes Ralon will make with the cell phones, and increasing trips around the island to 4 times a night. They know Duck Key, and the other company has no residential patrol experience.

- C. **Security Bid Update** – At the end of the comment period, Christina Cory, Assistant County Attorney, asked if the Board had completed the scoring documents. The board had not been instructed about these, nor received those documents from OMB or legal. The board was advised to set another meeting between March 15 & 26, allowing 7 full days prior to the meeting date for legal public notice. The board will set a meeting as soon as possible to complete the bid scoring process as briefed by Christina.

Scoring/Rating process: She stated that at least a minimum of three board members must perform the scoring, and the meeting can be held by ZOOM. The individual scoring documents can be done prior outside of the meeting, signed and emailed to Tamara, who will forward them to Christina. The next day by email she instructed further that at the scheduled meeting, the individual scoring for each bid submitted will be read, and if the board member wishes to make any changes to their scoring it can be done at that time. Then the Final Tabulation Score document will be filled in added up from those individual scores to determine the highest scoring bid. The Final Tabulation sheet will

be emailed to the board members for signature for return at the earliest opportunity. The board will make a final vote approving the bidder they chose to recommend to the BOCC to approve for a contract. This recommendation and contract signed by the vendor with all required documents, (updated insurance documents), will be submitted for the BOCC Regular meeting agenda on April 17, 2024 at the Marathon Government Center for approval by the Commission. The contract will then be signed and enacted by the Clerk's Office as soon as possible. The effective date is April 17, 2024 when it is approved.

VIII. Budget Review – mid-year – John Quinn, Budget Administrator, OMB

John Quinn reviewed the basic budgetary information of balances and reserves for the Board.

Ron Oestreicher suggested additional camera support at bridges and canal coverage. (Seaview and Harbour bridges are missing a second camera.) Bridge cameras could be added now, canal side wait for bridge completion.

Tim commented that private cameras on canals are numerous, MCSO could request their footage if there was an event to investigate.

Sylvia Hernandez said the cost of installing new cameras, the electric, installing an electric pole, the cable, modems, ongoing maintenance, is very expensive. Need must be seriously considered. Everyone passes by the cameras at the entrance to resident, one way in and out.

Rick requested that Frank prepare a cost estimate for a camera, new pole, electric, and cable service, and related modem and license plate reader equipment to send out in advance of next meeting.

At the May 7 meeting of the Board, they will make the annual official vote on the rate assessments for FY25, and finalize any capital project proposals for submittal to OMB to put in the budget.

X. Public Comments

No additional comments were made by the public beyond the comments made during the bid discussion session.

Motion to adjourn made by Tim Abner: second by Laurie Oestreicher. Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Next DKSAB meeting will be May 7, 2024, at 4 p.m. at the Hawks Cay Resort.

Minutes submitted by: Tamara Lamarche, (Comm. Rice), Lamarche-tamara@monroecounty-fl.gov