

DUCK KEY SECURITY DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting January 7, 2025

Location: Hawks Cay Conference Center, Room C

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (P)/ZOOM (Z)

Tim Abner, Chair (P)
Laurie Oestreicher, Secretary (P)
Jon Porter, Vice-Chair (Z)
Ken Floyd (P)
Brandon Mullar (Z)
Laurie Keiling (Z)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Megan Merryman

QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tamara Lamarche - Executive Asst. for Comm. David Rice
Hawks Cay Resort – Gabriel Kelly, Director of Security
Chief Engineer, Monroe County – Judith Clarke
MCSO – Detective David Fernandez, Captain Derek Paul
Luis Requejo – Ralons Security
Frank Jackson – DKSAB Technical Asst.

ABSENT:

FWC – Officer Brian Sapp

Members of the Public:

Mark & Chris Aiello
Kevin & Grace Ventrice

PROCEEDINGS:

- Meeting called to order at 4:03 by Tim Abner, Chair
- Meeting held in person with ZOOM Hybrid Communication Media Technology (CMT)
- Date of meeting: January 7, 2025

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

Roll call: Not all board members present. Quorum achieved. See listing on first page.

Item I. Motion to approve/amend the Agenda for January 7, 2025

Postponement of Item VII. B. to the March meeting. (March 4)

Postponement of Item VII. C. mid-year budget review postponed to the March meeting.

Motion to approve by Tim Abner; second Ken Floyd, none opposed.

MOTION CARRIED

Item II: Approval of the meeting minutes of November 5, 2024

Motion to approve by Ken Floyd; second by Laurie Keiling, none opposed

MOTION CARRIED

Item III: Comments from the Public.

Tim Abner advised questions can be asked by the Public at any time during the meeting.

Item VII. A. Bridge Project Update Report by Judy Clarke moved up on the agenda.

Bimini Drive Bridge

Staff received close out paperwork from the contractor and the surety company. Final payment is being processed. Project is complete.

Harbour Drive Bridge

AEB has constructed end bents, poured level pad and constructed the MSE wall in front of the end bents and as much as can be constructed along both ends of Harbour Drive bridge east lane prior to placement of the arch beams. The arch beams have been cast and will be finished curing and ready to ship by January 17th. The contractor has been working to set up transport from the casting yard in Tampa to the site. Due to the size of the beams, which is approximately 15 ft. longer than those for the Bimini Drive Bridge, transport will be difficult, and three transporters have inspected the site and have declined the work. The contractor is currently working with a specialty company that has equipment that can transport the beam over Truman Bridge without the center bottoming out due to the arch of the bridge. AEB has applied for the FDOT permit to transport and once it is issued he will have 10 days to perform the work. Staff will provide as much advance notice to residents as possible when the work will be scheduled because there will be greater impacts and temporary closures on the roads when these beams are brought in and set than occurred on the Bimini Bridge project.

The contract substantial completion date of the Harbour Drive Bridge project is March 18, 2025, which is 540 days after commencement. The contractor will be receiving a time extension of 8 days for the two

hurricane events last fall. Four days per hurricane – one day to demobilize, two days as storm passes and one day to remobilize – is standard. In addition to that, staff is waiting for a change order request for additional time and money for unforeseen conditions encountered when the contractor drilled and installed the concrete piles. There were subsurface concrete pads on both sides that needed to be removed and voids underneath the pads that necessitated backfill and redrilling of at least one of the borings. The contractor's most recent schedule indicates that they anticipate reaching substantial completion on June 27, 2025, but this date is dependent on successful delivery of the arch beams.

Seaview Drive Bridge

The county issued the contractor a notice of termination on September 18, 2024. The surety company, who is the financial guarantor of the project, will determine the method by which the project will be completed. Pursuant to the provisions of the performance bond, this may be through:

- utilizing the existing contractor,
- using the surety's own agents or independent contractors,
- obtaining bids or proposals from qualified contractors on behalf of the County or
- Making payment to the County under the bond so that the County may proceed with securing a new contractor on its own.

Monroe County provided the names of three contractors to the surety and the surety indicated that they had solicited proposals to finish the work from a total of five contractors but to date have received declinations from two and no response from two others. County and CEI staff met with the fifth contractor on site on November 8th to answer questions about the project, and staff anticipates that a proposal will be submitted shortly. Staff will work with the contractor and surety to expedite the project to the extent possible.

The channel under the Seaview Drive Bridge was closed at the beginning of construction and remains closed. Signage was installed to notify boaters and the contractor's barge has been left in place as a physical barrier to further deter use of the channel. This is a safety precaution due to the low clearance during construction.

The county has been notified of instances where vehicles and cyclists have not adhered to the road closure signage installed on Seaview Circle and are approaching the Seaview Drive bridge in the left lane where there is no signalization to safely guide them over the bridge. To address this issue the County will be installing signage and additional barricades to fully close Seaview Circle at the intersection with Seaview Drive at the bridge. This change is anticipated within the next week. Staff has notified solid waste and the resident whose driveway access might be impacted by this change.

Staff inspects the plywood deck on the bridge periodically and performs repairs as needed. County Road Department staff is onsite Friday January 10th to perform repairs to the temporary deck and to evaluate minor improvements to reduce damage. The posted speed limit over the bridge is 10 MPH; adherence to the speed limit, especially by larger vehicles, will reduce damage to the deck.

Questions from the Public:

The Seaview Bridge, the lane being used, is it inspected by FDOT?

Answer, Judy Clarke:

FDOT has an inspection program in place during this construction process. They have not told us of any issues.

FDOT weight standard for a legal load is met on the single lane, no reduced weight restriction.

Weight limits are set by number of axles. The single lane meets the legal established weight standards.

Question from the public:

The stockpiles of rebar are visibly very rusty from sitting out, and there is concern that rebar in poor condition was used in the construction.

Answer, Judy Clarke:

The inspector has been out to check materials, and again with the pending change in contractor. They submit reports for replacement materials, and she does not have a cost proposal for materials from the inspector. There is an established process for dealing with comprised materials.

Laurie K. asked about visible cracks she has seen underneath the bridge, and rust showing.

Answer, Judy Clarke:

Not aware of any cracks for concern, inspector has been out there, will check with about the underside. The visible rust is has been inspected. It is stains from the forms (surface), not coming from within the concrete.

Question from member of the public:

Walkers and bicyclists don't pay attention to the lights. Suggested installation of "convex" mirrors to assist drivers to see them coming over the bridge.

Response from Judy Clarke:

We are looking at putting out additional signage. People are coming through on Seaview Circle and bypassing the signage on Seaview, turning onto Seaview after the light.

Member of the Public:

A resident out walking fell through a board covering when they walked over the bridge (Bimini). Foot fell through the plywood, she had surgery on her foot two days ago.

Response by Judy Clarke:

This was some time ago, it was a utility cut that was not properly covered. County has replaced some board and tightened screws very recently, and continue to monitor.

Member of the Public:

Who owns the barge, and why is it still there?

Response by Judy Clarke:

The barge belongs to American Empire Builders. The canal is closed. We have asked him to leave it there to block it. There are lights and signage. Tourists don't know about the construction project, there is very low clearance, and the current is very swift through that area. Very difficult to back out of it with boat. Left in place to assist with safety issues.

She will issue a new update report with all this information on Friday, January 10, 2025.

IV. STANDING REPORTS

MCSO – Det. Fernandez said the running radar reports are showing a definite increase in traffic in general. There have been 13 citations issued for speeding since November 2, 2024, most in the 10mph bridge zones (Bimini). Some locals, some visitors. Have increased patrols and will continue that effort. The main timeframe for speeding from the radar reports remains 11AM to 2:00PM.

Captain Paul said receiving the radar reports monthly is best, easier to work with and review. Staffing of patrols with radar-certified personnel is increasing. We have new grads of the radar school, and they are getting equipment installed in their patrol cars.

Captain Paul, MCSO commented that in regards to the radar signs, and license plate readers, technology has increased a great deal. Cameras are available now with the license plate reader function included, and the software program is excellent, they can immediately alert dispatch to expired tags, or the registered owner of vehicle having a warrant out for arrest, etc. Would suggest it at least for the Truman Bridge for capturing incoming and outgoing traffic, when camera upgrades are being considered. MCSO uses Insight program. They would be willing to make a presentation to the board to provide some information about the system as an example of what is available. The Chair thanked him for that information, and they would definitely consider that in the future for replacement or upgrade of the video cameras. Consolidating equipment would be great, and the new technology with instant alert programming to MCSO Dispatch is very advantageous.

Ralons Security – Checkpoints: I will be out on the island next week to do maintenance on the checkpoints for security personnel and add a couple more.

Hawks Cay Resort – Gabriel Kelly, Director of Security at Hawks Cay announced Hawks Cay is building a full security program to include the villas, hotel, and marina. He is looking forward to working with the Duck Key Security District Advisory Board. He reported that the Marina/Harbor marker is still in process, and the new Marina Store is open. The resort has quieted since New Year's, but they are expecting increased activity around Valentine's Day in February.

FWC – Lt. Brian Sapp did not give a report. (He had been on the ZOOM earlier, but when the connection was lost for some minutes, he did not come back on.)

VI. OLD BUSINESS/Technology Report

Technology Update – Frank Jackson reported that all cameras and radar units are in working order. Barnes Alarm was out in December and performed regular scheduled preventative maintenance. There was a date and time recording issue on a couple of cameras that was reset. We are able to get 4 street radar reports, we are paying for 3. Some confusion there, am sure it will be straightened out by Traffix Logic. In the meantime, we have an extra street report available.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Bridge Update - Judith Clarke, Chief Engineer, Monroe County** Duck Key Bridge Update January 7, 2024 (Moved up on the agenda prior to Standing Reports, Page 2)
- B. CPI Increase on service contracts – Postponed to March 4 meeting.
- C. DKSAB Fiscal Mid-Year Budget Review – Postponed to March 4 meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Tim Abner: second by Ken Floyd, meeting was adjourned at 5:07PM.

General information: Next DKSAB meeting will be March 4, 2025, at 4 p.m. at the Hawks Cay Resort Meeting room and via Zoom. Notification will be sent prior to the meeting.

Minutes submitted by: Tamara Lamarche, Lamarche-tamara@monroecounty-fl.gov