

TOWN OF BELLEAIR SHORES
Town Meeting
Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.
City of Belleair Bluffs Mayors Conference Room
2747 Sunset Blvd, Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770
MINUTES

Present upon roll call: Commissioner Tolbert, Commissioner Lally, Vice Mayor Storie, Mayor Blume and Attorney Lewis. Absent, Commissioner Caine.

Consideration to Approve Agenda

Commissioner Tolbert moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Vice Mayor Storie. The voice vote was unanimous.

Comments from the Public on any Agenda Item – (3) THREE MINUTES

No public present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 15th, 2025

Vice Mayor Storie moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Lally. The voice vote was unanimous.

Discussion - FY 2025/2026 Pinellas County Sheriff Contract

Mayor Blume thanked Sheriff Gualtieri for attending the meeting. Mayor Blume gave a brief background regarding the contract and the increase for service. Sheriff Gualtieri addressed the Commission stating that in 2023 the contract amount changed to be based on square miles instead of population, and the Commission did approve the contract, but may not have been aware of the change, as it might not have been communicated to them very well. It was also discussed that the calculations were not correct, and were not corrected until last year, and that is when the contract amount doubled. Sheriff Gualtieri did approve the contract amount for 2025 at a lower rate and now today's discussion is regarding implementing the new rate for FY 2026. Sheriff Gualtieri stated that the situation with Belleair Shore and Belleair Beach is unique, as the relationship was in place when they took over policing for Belleair Beach Police Department in 2006. Out of twenty-four municipalities in Pinellas County, they contract with thirteen of them. The important factor in contracting is it meets the needs of the municipality, fairness to everyone and consistency. The contract that we had with you all from the beginning was a shared contract with Belleair Beach since 2006, as that is the way it was set up, this is not the best way to set up the contracts, and now the contracts are separate. Sheriff Gualtieri stated in 2023 the fees for services were changed from population to square miles. As discussed previously it does not appear that there was much communication or discussion on the change for reasons unknown, but the town did sign the contract. Commissioner Tolbert thanked Sheriff Gualtieri for coming to the meeting and stated he has always received great services when needed, Deputy Trump does an excellent job and very quick to respond. Commissioner Tolbert stated he appreciates Sheriff Gualtieri trying to do this fairly, but it is hard to understand why you would use square miles but maybe consider using the number of calls. Sheriff Gualtieri stated it is not based on calls; it is based on the police presence. Vice Mayor Storie asked about the base services which are part of the County General Fund. Sheriff Gualtieri stated the base services are based on life and death services, not code enforcement, ordinance compliance, etc. After further discussion, Vice Mayor Storie

asked if there is any way to meet halfway on the FY 2026 amount and stair step the price up. Sheriff Gualtieri stated that is what he did last year, giving the Town over a year to make the adjustment. Sheriff Gualtieri stated if the town would like to propose something to him, he is willing to take a look but does not promise anything. Vice Mayor Storie moved to move the FY 2026 budget, to \$52,000.00, with the intention in 2027 to pay the full amount with the calculation based on land area. There was no second on the motion. Consensus of the Commission is to wait until the July meeting. Sheriff Gualtieri stated if the Commission wants him to attend the next meeting he will if someone will let him know. Mayor Blume stated they would let him know.

Sheriff's Report

Sargent Bley reviewed the May activity, stating there was a total of 235 events during the month of May resulting in 250 units responding, these included 152 directed patrol, thirty-one ordinance violations, and fifteen house checks as requested. There were ten parking citations issued. No arrests were made. Mayor Blume asked what the coverage amount for patrol for Belleair Shore vs Belleair Beach. Sargent Bley stated he could not answer that. Deputy Trump stated the officers are constantly patrolling Gulf Blvd and observe both sides of Gulf Blvd. Commissioner Tolbert talked about coming up with ten most questions received and placed on the website. After discussion, Vice Mayor Storie moved to designate Commissioner Tolbert to work on this and present to the Commission when ready, seconded by Commissioner Lally. The voice vote was unanimous.

Code Enforcement Report

Deputy Trump reviewed the activity for May; most violations has been corrected. The signs have been installed on the south end of the beach, but the north end still needs to be installed. Vice Mayor Storie stated the company will be back to finish, they had a piece of equipment break. Kyle from Belleair Beach has agreed to put up the handicap signs in the lots. Deputy Trump stated the new gates look great and the temporary fencing is still up. Mayor Blume reported he did have the gates repaired and the insurance company will be out to remove the temporary fencing. The deputies have been notified to lock the gates at night and open in the morning. The Commission thanked Deputy Trump for his service to Belleair Shore.

Suncoast Fire Report

District Chief Best reported they have changed their Tuesday meetings so they can attend Belleair Shore meetings and be more engaged with the communities. Projects are being worked on, and the property has been purchased on the north end of Indian Rocks Beach for a new station. The Fire District is looking to use a building that Belleair Beach owns to put a satellite service up hopefully by October 1st. The Marine Fleet is ready for service. Over one thousand training hours have been completed in May.

Treasurers Report – May 2025

Town Clerk Palmer reviewed the report with the Commission. Nothing out of the ordinary to report. Mayor Blume mentioned the cost of the gate repair is \$4,000.00, the deposit was \$1,200.00. The audit is progressing. Town Clerk Palmer mentioned the Capital threshold is currently at \$750.00. Town Clerk Palmer spoke with the auditors about increasing the amount and they will have this in the audit. Commissioner Tolbert moved to approve the Treasurers Report, seconded by Vice Mayor Storie. The voice vote was unanimous.

Counsel Report

Attorney Lewis mentioned he will start looking for a Special Magistrate for the town, since Attorney Trask has resigned and a few cases might be coming up with the new signs going up. Attorney Lewis has spoken with one of his colleagues regarding the CCL and ECL and will have an update at next month's meeting for the Commission and budgeting purposes.

First Reading Ordinance 2025-05 – Shark Fishing Prohibited

Attorney Lewis read Ordinance 2025-05 by title. Vice Mayor Storie did request this ordinance as he has witnessed fishermen on the beach and chumming the waters. His children swim in the waters, as others do and safety is a concern. Commissioner Tolbert stated other towns do have this ordinance and the fishermen are moving to the towns who do not. Mayor Blume asked for any other discussion or comments. There being none, Commissioner Lally moved to approve Ordinance 2025-05 on first reading, seconded by Commissioner Tolbert.

RFP for Countywide Service for Post Storm

Town Clerk Palmer reported that the Florida Department of Emergency Management, (FDEM) will not be sending resources to help with post storm needs. Pinellas County will be soliciting bids from companies that can help with these needs, which municipalities will be able to choose from. Town Clerk Palmer encourages the Commission to participate and will keep the Commission updated on this. Town Clerk Palmer also talked to the Commission regarding the lack of a named Certified Floodplain Manager and did reach out to Safebuilt to add this service for the town.

Mayor/Commissioner Comment on Non-Agenda Items

The Commission discussed the need to designate a member to work on the Sheriff contract. After discussion, Vice Mayor Storie moved to designate Commissioner Lally as liaison to work with the Sheriff on the contract, seconded by Commissioner Tolbert. The voice vote was unanimous.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items – (3) THREE MINUTES

No public present.

Adjourn

Vice Mayor Storie moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tolbert. The voice vote was unanimous.

Mary Palmer

Town Clerk
Mary Palmer, MMC