

**Palm Beach County League of Cities  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
Wednesday, March 26, 2014  
Greenacres Community Center – Greenacres**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order and Flag Salute**

President Scott Maxwell called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.. Woodrow Hay, former Boynton Beach Commissioner gave the invocation and led the membership into the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call Cities, Introductions and Welcomes**

Mo Thornton called the roll and a quorum was attained.

**Cities represented were:** Atlantis, Belle Glade, Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Briny Breezes, Cloud Lake, Delray Beach, Glen Ridge, Golf, Greenacres, Gulf Stream, Haverhill, Highland Beach, Hypoluxo, Juno Beach, Jupiter, Jupiter Inlet Colony, Lake Clarke Shores, Lake Park, Lake Worth, Lantana, Loxahatchee Groves, North Palm Beach, Ocean Ridge, Pahokee, Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, Palm Beach Shores, Palm Springs, Riviera Beach, South Palm Beach, Wellington and West Palm Beach. **Absent were:** Manalapan, Mangonia Park, Royal Palm Beach, South Bay and Tequesta

Mayor Sam Ferreri welcomed the membership to the City of Greenacres. He recognized members of his council that were in attendance: Councilman Peter Noble, Councilwoman Paula Bousquet, Councilman Jonathan Pearce and newly elected Councilwoman Judy Dugo. Mayor Ferreri informed the membership of projects that the city is working on. He stated that the afterschool program building is being renovated and they will be doubling the size of the community center to accommodate their residence. He also mentioned the revitalization of 10<sup>th</sup> Ave which will house a new office building. Mayor Ferreri concluded by saying he is looking forward to today's presentation by Dorothy Jacks on Homestead Fraud since it is an issue municipalities face including Greenacres.

President Maxwell thanked Mayor Ferreri for hosting the League meeting in Greenacres. President Maxwell recognized the newly and re-elected officials in attendance.

President Maxwell introduced new member Don Mathis, who was given an opportunity to introduce himself to the membership.

**3. Additions, Deletions, and Modifications to the Agenda**

None

**4. Consent Agenda**

**a. Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2014 General Membership meeting**

**Motion and second to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. President's Report**

President Maxwell informed the membership of the 2014-2015 proposed slate. It is as follows:  
**President:** Mayor Steve Wilson, Belle Glade; **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Chair Pro Tem Dawn Pardo, Riviera Beach; **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Vice Mayor Robert Shalhoub, Lake Clarke Shores; **Secretary/Treasurer:** Manager Mo Thornton, Atlantis; **District 1:** Councilman Bill Manuel, North Palm Beach; **District 2:** Councilmember Jerry Beavers, Haverhill; **District 3:**

Councilmember Robert Gottlieb, South Palm Beach; **District 4:** Manager Bill Thrasher, Gulf Stream; **District 5:** Commissioner Allie Biggs, Pahokee; **Large City Rep.:** Councilman Jeff Hmara, Royal Palm Beach; **Large City Rep.:** Councilmember David Levy, Palm Beach Gardens; **Large City Rep.:** Councilmember Mike Mullaugh, Boca Raton; **Large City Rep.:** Mayor Jerry Taylor, Boynton Beach; **Large City Rep.:** Commission President Keith James, West Palm Beach; **Large City Rep.:** Councilman Matt Willhite, Wellington; **At Large Rep.:** Vice Mayor Kimberly Glas-Castro, Lake Park; **At Large Rep.:** Mayor Gail Coniglio, Palm Beach

## **6. Presentations -**

### **a. William A. Cruickshank Scholarship Awards**

Scholarship Committee Chair Mo Thornton presented the 2014 William A. Cruickshank Scholarship recipients with their awards. The Solid Waste Management and Recycling Associates scholarship contributors were: Advance Disposal, Joseph Sandora; Republic Service, Stephen Cawthen; Southern Waste Systems, John Casagrande and Waste Management, Dawn McCormick were in attendance to congratulate the recipients. The recipients were Seham Ahmed of West Palm Beach who attends Seminole Ridge Community High, Joelishia Banfield of Pahokee who attends Glades Central Community High School, Mackenzie DeMore of Jupiter who attends Jupiter High School, Asia Hughes of Riviera Beach who attends Palm Beach Lakes Community High School, Sophia Irwin of Palm Beach Gardens who attends Suncoast Community High School, Kimberly Rapp of Royal Palm Beach who attends Royal Palm Beach Community High and Maylee DeJesus, employee of the Village of Palm Springs. Each recipient was awarded \$1,000.

### **b. Chief Deputy Dorothy Jacks, PBC Property Appraisers**

Chief Deputy Dorothy Jacks thanked everyone for having her and was pleased when asked to speak to the membership regarding fighting Homestead Fraud. Ms. Jacks stated that within the last five years the Property Appraisers (PAPA) office has worked on its cooperative efforts with the municipalities to find a way to fight homestead fraud. Ms. Jacks explained that those who qualify for a homestead exemption are people who own and occupy their primary residence, must be a Florida resident and are not receiving another exemption in another state. She informed the membership that currently Palm Beach County has 300,000 homesteads out of about 650,000 properties. She stated that some people are non compliance because they are renting their homestead property, getting married and not relinquishing one of two benefits or benefiting from an exemption credited to a deceased relative. Ms. Jacks informed the membership that the property appraiser's office provides a screening before providing an applicant with the exemption and every year a receipt card is sent out as a way to confirm that the resident is still eligible. She explained that the cards cannot be forwarded and out of the ones they receive back they eliminate those with a temporary away notice. She stated they then send a letter to the property owner inquiring about the returned receipt card which allows the office to further eliminate those who were simply away and remove the exemption from those who are no longer eligible for homestead. Ms. Jacks explained that the fees for the homeowners who are not longer in compliance of the exemption are an assessment of 50% and 15% interest per year. She stated for those who do not pay the back taxes within the 30 days a lien is placed on the property thru the Clerk of Courts. Ms. Jacks stated that PAPA has partnerships with some of the municipalities who thru their rental license programs or utility department can inform appraiser's office if someone is renting or opening an account at a homestead property but are not the owners. She encouraged any municipality who is not on their list to contact the appraiser's office. Ms. Jacks finished by saying that most property owners who are in non-compliance is because of lack of knowing the rules. She stated that PAPA offers city newsletters and information to run on city TV along with being willing to educate municipal staff.

## 7. Miscellaneous Business

### a. Ratification of Amendments to the League By-Laws

President Maxwell reported that at this morning's meeting, the Board of Directors voted to approve the amendments to the League By-Laws. Ratification is required by the membership.

**Motion and second to ratify the amendments to the League By-Laws. Motion carried unanimously.**

### b. Ratification of the Appointment to the Countywide Coastal Council

President Maxwell reported that at this morning's meeting, the Board of Directors appointed Chair Pro Tem Dawn Pardo of Riviera Beach to serve on the Countywide Coastal Council. Ratification is required by the membership.

**Motion and second to ratify the appointment of Chair Pro Tem Dawn Pardo of Riviera Beach to the Countywide Coastal Council. Motion carried unanimously.**

## 8. Legal Report

Attorney Trela White reported that the ruling for the red light camera case in Fort Lauderdale is that the citation would only be given to the first named owner of the vehicle.

Mrs. White reported that the I.G. lawsuit was pushed back and is now on the calendar call for July 25<sup>th</sup>.

## 9. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Richard Radcliffe informed the membership that he will be attending Legislative Action Day in Tallahassee next week, April 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> and asked if anyone else would be attending.

Mr. Radcliffe informed the membership that the first reading for the Water Taxi Ordinance will be on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Radcliffe informed the membership that copies of the book "The Role of Elected Officials During a Disaster" are available.

Mr. Radcliffe informed the membership that copies of the MPO's 2040 Long Range Transportation Road plan are available. He stated that if you have any questions or concerns regarding the future plans to contact the MPO.

Mr. Radcliffe reminded the membership of the Elected Officials Workshop on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Atlantis Country Club following the General Membership Meeting. He informed the membership of the topics that will be discussed. He also stated that Kathy Till will be the speaker at the General Membership meeting providing a halftime legislative update.

Mr. Radcliffe also reminded the membership of the Installation Gala which will be held at the Kravis Center on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**10. Member Comments**

None

**11. Upcoming Meetings - *Announced***

- a. Board of Directors Meeting, Atlantis Country Club.....10 a.m., April 23<sup>rd</sup>
- b. General Membership Meeting, Atlantis Country Club.....Noon, April 23<sup>rd</sup>
- c. Elected Officials Workshop, Atlantis Country Club..... 1:30 p.m., April 23<sup>rd</sup>

***RSVP Required***

**12. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.