



Legislative Action Report

November 2009

SURTAX: The Power Point Schedule is up on the web site. Please try your best to make it to the presentation that best suites your availability. This is important as we look to the future funding and delivery of Fire Rescue Services.

North County:

Palm Beach Gardens: Meetings are finally starting up reference the merger again. Time is not on our side. If we can get an agreement then the PBG Council must opt into the MSTU by Dec. 31 with two (2) votes by that time. After the PBG Council has opted into the MSTU the PBC BCC must then also have two votes to approve the changes. This also must be done by December 31. This leaves no room for even a hiccup.

Riviera Beach: Because the city did not have the backbone to layoff our personnel they are set to begin furloughs (non-paid day off) this month. We are working this through the grievance process and expect a favorable outcome. Additionally, we are hosting a political fund raiser on November 17th at ER Bradley's Saloon in Downtown WPB for FIREFIGHTER supporter and current RB Council Chairwoman Dawn Pardo. Dawn has championed many of our issues in RB and is a true friend of the firefighters. I encourage everyone to come and show our support for Dawn on November 17th from 5-7p at ER Bradley's. Should be a good time for all.

Central County:

Lake Clarke Shores: Recently gave \$1000 to the Town for the Annual BBQ and an additional \$500 for the Kids Weekend Movie night at the Town Park. These are two great events that we have continually supported over the years. The Town has supported the Surtax with a resolution.

Lake Worth: Elections were held last night in LW with a 20% turnout. The Local had a great showing with Jo Ann Golden (incumbent) winning her seat back with 57% of the vote. Jo Ann recently supported the merging of LW Fire Rescue with PBCFR. Scott Maxwell won overwhelmingly with 65% of the vote. Scott was a passed councilmember who supported our issues and always had an open door for us. In the six (6) candidate Mayoral race our candidate Renee Varela finished ahead of the pack with 39.1% of the vote and will be in a runoff election in the coming weeks. Please be prepared to come and assist with this election. This election is critical as the new city manager felt the LW deal was not good for the city and is already looking to move back into the fire business.

Unincorporated PBC: The PB Post Reported that the Airport was looking at privatization of Emergency Medical Services. This should be an EYE Opener for most of our membership. AMR and Medics have been reportedly marketing their services as a COST CUTTING measure for governments within PBC. Fortunately, our commissioners are not for PRIVATIZATION of Emergency Services. We are confident that this will not happen and are currently talking with Mr. Pelly and his staff about ways to help the airport with lowering the cost without sacrificing quality of services.

Palm Beach: Pension plan report has been returned. The cost of the pension per the report is 54% of payroll. Meaning; if someone was making \$100K, the pension cost for that employee is 54K dollars. This is obviously an issue. We are still coming up with a game plan on this and are reaching out to the council. DVP Sekula has been on top of this report from the get go and continues to do a great job.

West County:

Wellington: Currently looking at getting a consultants report on the cost of Fire Rescue. There will be three (3) seats up for election this coming March. One is an open seat that is being vacated by our friend Lizbeth Beneaquisto. The other is Mayor Darell Bowen and Councilman Howard Coates. We are looking for qualified candidates.

RPB: Mayor Lodwick is retiring and Councilman Mattie Mattioli is going to be making a run at the Mayors seat. This will create an open seat on the council. We have enjoyed a great relationship with RPB since they merged back in 1999.

South County:

West Delray: Met with the South County Democrats “Godfather” Murry Kalish. He asked me to serve as a Director of the South County Democratic Club. This is an excellent opportunity as this organization is the largest voting block in the county.

City of Delray Beach: 19th DVP Jim Tabeek and I recently were the celebrity chefs to help raise money for the City Library. This event was extremely successful with a majority of the elected officials and attending. The real hit of the night was our own Pipes and Drums band playing. Several officials have made comments saying that this has been the best thing that the firefighters have done in some time. We are going to rebuild our politics in Delray from the Ground up!

Chamber of the Palm Beaches: October was the Firefighter Breakfast. We had a great attendance. Chuck Lupo, AJ O’Laughlin, Pete Murphy, Chief Jerald, Chief St. Pierre, Chief O’Bannon, Chief Bouse, Captain McGlynn and I attended. The event was sponsored by St. Mary’s hospital. Retired Chief Brice was also in attendance. He now sits on the board for St. Mary’s. Over 200 business leaders attended in honor of the firefighters.

Chamber of North Palm Beach: Hosted at the Marriot in PBG. Every Mayor in the Northern Palm Beaches gave their economic outlook on the future. Needless to say it was not every upbeat. Scripps Research is being billed as the backbone of the north county.

League of Cities: Several meetings with the league have taken place. Recently, we attended the Board of Directors Meeting to give a Presentation on the Surtax. This presentation was well received. There were several questions that seem to become the common. How to budget the sales tax money? Is the money additional to the current taxes? And what have we done to tighten our budget so far?

Additionally, there was a joint meeting with the League of Cities, The County Commission, the School Board and the State Legislative Delegation. This meeting was hyped up by everyone and nothing was done at this meeting.

Prior to this meeting was the County Commission Budget Workshop for 2011... yes already. This should be watched by all. It can be viewed via internet or rerun on channel 20. President Mayo or Vice Pres. Lupo can touch more on this.

Upcoming events:

Lunch for the Wellington White Pine Project participants Nov. 7th @ 1130am at the Project site.

Chamber of Palms West 2010 Wellington Equestrian Season Update Lucheon...Nov 9th.

Veterans Day Nov 11th.

PBC League of Cities Meeting for Central County Nov 11th at the City of Atlantis.

Valet Sponsor for the Chamber of the Palm Beaches Annual Gala on Nov 13th at the International Croquet Center. We are also giving a station tour and dinner certificate to at the firehouse for the Chambers silent auction.

Board of Director Meeting for the South County Democratic Club Nov 16th.

Councilwomen Dawn Pardo political fundraiser: Nov 17th at ER Bradley's 5-7p

Lake Worth Mayors Run-off Election Nov 17th. We are endorsing Renee Valera.

Fraternally,

Fred Angelo