

LMKA General Membership Meeting

2/13/2017

The meeting was called to order by LMKA president, Mark Riley. Mark then introduced guest speaker, Seth Lawless, Islamorada Village manager.

Mr. Lawless introduced himself and explained his background – Originally from Ohio, he attended school in North Carolina. He has three children, the youngest being 17.

He has been in small town management for 28 years having specialized in small town management in college. Islamorada is his fifth small town job in those 28 years. He came from a town of 16,000 near Raleigh, NC where he worked the last 10 years. Started here October 1, 2016 and feels like he is now “at the end of the beginning” with this job.

Mr. Lawless described some of the projects impacting Lower Matecumbe that are currently in progress or being planned.

- Two canal restorations –
 - canal along Cortez/Columbus Drive - wall of bubbles (air curtain at entrance of canal) with 42 diffusers
 - Canal between Ocean Lane and Sea Lane with 18 diffusers
- Board walk at Anne’s Beach being replaced along with work on the restroom
- Sea Oats Beach – work with FDOT to prevent further erosion. FDOT will initiate efforts and Village will follow up with their own efforts
- The Fills – landscape plan will be implemented by FDOT in the spring of 2018 – goal to attempt to restrict parking on bike path and to avoid obstructing the view by using low vegetation at viewpoints.
- Parking Plan – a plan is being undertaken along with a traffic study to attempt to improve these issues, primarily along business areas of Upper Matecumbe and North Plantation Key
- Land Use – attempting to make permitting more customer friendly by improving efficiency and speed of permitting process; eliminating Development Review Committee .
- Sewer – 80% of the village is connected. 99% of Village portion of sewer project itself is complete except for restroom at Anne’s Beach and some vacuum pit replacement on North Plantation Key. Current effort – inspection of grease traps at restaurant – a known concern with central systems.
- Tax bill confusion – budget process for the November tax bills had a problem – needed a 5-0 approval and one councilman was not present so the vote was 4-0. Tax bills had already been printed by Monroe County by the time the state informed the village that there was an issue. A special meeting was called but the vote at that meeting was 4 – 1 to approve the budget used to create the tax billing. So a compromise was reached, lowering the tax rate slightly. Since bills were printed and could not be changed, the village is holding the extra funds in escrow until the next budget cycle later in 2017 and the amount in escrow will be credited along with interest. Rather complicated so stay tuned.
- Mr. Lawless was asked about village debt. He said he did not come prepared to discuss detailed financial information but did mention that the village has a reserve fund of 40%. A majority of

debt is for the central sewer and customers are billed with tax bills and or water bills to cover those debt payments.

- Asked about Walgreens and Publix – both are in progress. No lights are planned for either but turning lanes will be provided to allow vehicles to turn into the Publix.
- The need for education as to property owner's use of central sewer was discussed particularly as it relates to grinder pumps and telemetry system.

After Mr. Lawless concluded, he offered to return to discuss any topics our association was interested in.

The meeting continued with various discussions:

- Mark Riley had members of the audience introduce themselves. There were 35 property owners in attendance.
- Sue Miller read a list of projects that the Association can work on if we can get volunteers to undertake the effort needed. President Mark Riley is hoping that there will be enough volunteers to keep an eye on these specific issues and report back at future meetings. Some on the list have already had volunteers willing to take on the project. See attached list with names of volunteers to date. Mark hopes that each board member will volunteer for at least one issue – or add a new issue of interest to that board member. More than one volunteer can work on an issue.
- Larry Zettwoch – a volunteer with the Lower Matecumbe fire station reported on the need for a Lucas CPR compression device specifically for our fire station. It will cost \$19,000 and all but \$5400 has already been donated primarily by businesses or residents of the island. A fundraiser is planned at the Safari Lounge in March. See attached information.
- Larry does CPR classes periodically and has one scheduled for March.
- The fire department also asks residents to fill out a form that they distribute to be placed on your refrigerator – one for each resident of the home – which provides medical information in case they are called to the home for a medical emergency – they will have a head start knowing the background information. We will have forms available at the next meeting or get in touch with the association – lmkanews@gmail.com
- The association will decide at our next membership meeting whether there is enough money in our treasury to donate funds for the Lucas device.
- Roland Moore gave a summary of a legal issue that is confronting the property owners on Sunset/Iroquois Drives. Not all property owners in the subdivision are members of a homeowners association. However that association has filed suit demanding that a lighted 16' easement to the beach be created. The "adjoining" property owner has documents demonstrating that he owns the property where they want the easement. Very contentious issue to be decided by the judge... dividing their community and perhaps creating public access to a lovely beach and the concerns, parking issues, noise, etc that go with that.
- The LMKA membership agreed to allow the current board to remain the board for 2017.
- The membership agreed to create a LMKA website which will be designed by Sue Miller.

The meeting was adjourned.