

Open Session / Polk Day in Tallahassee:

I wanted to remind everyone that Open Session begun yesterday in Tallahassee. Just incase anyone decides to attend later in the week, I wanted to remind you all a couple HB's and SB's which management is closely watching. As I did Mid-February when Special Project Manager, Tracy Mercer attended the FAST Fly-In when she travelled to Washington DC with Florida League of Cities federal advocacy trip known as the Federal Action Strike Team. We had her to mention our concerns with infrastructure funding, home insurance and safer roadways. Today, she will be meeting with a couple representatives (house and senate) and tasked her with the following bills which is a great concern to Dundee.

HB 405 Partisan Election – this will require local government to run under a partisan election. Local government has always been nonpartisan elections, this allows candidates to run on local issues and not have to address national issues. I am hoping that local government can stay non-partisan, because this allow every candidate to address what's happening in Dundee and not state or national issues. We want to keep our eye on local issues and not get comingled with the messy nation issues. That should continue to be addressed at the STATE level and not within the town.

SB 798 Solid Waste Management – This bill will allow the town to continue to treat solid waste as a whole entity rather than having residences to pick and chose the company to pick up their solid waste. As we have seen with the experience we have had with

outside vendors and the importance of waste pickup. We do not want private entities to have the ability to be in and out of our community not being held accountable for our waste management and the beautification of our town. Outsourcing had Dundee a mess and we do not want to return to those issues.

SB 1340 Insurance – As we all know, our solvency is currently 300k however in this bill it will allow up to 2.5 M. This is greatly concerning because Dundee annual budget is 11 M. If we have cases where someone has a homeowner's insurance claim, auto claims, claims for water damages etc., that maximum claim can whip out an entire budget. We will see a huge rate increase which could factor a large portion of our budget. Small towns, regardless of the excessive growth - could no longer afford the premiums. The tax rate for homeowners will become excessive and un-realistic for owners to afford. This is our top concern for all municipalities and the county. I plan to prepare a letter to send to Killebrew as we counter this bill with greater concerns that which we have already addressed. FLC has already met with House and Senate Representatives asking that they strongly stand against this bill, and I will keep you posted.

Any questions on the bills I mentioned or does anyone have additional bills you have seen that needs some sort of attention? Please let me know so I can make sure we address them in my formal letter.