

Republican Club of Southwest Florida

November 02, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Lions Club of Bonita Springs, FL

Meeting Called to Order: President Bill Ribble called the meeting to order at 6:00

Invocation: Secretary Larry Fiesel

Pledge of Allegiance: Vice-President Fred Forbes

Officers Present: President Bill Ribble, Vice-President Fred Forbes, Secretary Larry Fiesel, Treasurer Jim Sido, Directors Joanne Ribble, Carolyn Forbes

Recognition of Elected Officials: Lee Health Board Member David Klein, Bonita Springs Deputy Mayor Fred Forbes, Bonita Springs Council Member Nigel Fullick, Estero Vice Mayor Joanne Ribble, Estero Council Members Larry Fiesel, Lori Fayhee, George Zalucki, Jim Ward

Recognition of Sponsor: Engel & Volkers - Jim and Ellen Hollars

Approval of October 05 2023 Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve by George Zalucki, Seconded by Nancy Sido. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Income: October 2023

October 03, 2023	Square	Stamp Donations	217.57
October 20, 2023	Square	Membership - Mac Stoddard	23.97
Total			241.54

Disbursements: October 2023

October 10, 2023	Debit	Recurring Wix.com	12.00
October 10, 2023	Debit	USPS Stamp Purchase	132.00
October 11, 2023	#143	Lions Club of Bonita Springs	150.00
October 19, 2023	Debit	Miklas Social	385.00
Total			679.00

Summary:

Beginning Balance	2,771.29
Income	241.54
Disbursements	679.00
Ending Balance	2,333.83

Business Savings	467.49
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Approval of October, 2023 Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve by Nancy Sido. Seconded by Ron George. Motion was unanimously approved.

Introduction of Candidates:

Ruth Condit, running for Mayor of Bonita Springs

David Mulicka, running for Lee County Commissioner

Bill Ribble, running for Lee County School Board

Order of Business & Introduction of Guest Speaker: Lee County Commissioner, Kevin Ruane



Kevin Ruane was elected to the Lee Board of County Commissioners after serving as the Mayor of Sanibel for more than a decade.

He had visited Sanibel for 20 years with his family before purchasing a home there in 2004. Hurricane Charley quickly turned Kevin's attention to becoming a public servant. He signed on as a member of the Hurricane Damage Assessment Team in Sanibel.

Kevin was appointed to the Sanibel City Council to serve an interim position in February 2007. In May 2007, he was elected for a seat on the City Council. He was re-elected in March 2009 and was appointed Mayor in March 2010.

Kevin has served as a voting delegate for the Florida League of Cities. In 2016, he was instrumental in forming the largest compact for water quality in the organization's history with more than 165 mayors participating. In 2020, he was awarded the Florida League of Cities E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Award.

In 2014, Gov. Rick Scott appointed Kevin to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. He was re-appointed in 2019 by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Kevin attended both undergraduate and graduate schools at Pace University with a concentration in accounting and taxation. He took over for his father at his family's CPA firm and his corporate career included various senior executive positions with a subsidiary of a Fortune 100 company.

Today, his company, Castleton Capital, provides financing to small businesses throughout the United States. It's a family affair: wife Doreen, daughter Shannon and

- Filled an opening on the Sanibel City Council for 60-days. At the time Sanibel had \$16M of revenue, \$100M in debt, \$400,000 in Reserves. When he left Sanibel for Lee County Commissioner in 2020, the debt was down to \$18M, Pension System was 100% restored and the Reserves were \$12M, taxes had been cut 27%
- Lee County has a current budget of \$2.4 Billion dollars
- Kevin's main priority is water quality, a promise he made when running for office
- Kevin determined that Law & Order needed upgraded
- A goal of keeping taxes down in Lee County
- Needed to accelerate infrastructure
- Serving as chair of the Long Term Recovery Task Force
- FEMA requirements have eight (8) branches: Building; Planning; Capacity; Economic Recovery; Natural Resources; Cultural Resources; Education; Work Force
- Soon after Hurricane Ian eleven (11) bridges were repaired or replaced, 442 stop lights repaired or replaced
- A need for revenue replacement on Ft Myers Beach and Sanibel due to Hurricane Ian
- \$100M beach renourishment
- Currently running for his sixth election

New Business: None

Announcements: GOP Senator Rick Scott Veterans Event, Saturday November 11 and the Estero Veterans Day event at the Estero Park, 11:00

Next Meeting: December 07, 2023, Erika Donalds

Meeting Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by George Zalucki, seconded by Jim Ward. Meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.