

Mayor's Report #6

Since taking office, my three stated goals as Mayor are:

One, and most important, is to protect JIC, especially on the legal front. Second, is to **secure town finances**, to reconcile the close of FY23, help create a viable budget for FY24 and to protect our operating reserve. Third, is to **leave the town government in the best condition possible for the next commissioners.**

We have accomplished a lot in the last six months:

- We hired Police Chief Dan Kerr. Everyone who meets him agrees he is a breath of fresh air for our Town. His monthly reports show a stepped-up focus on our safety and security.
- We finalized our FY 2023 budget and have made substantial cuts to bring our finances into line with the final FY2024 Budget.
- We performed a rigorous operating audit. The recommendations of which are being implemented by Administrator Lucas and Town Clerk Chico-Randazzo.
- Our stub audit is near completion with results to be presented soon.
- Our Building Committee is revising our fee schedule and past due fees have been collected.

- We continue to defend the Town in several legal cases with guidance from our lawyers. Some of the costs are covered by our insurance, but not all. Tonight, I am requesting an additional \$10,000 to cover the Gunster fees. They did an outstanding job in guiding us through an investigation that was required to be performed. Their work saved JIC time and money in what could have been a lengthy proceeding. The firm bills us at a preferential rate.

My fellow commissioners and I do not enjoy spending our tax dollars. I only request authorization for funds that I believe are necessary to defend the Town in legal matters.

- The filing period for candidates for Commissioner begins tomorrow at noon and runs through November 28 at noon. My fellow commissioners and I hope that you will consider running for the position.

We need citizens to volunteer to serve if JIC is to continue as a municipality. As we have pointed out many times, there are very real advantages for JIC to continue as an independent Town. Without volunteer commissioners willing to serve, we risk being absorbed into Jupiter or Tequesta or unincorporated Palm Beach County.

I am happy to meet with any of you who are interested to discuss the duties of a commissioner and answer your questions.

Finally, I thank you for your support for our work. I have been pleased that so many of you have read the draft charter and discussed it with me or one of my fellow Commissioners. Your questions and ideas are proof that residents value our Town and want us to take steps to ensure its future.