

MINUTES
MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
FORT MYERS BEACH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TIME: 5:00 PM
DATE: March 23, 2022
Fort Myers Beach Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Larry Wood, Vice-Chairman Ron Fleming, Secretary/Treasurer John Bennett, Commissioner Jacki Liszak, Commissioner Jim Knickle, Fire Chief Ronald Martin, District Chief of Operations Scott Wirth, Fire Official Jennifer Campbell, Director of Finance and Administrative Services Jane Thompson, Dr. Steve Knight (with Fitch and Associates), Jeff Brown (with Ashley, Brown, & Smith) and District Members.

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – Chairman Wood was absent for the start of the meeting, Vice-Chairman Fleming called the meeting to order.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]
4. **Restate Agenda Items** [Information]
5. **Public Input on Non-Agenda Items**
6. **Consent Agenda** [Approval] Items listed are considered routine and action will be taken by one motion; if a Commissioner desires discussion, the specific item will be removed during the Adoption of the Agenda and considered separately.
 - A. February 16, 2022 Board of Fire Commissioner Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - B. January 31, 2022 Department Checks #46589 - #46657 for a total of \$304,093.64
 - C. February 28, 2022 Department Checks #46658-#46727 for a total of \$554,334.59Commissioner Liszak moved to approve with a correction to the reading of the check total, Commissioner Knickle seconded. Motion unanimously approved 4-0.
(Chairman Wood absent)
7. **Fire Chief Report** [Information]

Chief Martin shared we are in the recovery phase of the pandemic and the District is reverting back to previous practices but reminded that COVID is still present and encourages good personal health decisions.

The District is experiencing issues with recruitment and retention of employees. During the most recent recruitment cycle we were not able to move any candidates forward in the process. The District is continuing to work through the recruitment process and upholding standards.

We are in the height of tourist season and have an influx of calls, mostly medical or injury related. There is an uptick of pedestrian and bicycle incidents. Chief Martin reminded everyone to use safety precautions when walking or biking and use visibility/reflective markers at night.

Human Resources Manager Colleen Brooks designed and administered a “Stay Survey” for staff to provide responses to questions on why they choose to stay and what would cause them to look elsewhere.

Chief Martin recognized various anniversaries of service in January and February. He also recognized separation of two employees who recently moved on to other departments.

The District has various recruitment initiatives ongoing and the new IT Administrator starts March 29th. Chief Martin thanked Fire Official Campbell for her hard work covering the various IT tasks until a new IT Administrator was selected.

Chief Martin shared that the District had an average response time of approximately 6:09. Incidents in February decreased by approximately forty calls, however, incidents are up by approximately twenty-five calls total for the year.

Crews have been completing continued training with operating hose lines. A primary focus is the training of the three new recruits to make them successful and feel welcome. Due to seasonal call volumes the District has suspended Bonita training on Fridays. EMS finished rolling out new heart monitors and have ongoing traumatic injury training.

All stations are now transitioned to LED lighting. Support Services has been working on an online platform for uniforms.

In Finance the final IRMA damages payment was received from FEMA.

Assistant Chief Randy Kraus was appointed to the Voluntary Employee Benefits Association (VEBA) Board, to fill the recent vacancy. Additionally, the VEBA trust agreed to reimburse the District for monthly administrative fees.

Life Safety has been very busy with the Margaritaville and Grandview projects. The Chief acknowledged Life Safety Specialist Bill Genevrino for great work and a compliment received from the public. The part time plan reviewer has been working efficiently and having him on board is going well.

Upcoming events in the District include the open water swim event April 1-3 and an annual April 17th sunrise Easter service.

8. Unfinished Business – none

9. New Business

- A. Presentation of Standard of Cover- Fitch and Associates
[Presentation/Discussion/Adoption]
Dr. Steve King presented the Standard of Cover and answered questions from the Commissioners.
Chairman Wood motioned to approve, Secretary Bennett seconded. Motion unanimously approved 5-0.
- B. Service Delivery Model Changes [Information/Discussion]
The board discussed some questions and concerns about the report. Chief Martin advised he is confident to make sound decisions for model changes based on the data provided in the report.
- C. Resolution 2022-01 - Amend budget for year 2021/2022[Discussion/Approval]
Secretary Bennett read Resolution 2022-01 into the record.
Secretary Bennett motioned, Commissioner Lyszak seconded, for approval without comments. Motion unanimously approved 5-0.
- D. September 30, 2021 Audited Financial Statements presented by Jeff Brown, with Ashley, Brown, & Smith [Presentation/Discussion/Approval]
Jeff Brown presented the financial statements and answered board questions.
Chairman Wood motioned to approve, Vice-Chairman Fleming seconded. Motion unanimously approved 5-0.
- E. Station 31 Facility Design/Funding [Information/Discussion/Approval]
Chief Martin shared that with construction market prices rising the new station is quickly increasing in cost. He requested that the board consider pausing the project. The board discussed finishing the blueprint designs and re-assessing the need for a pause in five to six months. No motion or vote was needed at this time.

10. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Martin thanked the board for a good meeting and discussion.

11. Attorney Report- none

12. Commissioners Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Lyszak thanked the staff for their hard work on the Shrimp Festival and St. Patrick's Day events. She also recognized the Lani Kai for their recent building and security improvements. She shared upcoming state legislation regarding licensing and credentials from other states and suggested we consider promoting the same for the fire service next session.

Vice-Chairman Fleming thanked Chief Martin for his report and thanked Jane Thompson for her work on the audit.

Commissioner Knickle thanked the Chief for a good meeting and staff for informational reports. He thanked Fire Official Campbell and Life Safety Specialist Bill Genevrino for their work on a project by his house. He shared he recently attended an officer meeting and heard concerns within the department regarding recruitment. He appreciated input of the supervisors that attended.

Secretary Bennett thanked everyone for a great meeting and for the data in both reports. He requested that the March meetings next year be in the mornings to avoid evening traffic. He thanked Chief Martin for his assistance and input on an upcoming AED community project.

Chairman Wood thanked everyone for a good meeting. He thanked the Chief for allowing the board to participate in the recent parades. He thanked the board for the quality and professionalism of the meeting.

13. Adjournment
7:26