

**Minutes for the Meeting of
the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Board of Commissioners**

September 27, 2023 5:00 pm
Diamondhead Beach Resort
2000 Estero Boulevard

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Larry Wood, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Knickle, Commissioner Ron Fleming, Fire Chief Scott Wirth, Finance Director Jane Thompson, Fire Official Jennifer Campbell, Assistant Chief Chris Armiger and District members.

Absent: Commissioner Jacki Liszak

1. Meeting Called to Order 5:01pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adoption of Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

4. Restate Agenda Items [Information]

5. Adjourn to Conduct Final Budget Hearing – 5:15pm

6. Meeting Called to Order (Following the Final Budget Hearing) 5:22pm

7. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items –none

8. 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. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 23, 2023

B. Approval of Tentative Budget Hearing Minutes from September 13, 2023.

C. Checks approval 48308-48358 – Total \$161,298.78

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

9. Swearing In Ceremony and Intermission

Commissioner Bennett swore in Chief Wirth as the new Fire Chief of the Fort Myers Beach Fire District.

Chief Wirth swore in Firefighter DeClercq, Firefighter Miranda and Firefighter Pujol and presented the promotion of Driver Engineer Martinez.

10. Fire Chief's Report

Chief Wirth recognized Battalion Chief Brunson who deployed with the regional USAR team to assist other communities that were hit by Idalia.

The Chief gave a brief update on the status of Station 31 replacement and facilities repairs. He thanked Battalion Chief Grow and B shift for their help getting sod down for the Bay Oaks ball field.

The District received insurance reimbursements totaling \$2.7 million to date. Life Safety Specialist Noelle recently moved out of state leaving a vacancy. The open position was posted and no viable candidates were found. The position is still open and has been reposted.

Chief Armiger presented an Operations report. In July and August responded to Hurricane Idalia incidents. Crews did an amazing job and had no hesitation in response.

Response times and turnout times for the District are exceptional despite the loss of Station 31. Getting Station 31 rebuilt and open is paramount.

Recently there was a fire in the Bay Beach neighborhood, crews arrived quickly and reached 8th floor in good time.

Crews recently participated in technical rescue training.

The District received an ASG grant for blue card incident command training. The first training event will be in February. Fort Myers Beach Fire is the first of the special districts to adopt blue card and stand out as leaders in incident command.

Chief Wirth provided brief updates in Life Safety. Permits and plan review numbers are up and continue to increase as the beach is in the process of rebuilding.

Chief Wirth recognized the following District anniversaries:

Eric Cook with 22 years.

Chief Wirth with 6 years.

Angela Vallarta with 3 years.

Romeo Carrano with 1 year.

Miguel Rodriguez with 1 year.

11. Unfinished Business 5:56pm

A. Update on the Status of Lands and Facilities

Chief Wirth provided an update on the potential land trade with the Town.

The Board had no questions at this time.

12. New Business

A. Procurement Items [Introduction/Discussion/Public Input/Approval]

a. Electrician- Labor Costs

Chief Wirth shared information for a labor only quote on the install of a generator and transfer switches slated for December.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve, Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

b. Change Order- HQ Exterior Restorations

Chief Wirth provided an update on the exterior restoration of the headquarters building and presented an updated quote for stucco wall and shutter repair.

Commissioner Wood inquired if this would be reimbursed by insurance, Chief Wirth advised that it is anticipated some would.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the quotes and Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion, the motion carried 4-0.

B. New Procurement Policy [Discussion/Public Input/Action]

Chief Wirth presented updated procurement policy similar to Sanibel Fire's policy. This policy will be compliant with both state and federal regulations and will replace procurement policy 1003 and 1004.

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the policy, Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion and it carried 4-0.

C. Permission to Sell Station 31 [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth advised that there are a few reviews to complete with FEMA and the attorney is prepared to put the building on the market when the time comes.

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve and Commissioner Bennett seconded, the motion carried 4-0.

13. **Fire Chief Remarks** [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth highlighted the one year anniversary of Hurricane Ian. District members will be involved in the remembrance ceremony.

14. **Commissioners Remarks** [Information]

Commissioner Fleming congratulated Chief Wirth and others on their promotions. He highlighted the remembrance ceremony for 9/28. He thanked Jane for her hard work on the budget.

Commissioner Knickle congratulated everyone on their promotions and swearing in. He noted that this has been a challenging year and he appreciates all of the support of fellow commissioners and staff. He is looking forward to the memorial ceremony.

Commissioner Wood congratulated everyone on their promotions. He thanked crews for their excellent work and found Assistant Chief Armiger's notes inspiring.

Chairman Bennett thanked Jane and staff for hard work on the budget. He said that when he looks at our community and work force he is proud.

15. **Adjournment** – 6:13pm