

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
FORT MYERS BEACH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TIME: 5:00 PM
DATE: MAY 25, 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, Fire Official Jennifer Campbell, Finance Director Jane Thompson and District members.

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 5:04pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval] Motioned for approval by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Liszak, unanimously approved 5-0.
4. **Restate Agenda Items** [Information]
5. **Public Input on Non-Agenda Items** – *none*
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. May 11, 2022 Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - B. March 2022 Checks #46728-46791 total \$268,292.23
 - C. April 2022 Checks #46792-46865 total \$297,895.70Motioned for approval by Commissioner Fleming, Seconded by Commissioner Knickle, unanimously approved 5-0.
7. **Fire Chief Report** [Information]

Chief Martin advised that tourist season is winding down and hurricane season is approaching. Hurricane preparedness is important especially with supply chain issues. The District is expecting an active hurricane season this year. The District had a successful tourist season in March and April. The District held a joint meeting with the Town of Fort Myers Beach to discuss hurricane preparedness. The District completed the Driver Engineer position evaluations and Firefighter Paramedic DeCastro has been promoted to Driver Engineer. The District finalized and changed its recruitment process with the National Testing Network, which ensures quality candidates are hired. Nationally, there has been an impact on interest on entering the public safety field, making preferred credentials harder to come by; anticipating it will take 12-18 months to obtain full staffing.

The newly adopted Standards of Cover document has been extremely useful, in limiting the impact of mandatory overtime.

Human Resources reminds everyone that May is Mental Health Awareness Month. The District is committed to supporting staff and offers two (2) Employee Assistance Programs.

In April, the District celebrated multiple anniversaries; Captain Chilson with 15 years of service, Assistant Chief Armiger with 7 years of service, Firefighter Paramedic DeCastro with 5 years of service, Firefighter Paramedic Marin, Firefighter Paramedic Dieppa and Firefighter Paramedic Manito with 2 years of service each.

On May 3, 2022 Christopher Armiger was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief of Support Services. Chief Martin wished him luck in his new position.

District Finance report shared that as of October 1, 2020 the Florida Administrative capitalization threshold changed, allowing for the removal of 300 assets (roughly 5% of all District assets), which will cause a net loss of approximately \$368,000 in the current fiscal year.

Life Safety recently participated in the Fort Myers Beach Shrimp Festival and had the opportunity to share life safety topics with the community.

The District received preliminary plans for the 4th July fireworks and parade.

The Chief congratulated Firefighter Paramedic Miranda and Firefighter Paramedic Pujol in successfully completing their medical credentialing.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Facility Funding Update [Information/Discussion/Public Input]

Chief Martin shared that construction and labor costs are at an all-time high. He summarized the various funding options, including the Coronavirus Local Recovery Fund and bond initiatives. None of these resources are applicable to the District at this time but Chief Martin is continuing to explore other financial routes.

Administration is continuing with drawing up plans and re-parceling the property.

Once drawings and re-parceling is complete, the District will look into selling parcels or entering a land lease.

Chief Martin, Finance Director Thompson and the Board discussed thoughts on costs, re-parceling and the possibility of a land lease.

9. New Business

A. Approval to negotiate contract terms with MGT of America LLC for statutorily mandated performance review F.S. 189 [Information/Discussion/Public Input/Approval]

In October 2021, a new state requirement was placed on special districts to complete a performance review. This mandate is unfunded and is to be done every five (5) years, Chief Martin shared that the District obtained multiple quotes and is looking for permission to negotiate a contract with MGT of America, LLC for a proposed cost of approximately \$74,272.

Commissioner Knickle asked about the scope of the report and how long it would take. Chief Martin answered the review would cover effectiveness, efficiency and redundancy in services provided. Chief Martin stated that he is anticipating the report

to take approximately 6-9 months based on feedback from neighboring jurisdictions. Chief Martin stated that he is anticipating a considerable amount of staff time will be needed.

Commissioner Fleming asked what the minimum charge for this service would be. Chief Martin replied that he's heard of prices ranging \$30,000-\$200,000 depending on the size of the district.

Commissioner Bennet asked how many of these companies exist. Chief Martin replied not many qualified companies exist.

Chairman Wood asked if the strategic plan completed earlier this year was required. Chief Martin answered that it is not required, but we would be required to do a facility report in lieu of a strategic plan.

The Board discussed the differences between the strategic plan and the performance review and getting the review started as soon as possible.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve, Commissioner Fleming seconded, passed unanimously 5-0.

10. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Martin thanked everyone for a great meeting. He reminded everyone of upcoming contract negotiations and ongoing work to the policy manual. He thanked staff for their work on the Board meeting. Chief Martin recognized the victims, families and first responders involved in the Robb Elementary School massacre and extended condolences on behalf of the District.

11. Attorney Report-not present

12. Commissioner's Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Liszak thanked everyone for a great meeting. She thanks Chief Martin for getting started on the performance review so it can be done as soon as possible. She extended condolences to the Chartier family for the recent loss of their daughter Sophia. Commissioner Knickle thanked Chief Martin for his remarks on social media regarding the Robb Elementary shooting. He also thanked Chief Martin for appearing at the Town Safety Committee Meeting and clarified Chief Martin's stance on the traffic signal at Lenell Street and Estero Boulevard. Chief Martin explained his stance and thanked Commissioner Knickle for his service on the Town Safety Committee.

Commissioner Fleming extended condolences on the recent school shooting in Texas. He thanked everyone for a good meeting. He thanked crews for their recent assistance with a community member.

Commissioner Bennett thanked everyone for a great meeting and said he likes the new meeting set up.

Chairman Wood also noted he like the new setup and thanked everyone for a good meeting.

13. Adjournment -6:07pm