

Minutes for the Work Session and Meeting of
the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Board of Commissioners

December 14, 2022 10:00am

South Trail Fire Station

635531 Halifax Avenue, Fort Myers, Florida 33912

[location change due to Hurricane Ian]

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Larry Wood, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Knickle, Commissioner Jacki Liszak, Commissioner Ron Fleming, Fire Chief Ronald Martin, Fire Official Jennifer Campbell, Finance Director Jane Thompson and District members.

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 10:00am
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Liszak moved to adopt the agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion and the agenda was 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. November 9, 2022 Work Session Meeting Minutes Approval
- B. Approval October Checks 47224 – 47302 totaling \$343,617.75
- C. Approval November Checks 47303 – 47350 totaling \$109,696.81 (Truist Account)
- D. Approval November Checks 47800 – 47818 totaling \$182,807.12 (FineMark Account)

Commissioner Fleming moved to adopt the consent agenda, Commissioner Liszak seconded the motion and the consent agenda was approved 5-0.

7. **Unfinished Business**

- A. Swearing In of Commissioner Jacki Liszak.

Commissioner Liszak was sworn in by Chairman Bennett.

- B. Approval of proposed 2023 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting Schedule
[Information/Discussion]

Chief Martin presented the proposed meeting schedule. Starting in January board meetings will be held at Diamondhead Resort as the Library is estimated to take approximately 10 to 12 months for repairs. Diamondhead has two (2) functioning

elevators and have set aside their facility for the District's Board meetings for the next approximately six (6) months at no charge.

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve the schedule, Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion was approved 5-0.

8. **New Business**

A. Temporary Station 31 [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Martin authorized \$365,065 preemptively (due to FEMA timeline) for a temporary aluminum apparatus structure and temporary facility to replace Station 31. Currently the project is anticipated to be complete by March, 2023. Commissioner Wood motioned to approve \$365,065 plus an additional 5% for unanticipated costs, Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

B. Hurricane Ian Awards and Recognition [Information/Discussion]

Chief Martin shared his idea to have a medal made to recognize the service of the District staff and team through Hurricane Ian. Approximate cost for these medals will be \$12,000 to 14,000. Chief Martin also proposed the design and purchase of an award for family members of administrative staff.

Chairman Bennett shared that he thinks it is the least we can do for our organization to recognize efforts and asked if this is something we can extend to assisting jurisdictions.

Commissioner Lyszak asked about the possibility of having a night for the families and kids of staff.

Commissioner Wood shared that he agrees this award is necessary. He asked for clarification on which award is for staff and which is for family.

Commissioner Knickle asked for further clarification on the design and who would receive the medal.

Commissioner Fleming agreed this is a great idea and he is in favor of this initiative.

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

On December 13, 2022 Senate Bill 22.4.A regarding tax relief for Hurricane Ian was approved. Chief Martin spoke to the District's lobbyist and received clarification on what the Bill would cover. In order for individuals to qualify for the tax refund they have to pay their taxes based on the assessed amount as of October 1, 2022. The Bill only provides this relief to those structures identified as single-family structures and not commercial occupancies. There is an extended deadline to pay taxes by June 1, 2023.

Revenues for this fiscal year are down approximately 70% from where we were this time last year in taxes, and over 70% down in fees collected for services provided by Life Safety, and down 94% in fees collected for transports. The District has collected about \$1.5 million in insurance proceeds.

Chief Martin, Assistant Chief Kraus and the Human Resources Manager sat down with Lee County management Team and discussed adjustments according to the data and lessened call volume. The District is looking to possibly run one rescue as opposed to two. Recently Assistant Chief Armiger, Jane Thompson and Larry Peterson received notice that the District was awarded a grant in the amount of approximately \$61,000. to replace extrication tools lost with Engine 31. The foundation name will be released with a public statement.

Captain Tim Smith, Jacksonville Fire, will be returning home after 81 days assisting the District. Terri Bellamy will be taking over to assist the District.

The District will begin moving and re-organizing over the next few weeks. Life Safety staff will move to Headquarters on Voorhis and the Finance section will move to Station 32 on San Carlos Boulevard.

Today Chief Martin is scheduled to meet with the new Mayor and Town Manager to discuss creating a possible seat of local government on the side by side properties off Estero Boulevard.

10. Attorney Report -none

11. Commissioner's Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Lyszak thanked everyone for their hard work during challenging conditions. She wants to continue to educate the community on after flood electrical issues and fire.

Commissioner Fleming is concerned with mental health of everyone as we are seeing the destruction daily. The Beach is remediating and rebuilding, he believes Estero Boulevard needs to be cleared of sand.

Commissioner Wood thanked workers and thanked South Trail Fire Chief Rogers for allowing the District to use their facility for meetings. Commissioner Wood was recently involved with a meeting regarding the future of Beach Elementary and came up with four options for moving forward.

Commissioner Knickle echoed the thoughts of fellow board members and thanked Tim and Terri for their help and Chief Rogers for his hospitality. Commissioner Knickle shared his appreciation for Station 33 as they are next door to his residence and he can see how hard they are working.

Chairman Bennett extended a personal thanks to Tim for all his work and welcomed Terri to the Beach. Chairman Bennett shared that the delivery of carbon monoxide detectors saved his neighbor from carbon monoxide due to generator exhaust. He thanked staff for their hard work handing those out to the community. He shared he is happy with the state of the District and he thanked all for their hard work and support.

12. Adjournment 10:39am