

MINUTES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
FORT MYERS BEACH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TIME: 6:00 PM

DATE: February 26, 2020

PLACE: 2725 Estero Boulevard – Town Hall
Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931

IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Wood, Vice-Chairman Fleming, Commissioner Bennett, Fire Chief Love, District members and members of the public.

Absent (*unexcused*): Secretary/Treasurer Raymond

Absent: Commissioner Lyszak

1. Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Wood requested that “Commissioner Seat” be added to the next meeting agenda.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adoption of the Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Chairman Wood requested to add item 5 (A) – Remarks regarding Commissioner Bob Raymond to the agenda. Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice-Chairman Fleming seconded.

Motion approved unanimously 3 – 0

4. Restate Agenda Items [Information]

5. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

Town of Fort Myers Beach resident Bob Miller thanked the Commissioners for serving on the Board. Mr. Miller discussed the proposed new fire station and suggested the Department consider a referendum. Mr. Miller also discussed options for the use of the land.

A. Remarks regarding Commissioner Raymond (added at adoption of agenda)

Chairman Wood discussed Commissioner Raymond’s health related absences and how it relates to the Board’s policy.

Donna Raymond and Brian Raymond, Commissioner Bob Raymond’s spouse and son, read a letter of resignation into the record due to Commissioner Raymond not being able to attend the meeting. Chairman Wood stated that this is a difficult and that he appreciates Donna and Brian Raymond for attending tonight on Commissioner Raymond’s behalf.

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 12, 2020 Work Session & Meeting Minutes
 - B. October 31, 2019 Department Checks #45411 through #45499 for a total of \$359,269.66
 - C. November 30, 2019 Department Checks #45500 through #45560 for a total of \$217,838.65
 - D. December 31, 2029 Department Checks #45561 through #45650 for a total of \$247,579.00
 - E. January 31, 2020 Department Checks #45651 through #45749 for a total of \$288,014.60
- Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vice-Chairman Fleming seconded.
Motion approved unanimously 3 – 0.

7 Fire Chiefs Report [Information]

Chief Love highlighted items on the Chief’s report as well as:

- Town of Fort Myers Beach Safety Committee
- Swearing-In Ceremony and Life Safety Presentation at the March 25th Meeting

8 Unfinished Business

No unfinished business

9 New Business

A. IAFF Local 1826 District 15 Collective Bargaining Agreement [Discussion/Public Input/Approval]

Chief Love stated that both legal teams have reviewed the contract and that it has been tentatively agreed upon by the District and Local 1826 District 15. Chief Love stated that he recommended the Board’s approval of the collective bargaining agreement. Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve the 2019-2022 Collective Bargaining Agreement. Vice-Chairman Fleming made a motion to approve the 2019-2022 Collective Bargaining Agreement. Commissioner Bennett seconded. Chairman Wood asked for any discussion. Commissioner Bennett stated that this was an outstanding effort on both sides and that he believes this is a really good contract that will keep our members happy and also move the progression of the organization forward. Vice-Chairman Fleming discussed the years of service of our members. Vice-Chairman Fleming stated there is “give and take” within the budget and projections the Commissioners set for Chief Love and that he’s very happy that we are at this point. Chairman Wood agreed with other Commissioners comments and stated that he realizes the time and effort it takes to get this right.

Chairman Wood called for a vote.

Commissioner Bennett	Aye
Vice-Chairman Fleming	Aye
Chairman Wood	Aye

Motion approved unanimously 3 – 0

B. Commissioner Seat One (1) [Discussion/Public Input/Approval]

Chairman Wood stated that when Commissioner Raymond is feeling better he would like to set up an event to commemorate his service. Chairman Wood asked Chief Love

what are the options for filling the Commissioner Seat. Chief Love said that in preliminary review, we can appoint someone to fill the seat or we can wait until the election in November. Chief Love stated that he will get clarification from our attorney and bring the information to the next meeting. The Board said they really miss Commissioner Raymond and wished him the best, but realize they need to move forward. The Board agreed that they want to have all four Commissioners present for this topic.

10. Report from IAFF Union Representative District 3 and/or 15 [Information]

District 15 (D15) Vice President (DVP) Jake Lamb thanked the Board for ratifying the contract. DVP Lamb stated that it was unanimously voted on 4 – 0 by the Union and that he believes the contract is mutually beneficial. DVP Lamb thanked Chief Wirth and his team on getting the contract completed. DVP Lamb recognized the Service Anniversary Date ranges and wished Commissioner Raymond the best. DVP Lamb stated he's looking forward to the future and now that the contract is done he's looking forward to open channels of communication. DVP Lamb stated the he knows they meet with the Fire Chief once a month and would like to be extended that same courtesy. DVP Lamb identified that the Commissioners Handbook states that Commissioners cannot meet with personnel without the Fire Chief's approval, but the Board can choose to change it. DVP Lamb stated that the Fire Chief is the employee of the Board. DVP Lamb stated that contrary to popular belief, things are good, but they are not great.

11. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Love echoed the comments regarding Commissioner Raymond and stated that he's been around for a long time and has served not just on the Fire Board, but was the Mayor of the Town also. Chief Love stated that it is tough to see him go, but he is glad that he was able to work here under Commissioner Raymond's leadership and mentorship for the last several years, and wished him the absolute best.

12. Commissioner Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Bennett echoed the comments regarding Commissioner Raymond and stated that he's always liked Bob even before getting involved with the Town and Fire Board. Commissioner Bennett stated that Commissioner Raymond is just a great guy and couldn't be more committed to the public service and that he knows he was really looking forward to fulfilling his two terms. Commissioner Bennett stated that we should add the appointment of the Secretary/Treasurer to the next agenda.

Vice-Chairman Fleming agreed with Commissioner Bennett's comments regarding Commissioner Raymond and stated that Commissioner Raymond showed his commitment to the organization and the community in offering his resignation. Vice-Chairman Fleming stated that he knows that it had to be a hard choice for him, but I think he did what he believed was the right thing so we can move forward. Vice-Chairman Fleming congratulated D15 on their contract and the organization as a whole. Vice-Chairman Fleming stated that administration is important, everyone is important, but when people think of the fire department they think of the guys riding up and down the streets in the fire trucks and it is good that we have two current contracts and in fact perhaps things could be better and I'm sure we can do better.

Chairman Wood stated that he has known Bob and Donna Raymond for fifteen years and that they were very involved in the school when he was the principal there. Chairman Wood stated that Commissioner Raymond has always been so supportive of the people of the Town and Fire Department and that we are going to miss him. Chairman Wood repeated that he would like to do something for him when Commissioner Raymond feels better. Chairman Wood would like to honor him for his years in the fire department and also for the town. Chairman Wood stated that he is very happy that the District and D15 were able to complete the contract. Chairman Wood stated that he always hears such good things about our fire department from the people in the community on a regular basis and we hear about the times when the department goes above and beyond by doing something nice for people who are in stressful situations and that he's very proud of our firefighters.

13. **Adjournment**
6:25 PM