

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

TIME: 6:00 PM

DATE: June 24, 2020

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

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

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Adoption of the Agenda [Discussion/Approval]**

Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Lyszak made a motion to approve the agenda. Secretary/Treasurer Bennett seconded.

Motion approved unanimously 4 – 0

**4. Restate Agenda Items [Information]**

**5. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items**

*No public input was provided*

**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 13, 2020 Work Session & Meeting Minutes

B. February 28, 2020 Department Checks #45750 - #45821 for a total of \$239,236.34

C. March 31, 2020 Department Checks #45822 - #45906 for a total of \$222,598.70

D. April 30, 2020 Department Checks #45907 - #45987 for a total of \$370,603.41

E. May 31, 2020 Department Checks #45988 - #46049 for a total of \$297,614.79

Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Secretary/Treasurer Bennett made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Vice-Chairman Fleming seconded.

Motion approved unanimously 4 – 0.

**7. Fire Chiefs Report [Information]**

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

- COVID-19 update on personal protective equipment issues and cases.
- Thank you notes from Naples Fire Department and a community member.
- Discussed recent water rescue training event.

Vice-Chairman Fleming asked about the Insurance Services Office training and how it relates to our classification. Chief Love and Executive Assistant Fire Chief DiCristofalo

discussed the documentation for training. Vice-Chairman Fleming asked about touring boats to pre-plan firefighting operations.

## **8 Unfinished Business**

### **A. Commissioner Seat One [Discussion/Public Input/Approval]**

Chairman Wood explained the candidate interview process. Each of the candidates answered questions from the current Board members. Chairman Wood called for public comment.

Fort Myers Beach resident James Mann stated that he is grateful that we have three wonderful candidates applying for an open seat on a great Commission.

Fort Myers Beach resident Karen Woodson stated that it's a tough decision to make and that she believes that there are great qualifications for each one of the candidates, but she also believes that they're all taking in what we are trying to do as a community with the training and development, with budgeting, it seems that two of the three were the most concise and had done their homework and that's always really important.

The Board discussed each of the candidates and agreed they were ready to vote. The Board voted via ballot. Candidate James Knickle was declared the successful candidate to be installed at the July 8, 2020 meeting.

## **9 New Business**

### **A. Preliminary Capital Budget Presentation [Information/Discussion]**

Chief Love presented the 2020-2021 Capital Budget and budget process in detail.

### **B. 2019 Fiscal Year Audit [Discussion/Public Input/Approval]**

Jeff Brown, partner with Ashley, Brown & Company presented the audited statement and provided a brief summary of each section. Mr. Brown suggested that the District review the Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association (VEBA) plan for liabilities, risk, and compliance. Chairman Wood thanked Director of Finance and Administrative Services Jane Thompson for her work on the audit. Commissioner Liszak stated the importance of clarification on the audit in order for the community to understand it. Chairman Wood asked if it would be appropriate to consult with the District's attorney regarding VEBA and Mr. Brown and Chief Love stated it would be appropriate. Other Commissioners echoed this desire and directed Chief Love to have a review conducted. Chairman Wood called for public comment. No public comment was provided. Chairman Wood called for a motion to adopt the audited financial statement for year ended September 30, 2019. Secretary/Treasurer Bennett made the motion to adopt the audited financial statement for year ended September 30, 2018. Vice-Chairman Fleming seconded. Motion approved unanimously 4 – 0.

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

District 15 (D15) Vice President (DVP) Jake Lamb apologized to the Board for his comments at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and stated that his intention wasn't to offend anyone, but rather to establish open lines of communication. DVP Lamb stated that he is a VEBA trustee and that the legal review of the VEBA plan has been discussed and that they can talk about it in their upcoming meeting in July. DVP Lamb thanked the seat one

candidates and congratulated the newly appointed Commissioner. DVP Lamb spoke to operational questions, following up on Vice-Chairman Fleming's questions regarding boat training and boat fires. DVP Lamb stated that his crew will be doing facility training Friday and invited Commissioners to attend. DVP Lamb thanked Chairman Wood for allowing elevator training at his property. DVP Lamb reported that D15 has a grievance that is going to arbitration. DVP Lamb congratulated Firefighter Ensenat on his credentialing. DVP Lamb discussed our department's participation in the fire at Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) and the Collier County brush fires. DVP Lamb stated that our closest unit response agreement is working well. DVP Lamb addressed Mr. Farrell's comment regarding training. DVP Lamb closed with a quote from the Anchorage Fire Department and stated that no matter what the emergency is our professionally trained personnel will be there.

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

Chief Love stated that it is nice to see everyone in person again. Chief Love thanked the Board for enduring the capital budget and budget process presentation. Chief Love thanked Director of Finance and Administrative Services Jane Thompson for her fantastic financial work, and also thanked Human Resource and Payroll Specialist Colleen Brooks for her assistance.

**12. Commissioner Remarks [Information]**

Vice-Chairman Fleming thanked Ms. Thompson and Ms. Brooks for their work on the audit. Vice-Chairman Fleming congratulated the new interim Commissioner and wished him luck in the campaign. Vice-Chairman Fleming thanked the other two candidates for applying for the open seat. Vice-Chairman Fleming stated that he is pleased with the anniversaries continuing. Vice-Chairman Fleming reported that he saw the water rescue training. Vice-Chairman Fleming thanked Chief Love for everything he does and thanked his fellow Commissioners.

Commissioner Liszak echoed Vice-Chairman Fleming's comments. Commissioner Liszak stated that the ship training is very important and offered to assist in scheduling the training. Commissioner Liszak thanked Director Thompson, Specialist Brooks and Chief Love for their work on the budget. Commissioner Liszak congratulated our members on their anniversaries. Commissioner Liszak stated that she agrees that VEBA needs to be reviewed. Commissioner Liszak thanked our members who were involved in assisting with the RSW fire and Collier County brush fires. Commissioner Liszak congratulated the new Commissioner on his appointment. Commissioner Liszak thanked the other candidates for applying and wished them luck in the upcoming election.

Secretary/Treasurer Bennett echoed the other Commissioner comments. Secretary/Treasurer Bennett commended the District for their actions, directives, and measures taken during the COVID-19 crisis. Secretary/Treasurer Bennett congratulated Chairman Wood and Vice-Chairman Fleming on their re-election as they were unopposed. Secretary/Treasurer Bennett congratulated Mr. Knickle on his appointment to Commissioner. Secretary/Treasurer Bennett stated he looks forward to a good, clean, campaign and thanked the other candidates for applying for the open seat.

Chairman Wood echoed other Commissioner comments. Chairman Wood explained the appointment process and the upcoming election process. Chairman Wood welcomed Mr. Knickle to the Board and stated that Chief Love will be in touch to discuss Board items. Chairman Wood thanked Executive Assistant Fire Chief DiCristofalo and Battalion Chief Lamb for holding the elevator training at his property. Chairman Wood stated that he is really impressed with Deputy Fire Marshal Campbell and the inspectors for their current findings at his property. Even with some costs to achieve compliance, he believes in the process and is happy they were able to get items fixed.

**13. Adjournment**

7:45 PM