

MINUTES
WORK SESSION & MEETING OF THE
FORT MYERS BEACH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TIME: 9:30 AM
DATE: November 10, 2021
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, Attorney Andrew Salzman, and District Members.

1. Meeting called to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adoption of Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Liszak made a motion to approve the agenda. Secretary/Treasurer Bennett seconded. Motion approved unanimously 5-0.

4. Restate Agenda Items [Information]

5. Public input on Non- Agenda Items [Information]

No public input provided.

6. Consent Agenda [Approval]

A. October 27, 2021 Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chairman Fleming made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Knickle seconded.

Motion approved unanimously 5-0.

7. Unfinished Business

A. No unfinished business.

8. New Business

A. Procurement Approval Support Services Cargo Van
[Introduction/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Martin presented a procurement package for a new Support Services Van for approximately \$49,692 with modifications, stating this vehicle is expected to meet the department's needs for the next approximate 10-15 years. Assistant Chief Scott Wirth, Special Services, advised the expected time to receive the new Support

Services Van is May, 2022. Chief Martin stated that the current van would go through the disposal process for capital assets, and may still be useful. Commissioner Wood motioned to approve. Commissioner Liszak seconded. Motion approved unanimously 5-0.

B. FMBFD Labor Management Committee Concept [Information/Discussion]

Chief Martin proposed the creation of a Labor Management Committee, a periodic meeting to consist of both Administrative and Operations staff, as well as a representative from the Board of Commissioners and the local Union 1826. These regular meetings would take place outside of bargaining agreements and grievances to promote communication and establish a balanced labor management initiative. Chief Martin requested the Board discuss this idea and revisit in January 2022.

Commissioner Knickle asked if the Chief would be present at each of the scheduled meetings. Chief Martin stated that he sees the committee possibly meeting quarterly and that he would contribute to the agenda and be involved, but he would not be running the meetings. Commissioner Kinckle inquired if the board would be bound by an agreement or decision made at these meetings. Chief Martin stated that anything discussed during the committee meetings would not be used in bargaining, grievances or disciplinary hearings.

Secretary Bennett asked if there are any legal considerations for a Commissioner to be sitting on the committee. Attorney Salzman stated that a sole commissioner could not make a decision on behalf of the Board of Commissioners and any legislative action would come back to a regular board meeting.

Chairman Wood asked what the attending commissioner's role would be. Attorney Salzman stated that the Commissioner would be there as a representative of the board and to show that there is interest from the board. Chief Martin stated that the Commissioner would primarily be there for listening and observation, and there would be a rotation of Commissioners attending.

Secretary Bennett asked if this would be a public meeting. Chief Martin stated that the meetings would not be public meetings. Secretary Bennett inquired if the two (2) Districts were aware. Chief Martin stated that the goal is to have the two (2) Districts involved and that this will help facilitate communication. Secretary Bennett noted that he would like to have participation from someone outside of the DVP on rotation as well so we can have different input, Chief Martin agreed.

Commissioner Liszack commented that this is an interesting and different idea that she is open to trying. Commissioner Liszack asked that there be a rotation on for both commissioners and operations personnel so voices can be heard and that whomever is present is under no form of mandate of what they can/cannot say to foster open communication.

Vice-Chairman Fleming commented that labor management committees are a way to talk informally and that he is in favor of this idea. Vice-Chairman Fleming stated that he believes the Union Presidents or designees would be at all the meetings. Vice-Chairman stated that he would like Commissioners to attend consecutive meetings. Vice-Chairman Fleming asked if we would be copying a Federal or International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) model. Chief Martin stated that he has numerous resources and models to base this concept. Vice-Chairman Fleming inquired if we are aware of any special district organizations that have this committee. Chief Martin stated that he believes a few local colleagues have something similar. Vice-Chairman Fleming asked if we believe labor will go along with this, Chief Martin stated that he believes they will be in support. Vice-Chairman Fleming voiced that he is in favor of this and feels it is needed.

Chairman Wood asked Vice-Chairman Fleming to clarify in his experience what the board's role was. Vice-Chairman Fleming stated that in his experience everyone had an opportunity to speak and he believes the same would be best in this situation. Attorney Salzman stated that there is nothing wrong with a commissioner speaking on their own behalf as long as they are clear they are not speaking on behalf of the board as whole. Chairman Wood requested that this topic be further discussed at the retreat, and some possible topics be provided that may come up. Chief Martin stated that he would like to establish a doctrine that has the District and labors ideology on collaboration. Vice-Chairman Fleming stated that in his experience that this form of committee is good for avoiding escalation of issues.

Commissioner Knickle stated that he also has history participating in a similar committee. Commissioner Knickle stated that it took a little time but that the meetings eventually were an open forum to discuss topics. Commissioner Knickle stated that in his experience this kind of committee is beneficial to an organization's health.

Secretary Bennett asked if there was a facilitator for these meetings. Chief Martin stated that there would be shared chairman duties and they would also be on a rotation.

Chairman Wood stated that if meetings are quarterly then it may take years for commissioner's turns in rotation. Attorney Salzman stated that meetings may be more frequent. Chief Martin stated that quarterly meetings are a minimum and higher frequency is likely, if needed.

Chairman Wood stated that there seemed to be a general consensus that this is a good idea and they would like to discuss further and move forward.

C. Board of Fire Commissioner Retreat Topics [Information/Discussion]

Chairman Wood and Commissioner Liszack both stated the FMBFD Labor Management Committee concept would be a discussion topic at the retreat.

Vice-Chairman Fleming stated that he thinks the Board should discuss its Policy Manual. Attorney Salzman stated that he is working on something similar with another District and would be able to assist with the Policy Manual.

Vice-Chairman Fleming stated that he would like to have a presentation or update on the new fire station. Secretary Bennett stated that, that may need to be a public meeting. Chief Martin stated that he would like to prepare a public budget presentation with Jane Thompson, Finance and Administrative Services Director, and Chief Wirth which would include the new building. Commissioner Liszack stated that she would like a public meeting to include a model and drawings of the new building.

Secretary Bennett stated that he agreed that a review of the Policy Manual should be a topic.

Commissioner Knickle stated that the Board should discuss Special Districts and review their history and function. Chairman Wood stated that he would like a legislative update. Attorney Salzman stated that he would provide information on both as they are available.

Chairman Wood asked that Chief Martin provide an organization chart of employees in the organization.

Chief Martin requested the board look through their calendars for a retreat date in early January, 2022 and asked about preferences on location.

9. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Martin recognized and thanked staff. Chief Martin introduced new hire Christina Ensor in Life Safety Support. Chief Martin remarked how talented the staff of the department is and highlighted a recent call handled by crews and operations. Chief Martin recognized anniversaries of the board for a collective total of 17 ½ years of service.

10. Attorney Report [Information/Discussion]

Attorney Salzman had no further remarks.

11. Commissioners Remarks [Information]

Vice-Chairman Fleming thanked Chief Martin for his hard work on the Labor Management Committee and noted that the fence wrap on the new building site looks good. Commissioner Liszack concurred. Secretary Bennett inquired about holiday events. Commissioner Knickle noted he is excited about the Labor Management Committee. Chairman Wood had no further remarks.

12. Adjournment
10:35 AM