

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
November 15, 2018
MINUTES**

Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Detzel called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Detzel, Kimball, Schneider and Ragen. Commissioner Apperson was out of town. Also in attendance were Chief Dowaliby, Attorney Pringle, Deputy Chief Rewis and members of the department and the public.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Commissioner Detzel asked everyone to say a prayer for the firefighters and residents dealing with the latest fires in California where so many communities are threatened and lives and homes are being lost.

Amendments to the Agenda

There are a couple of items that will be added to new business.

Presentations/Awards

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for October 2018 were presented for approval. Commissioner Kimball made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

| First Bank - General Fund | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Opening Balance | October 1, 2018 | | \$495,207.92 |
| Credits | | \$553,263.70 | |
| Debits | | \$290,269.35 | |
| Ending Balance | October 31, 2018 | | \$758,202.27 |
| | | | |
| Opening Balance | October 1, 2018 | | \$591,254.89 |
| Credits | | \$64,710.17 | |
| Debits | | \$0 | |
| Ending Balance | October 31, 2018 | | \$655,965.06 |
| | | | |
| 4 Week Public Funds CD | \$2,000,000.00 | -\$500,000.00 | \$1,500,000.00 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--|----------------|
| 13 Week Public Funds CD | \$2,000,000.00 | | \$2,000,000.00 |
| 26 Week Public Funds CD | \$2,000,000.00 | | \$2,000,000.00 |
| Total CDARS | | | \$5,500,000.00 |
| | | | |
| Total | | | \$6,914,167.33 |

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed.

Chief’s Report

We are very thankful that Hurricane Michael spared us, but our thoughts go out to all families affected in the panhandle of Florida. I will give a brief synopsis of my report for the sake of time management. If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them at any time.

Items of Interest

- I would like to thank the area departments that sent crews up to Hurricane Michael. I have heard good feedback and the experience will pay itself forward in the future.
- Mr. Pringle will have an update on the \$25,000 Homestead Exemption that didn’t pass. As of this writing, the Agricultural Commissioner race is still contested and will be going to a hand-count.
- Mr. Pringle will have an update from Habitat for Humanity concerning the Lehigh Acres lots.
 - I would like to see us sell these lots and take the money and donate it to three community projects like: Crossroads Baptist Church and Buckingham Exceptional School, for example.
- The MOU is finally ready for review and we can begin the process of becoming credentialed EMTs. Our community will benefit from our ability to offer advanced services. I have a copy for you to look at and I would like to vote on its adoption in December. The County will have it on the agenda for the second meeting in January. Two things that we need to do: Chief Dowaliby will have to go to EMT school so he can be a trainer and we will need to get another license for Firehouse so EMS can log in to see our reports.
- I will have the proposals for the department physicals in December. Any Commissioner who is interested, we budgeted for a basic physical for you.
- We have secured 3 bids for the security gate.
- The Ameritas agreement has finally arrived and can be set up.
- Deputy Chief Rewis will be representing the Fire Marshal Association in Tallahassee for the legislative caucus. This will be a great learning experience for him.

- I left Paul Martin of Kolter an email to discuss property acquisition for the Station 1 property expansion. We are behind our timeline for this project. I take responsibility for this delay.
- Stark Sullen of Sullen Grading, Inc., removed the tree in the front of the station so we can start the process of adding parking. He will be back to remove the roots soon.
 - We are looking for paver companies to bid on the project.
- The new gym equipment is in and as of today is completely set up.
- We ordered the new pump for the brush truck, but it hasn't come in yet.
- There are no birthdays to celebrate this month.

Meetings Attended

- I attended the Lee County Fire Chiefs Association (LCFCA) monthly meeting.
- I attended the LCFCA Operations Committee. There is a new document we will be reviewing that has previously been implemented in the south departments and will roll-out countywide soon.
- The Target Solutions rollout is moving slowly but Firefighter Whatley is in contact with them.
- The Florida Forestry Service training we were scheduled to attend was cancelled due to Hurricane Michael.
- Captain Clouse attended the MERT meeting. Commissioner Schneider asked about the boat lift. Chief Dowaliby updated the board that we have been trying to get the three bids that the county required but so far only one company has replied. It's difficult to get bids right now in part because there have been so many natural disasters in the past couple of years that most companies are so busy they don't have time to bid on these fairly small jobs. We are going to see what comes in over the next month and then try to work with the county to move the process forward if possible.

Trainings Attended

- Seven personnel attended the Great Florida Fire School.
- All personnel are Certified Confined Space Technicians.
- All personnel attended the Cancer awareness program put on by North Collier Fire Control & Rescue District and hosted by Tice FD. Heather Mazurkiewicz, North Collier's Public Information Officer and one of the founding members of the Florida Cancer Coalition instructed the course.
- Our EVOC instructors took the Traffic Incident Management class offered at EOC.
- Firefighter Mimbs continues to attend Paramedic School.

- The men continue to train. We have several men working on their Bachelor and Associate Degrees.

Commissioner Kimball made a motion to accept the Chief's Report. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed

Attorney's Report

- Asked Chief Dowaliby what the items that are being added to the agenda in order to make sure there is an opportunity for Public Input: Chief Dowaliby listed the items to be added to the agenda in New Business: Annual USAR dues \$3,250.00 and Bunker Gear Cleaning and Repair \$2,358.00
- Habitat for Humanity: At the direction of the Board at a prior meeting I went to Ms. Green and asked them if they would pay the entire amount to get the lien on the properties extinguished. The amount is around \$750, but Ms. Green and Habitat declined and the Chief indicated that the board might prefer to sell the lots and donating the revenue to some worthy organization in the district. There was some discussion of different ideas for donating the proceeds after selling the lots and paying off the lien. Mr. Pringle explained the process that the non-profit volunteer organization to donate the proceeds or pass the property on to another non-profit. Mr. Pringle asked the board for direction in the next step and the Board indicated that they would prefer to sell the lots. Action will be taken in Old Business.
- Additional Homestead Exemption did not pass in the election. The County Attorney's office has given an opinion of why the Homestead Exemption doesn't apply to the Fire Districts, which is because the District is a single purpose Special Taxing District. That opinion makes it somewhat less likely that the process will change under future Property Appraisers.
- I met today with Representative Spencer Roach and he indicates that he will support the fire districts and asked what we need. I spoke with him about the update to Chapter 191 that Lehigh Fire District has been working on. If we are able to move forward with that, one of the most important aspects will be the attempt to create parity between the Special Districts and Municipalities or Counties with respect to Home Rule. Specifically it would allow Special Districts to impose assessments for specific purposes without going to referendum. The best chance for this update effort to be successful will be for the fire districts to unite behind it and obtain support from members of the legislature.

Commissioner Kimball made a motion to accept the Attorney's Report. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed

Fire Prevention Division Report

- a. Current Construction: Verandah River House Phase III; Storage King (Route 80 Storage) second building; 7-11 Palm Beach Blvd and Davis Blvd.; Sonshine Christian Academy School Buildings
- b. New Construction: None to report
- c. Projects Completed: None to report
- d. Revenues: The Division billed \$75.00 for the month.
- e. Meetings Attended: Lee County Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association; Lee County Fire Arson Task Force
- f. Prevention Education: 70th Annual Florida Fire Marshals Conference in Coral Springs; Legislative Process for Fire Officials in Tallahassee on December 4th
- g. Inspections: The division completed 40 various fire inspections for the month and a total of 496 for the year.

There was an arson fire in North Fort Myers this weekend. Deputy Chief Rewis worked it as an arson investigator with the Lee County Arson Task Force for about 8 hours. Our air trailer was also used.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to accept the Prevention Report. Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed.

Public Input on Agenda Items

None

Old Business

1. Lehigh lots owned by the dissolved non-profit volunteer organization: Commissioner Detzel made a motion to thank Habitat for Humanity for their interest but begin the process of selling the lots. Commissioner Ragen seconded the motion. Commissioner Kimball asked if we need to take of the lien first and Attorney Pringle said that we can do it at any time but we can just pay for it at the time of the sale. Motion passed.

Attorney Pringle and Chief Dowaliby will bring options to the board for either realtors or selling without a realtor so the board can make that decision. The board will also have the final decision of sale price and any offers. The board can then authorize either the Chair or the Chief to sign or they can have the contract brought back to the board for action. It is common to authorize the Chief to make decisions all the way up to signing the final contract, which would then come to the board for final approval. Commissioner Ragen suggested speaking with adjacent property owners to see if any of them might be interested in purchasing them.

New Business

1. Declare Capital items surplus and authorize disposal under Florida Statute 274.06:
 - a. Bunker Gear; item #2007-121-3, 14 sets of bunker gear that are out of date per NFPA and no longer useable. Original cost was \$26,565.00. There is no remaining value.
Commissioner Ragen made a motion and Commissioner Schneider seconded. Motion passed.
 - b. Deck, Item #2006-102-2 – replacement completed at the end of fiscal year 2018 – total original cost was \$6,000.00, and there is no value remaining.
Commissioner Kimball made the motion and Commissioner Schneider seconded. Motion passed.
2. Approve office furniture – Murphy Bed - for Chief Dowaliby’s office for \$1,800.00. This is a budgeted expenditure.
Commissioner Kimball made the motion to approve and Commissioner Ragen seconded. Motion passed.
3. We do not have the bids yet for the security gate so we will put that on the December meeting.
4. Approve payment of annual dues for USAR Task Force 6 for \$3,250.00
Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the payment and Commissioner Kimball seconded. Motion passed.
5. Bunker Gear Cleaning and Repair - \$2,358.00. We budgeted \$5,000 for this and it will be done annually.
Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the bunker gear cleaning and repairs.
Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed.

Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

None

Union Report:

DVP Washburn thanked the Board for their support with training and the renovations for the living quarters. We are putting together a group with people from each shift to start planning for the renovations.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the Union Report. Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed.

Comments from Commissioners:

Commissioner Ragen: The guys are doing a bang-up job. For those who don't know who he is, I met Spencer Roach when he knocked on my door one day and we talked for quite a while. He's former Coast Guard and seems like a great guy who I believe will have our backs.

Commissioner Schneider: Commented on the fires in California and asked everyone to count our blessings and be safe.

Commissioner Kimball: Thanks to everyone for all they do for our community.

Commissioner Detzel: Thanks to all for everything they do for us. Please be safe!

Adjourn

Commissioner Kimball made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.