

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
July 18, 2019
MINUTES**

Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Apperson called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Apperson, Kimball, Schneider, Ragen. Deputy Chief Rewis, Chaplain Cords, Administrative Assistant Howard, DVP/Engineer Washburn, other members of the department, architect Albert Dambrose and a representative from Wright Construction Group were also in attendance. Chief Dowaliby listened to the meeting on the phone. Commissioner Detzel arrived after Pastor Cords' prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Prayer – Pastor Cords

Amendments to the Agenda

1. Add the discussion of RFQ responses to Old Business.
2. Add approval of emergency repair to E-82 to New Business - \$5,332.30

Presentations/Awards

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for June 2019 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

Opening Balance	February 1, 2018		\$2,085,732.05
Credits		\$49,253.63	
Debits		\$218,195.32	
Ending Balance	February 28, 2018		\$1,916,790.36

First Bank - Impact Fee Fund			
Opening Balance	February 1, 2018		\$827,293.25
Credits		\$509.98	
Debits		\$0	
Ending Balance	February 28, 2018		\$827,803.23
4 Week Public Funds CD			
			\$2,000,000.00
13 Week Public Funds CD			
			\$2,000,000.00
26 Week Public Funds CD			
			\$2,000,000.00
Total CDARS			
			\$6,000,000.00
Total			\$8,744,593.59

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed.

Chief's Report – Chief Dowaliby was not in attendance but listened to the meeting by phone.

I hope everyone is well and surviving the humidity. I will be on sick leave for a little while. Please call me if you have any questions. We have been busy around the station. The bunks are almost complete and with it the upstairs remodel.

Items of Interest

- I trust everyone submitted your Financial Disclosures by July 1st.
- I submitted for an extension for the WCIND Grant and it was received.
- We had our second negotiating session with the Union. If you would like to go to Executive Session, Mr. Pringle can update you.
- There was some positive movement on the FPL property.
- The Rotary Club Project is complete, and the goal of \$4,059.50 was met!! Dr. Ruthie gave us a big thank you.
- We are working through the budget process.
- There is no movement on the lettering for the Confined Space Trailer.
- We have some birthdays to celebrate this month: Commissioner Apperson; Pastor Cords; Engineer Simmons; FF Mimbs; Engineer Pledger's son Landon.

Meetings Attended

- I attended the Lee County Fire Chiefs Association (LCFCA) monthly meeting.
- I had a meeting with the Captains and Acting Captains to discuss my absence.

Training Attended

- Captain Jones, Engineer Pledger and FF Peterson completed Structural Collapse Operations. They will complete the Technician level course in August.
- FF Peterson completed the VMR Operations Class.
- FF Mimbs is halfway through Paramedic School. He will complete his course work in October! He deserves recognition for his commitment to success. As we work towards improving emergency medical services to our community, he will be a driving force in training and outcomes.
- 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 – Attorney Pringle also has a birthday this month!

- We did have the second negotiating session on the collective bargaining agreement, and I think it went well. We can go into Executive Session after the meeting if the Board chooses, but I don't think it is necessary. I believe the direction the Board has already given is sufficient but if you would like to go into Executive Session, we can do that.
- I will save my other comments until the items come up in Old and New Business.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to accept the Attorney's Report. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed

Fire Prevention Division Report

- Current Construction: Portico Clubhouse
- New Construction: None to report
- Projects Completed: Sonshine Christian Academy School building; JQ Home Maintenance; Premia Fitness Riverdale; River Hall Pickleball Court
- Revenues: The Division billed \$120.00 for the month.
- Meetings Attended: Lee County Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association
- Prevention Education: DC Rewis and FF Hunt attended a Sprinkler and Cooking Equipment Hood class.

- Inspections: The division completed 16 various fire inspections for the month.

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

Public Input on Agenda Items

None

Old Business

1. Discussion of RFQ: Attorney Pringle stated that after the last board meeting, we received our final ad valorem revenue numbers for the upcoming fiscal year, and they were unexpectedly reduced from the initial estimate. After discussing the situation with the Chief, it appears that this decrease in revenues from what we expected will cause us to delay any new construction, possibly for several years. Attorney Pringle is recommending to the Board that they terminate the RFQ process before making a selection. The District must make sure that we are able not only to build the second station, but also staff it going forward and it may be three to five years before we can staff a new station. Commissioner Apperson said that she feels that the best course of action is to terminate the process at this time. She feels that it would be unfair to all of the responders to continue when we are unsure of how long it will be before we can begin building. The other board members agreed.

Commissioner Apperson made a motion to terminate the RFQ process at this time with our apologies to the responders. Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed.

Attorney Pringle will forward correspondence to the responders. He previously notified them of his recommendation to the Board to discontinue the RFQ process and thanked them for their responses. They were all very good responses and we appreciate the time that was put into them.

Commissioner Ragen and Commissioner Apperson added that we just received the new financial information in the last few weeks and it was quite a shock.

The Board thanked the two responders who were present, and they left since their business was completed.

2. Discussion of the Verandah property: Previously Attorney Pringle has had correspondence with Mr. Martin about the property and their offer was \$8.00 per square foot and our counteroffer was \$6.00 per square foot for a slightly smaller piece of property. We prefer not to include the

area with the Comcast equipment, although we are happy to grant an easement to permit access. We also would like to have the square footage where the access road is located excluded, partially or fully from the sale, also with an agreement for access. Based upon discussions with the Chief and a review of the reply we received from Mr. Martin, they are willing to use a reduced square footage. They also agreed to reduce the total price by a credit of \$40,000.00 because they won't have to rezone the property to sell it. The actual total cost will depend on the final determination of the property size, but with the reduced square footage and the \$40,000.00 credit, the sales price would be approximately \$295,000.00 or about \$7.05 a square foot. That is right in the middle of our offer of \$6.00 a square foot and their asking price of \$8.00 a square foot.

There was some further discussion of some of the issues we will have to negotiate, including drainage, access to change the traffic light as necessary, property size and boundaries, variances, etc., which will be included in the purchase contract, and then Mr. Pringle asked the board for direction in continuing the negotiations.

Commissioner Apperson made a motion that the Board direct Mr. Pringle to move forward with the negotiations within the parameters Mr. Pringle discussed. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed.

3. Bill of Sale for Boat purchase from Bonita Springs Fire Department: At the Board's direction last month, Mr. Pringle prepared an agreement for the purchase of Bonita Springs Fire Department's boat, trailer and other improvements, for a purchase price of \$25,000.00. After Mr. Pringle reviewed the agreement and Engineer Washburn and Deputy Chief Rewis answered a couple of questions about the boat and trailer for Commissioner Ragen and Commissioner Detzel.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the purchase of the boat and give Chief Dowaliby the authority to sign the bill of sale. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed.

New Business

1. Approval to replace the remaining fluorescent lights in the offices, hallway and bathrooms downstairs with LED recessed lights for a total of \$4,000.00.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the lights and Commissioner Schneider seconded. The motion passed.

2. Set Preliminary Millage rate for DR-420. The District's millage cap is 2.0000 mills, which is the millage we have used for preliminary budget planning. The Board should set the millage at the highest rate they anticipate using at this time because the rate can be lowered during the upcoming budget hearings, but it cannot go any higher than the preliminary rate approved tonight.

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to set the preliminary millage rate at 2.000 mills.

Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed.

3. Set Date, Time and Location for Preliminary Budget Hearing. We can't hold our meetings on the same night at the School Board (9/10/19) or Lee County Board of County Commissioners (9/3/19 and 9/17/19) have their meetings scheduled. We also have to schedule the preliminary hearing early enough in the month so we can meet the advertising requirements for our budget and final hearing announcement. For those reasons, we recommend scheduling our Preliminary Budget Hearing on Thursday, September 5, 2019, with the expectation of holding the Final Budget Hearing on Thursday, September 19, 2019 before our regular monthly meeting.

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to schedule the Preliminary Budget Hearing for Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at Station 1. Commissioner Apperson seconded and the motion passed.

4. Approval for South Florida Emergency Vehicles to repair Engine 82 for a cost not-to-exceed \$6,000.00. There are several different items included in this total, all stemming from the previous engine "dusting" that occurred in 2016 and caused us to have to rebuild the engine. The high pressure from that started the process of the problems we are having now. There are also several small leaks that we are not going to have repaired at this time because they are very slight. If necessary, we will look into getting those repaired at a later date, after getting some additional quotes.

Commissioner Ragen asked why the manufacturer isn't taking responsibility for the problems with these motors, because we know there have been multiple similar failures of the same motor. These failures have occurred at other fire departments in Lee County as well as across the country and he suggests that the Fire Chiefs discuss their options for the situation.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the repairs on Engine 82, up to \$6,000 since we need the engine back in service as soon as possible. Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed.

Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

None

Union Report: DVP Washburn said the first two union negotiating sessions went well and there are two more scheduled.

Comments from Commissioners: Commissioner Kimball will be out of town for the month of September. This will be considered an excused absence.

The Commissioners thanked everyone and wished the Chief a quick recovery.

Adjourn

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.