

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
July 16, 2020
MINUTES**

Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Apperson called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Apperson, Kimball, Detzel, and Schneider. Commissioner Ragen was not in attendance. Also in attendance were Chief Dowaliby and Attorney Pringle. Administrative Assistant Howard attended by phone.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Amendments to the Agenda

None

Presentations/Awards

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for June 2020 were presented for approval. Commissioner Kimball made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Bank account balances for the month of June 2020:

The operating account opened with \$2,935,644.69. There were deposits of \$60,434.53 and expenditures of \$269,451.90 for an ending balance of \$2,726,627.32.

The impact fee account opened with \$1,095,560.16. There were deposits of \$270.14 and no expenditures for an ending balance of \$1,095,830.30.

The 4-week C.D.A.R.S. opened with \$1,251,621.58. There were credits of \$240.05 for an ending balance of \$1,251,861.63.

The 13-week C.D.A.R.S. opened with \$2,500,000.00. There were no credits or debits and the ending balance was \$2,500,000.00.

The 26-week C.D.A.R.S. opened with \$2,000,000.00 There were no credits or debits and the ending balance was \$2,000,000.00.

Total bank balances at June 30, 2020 were \$9,574,319.25.

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

Chief's Report

We have one entire shift out due to COVID. Three of them have tested positive and the other two are self-quarantining. They are all getting better.

Items of Interest

- The first Union Negotiations occurred yesterday. We will have an Executive Session after the meeting.
- The Phase 1 environmental inspection on the Verandah property was conducted. No results yet.
- We have started the budget process.
- We have not heard anything about our Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant.
- Marine 82 is officially in service.
- We had a mandatory department meeting scheduled for next week but that has been cancelled due to COVID.
- Captain Burrell will be retiring at the end of the month. What a great career!
- Department anniversaries: FF Curt Peterson (2 years)
- Birthdays to celebrate this month: Commissioner Apperson, Engineer Simmons, FF Mimbs, and Engineer Pledger's son.
- There are no wedding anniversaries to celebrate this month.

Meetings Attended

- Lee County Fire Chiefs Association
- Monthly Officers Meeting

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to accept the Chief's Report. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed

Attorney's Report

- I will discuss a First Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Unit Contract in Old Business.
- There is one more birthday to add to the list for July – Mr. Pringle!

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

Fire Prevention Division Report

- Current Construction: Little Caesars Pizza, Eye Doctor's Office
- New Construction: Portico Multi-Family residential units
- Projects Completed: Race Trac
- Revenues: The Division billed \$600.00 for the month.
- Meetings Attended: Two Remote Meetings: Lee County Communications Committee and Lee County Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association
- Prevention Education: None
- Inspections: The division completed 105 various fire inspections for the month.
- General Information: We held interviews for new volunteers on July 15th. We are working on the background checks and physicals to get the new volunteers started in August.

Chief Dowaliby said that Deputy Chief Rewis attended more Zoom meetings than he noted in his report and he also agreed to fill in as on the Strike Team and ended up being called out.

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

Public Input on Agenda Items

None

Old Business

1. Approval of Captain Burrell's buyout. The Union has agreed to do an amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 1826 District 20, which is the Captains, to allow the buyout. Mr. Pringle has drawn up a First Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement with extremely specific language which will allow the buyout only for Captain Burrell. He will receive an immediate payout of all of his earned and unused vacation time and the sick hours he is entitled to under the regular retirement clauses in the contract. He will also receive a buyout of \$75,000.00 to be paid in January 2021 at Captain Burrell's request. The Captains (District 20 in the Union) still need to vote on the amendment, but the Board can go ahead and approve it tonight. There is some language that needs to be worked out but the specific provisions will remain as they are presented in the draft agreement.

Commissioner Kimball made a motion to approve the First Amendment to the Collective Bargaining Agreement; to give Chief Dowaliby and Mr. Pringle to continue to negotiate the language of the agreement with the Bargaining Unit; and to authorize the Chair or her designee to sign the agreement when they are finished negotiating. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed.

New Business

1. Set preliminary millage rate for the purpose of completing the DR-420. We recommend setting the preliminary millage rate at 2.0000 mills.

Commissioner Kimball made a motion to set the Preliminary Millage Rate at 2.0000 mills.

Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed.

2. Set date, time, and location for the Preliminary Budget Hearing. Lee County is holding their hearings on 9/3/20 and 9/15/20, and the School Board's hearing is 9/8/20. We cannot hold our meeting before the 3rd or on any of the dates the County or School Board is meeting. We recommend holding our meeting on Friday, September 4, 2020 in order to have enough time to comply with advertising requirements for our final meeting to be held on September 17, 2020 before our regular meeting.

After some discussion Commissioner Kimball made a motion to hold the Preliminary Budget Hearing on Friday, September 4, 2020 at 5:15 at Station 1. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed.

3. Authorize beginning the Development Order process for Station 2 on October 1, 2020.

4. Authorize issuing a Request for Proposals from architects for Station 2 on October 1, 2020.

Discussion of Item #3 and #4:

Chief Dowaliby would like to get approval to start the development order and RFP for architects on October 1, 2020 because the process will take two to three years to complete.

Mr. Pringle suggested that we begin with a broader Request for Proposals for Professional Services including architects and engineers. After we pick those professionals, they can begin the development order process.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to authorize issuing a Request for Proposals for Professional Services for Station 2. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed.

Mr. Pringle asked if we have the original drawings available because that will give them a starting point to be able to give us a better estimate on pricing. Chief said that we do have some of them to give a general idea of square footage and the footprint of the building.

There are several steps to the process and the board will have the opportunity to approve each one as we proceed. The approvals tonight are just the first notice of the District's intention to begin the building process at the beginning of next fiscal year.

After some further discussion Commissioner Detzel made a motion to authorize the Development Order process to begin on October 1, 2020. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed.

Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

None

Union Report:

None

Comments from Commissioners:

Thanks to everyone – stay safe and we hope the guys out with COVID recover soon and are able to come back quickly.

Adjourn

Commissioner Kimball made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.