

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**August 20, 2020**  
**MINUTES**

**Call Meeting to Order**

Commissioner Apperson called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Apperson, Kimball, Ragen and Schneider. Commissioner Detzel arrived at 7:35. Also in attendance were Chief Dowaliby, Deputy Chief Rewis, Attorney Pringle, Captain Clouse, Engineers Poulton and Hunt, Firefighter Peterson, Alva Fire Commissioner Adam Crittendon, and Angie Young.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

Chief Dowaliby let everyone know that Pastor Cords is at home recovering after three days in the hospital with COVID 19. He says he is feeling much better and will be back as soon as he is cleared.

**Amendments to the Agenda**

1. New Business: Approval of Firehouse Cloud Software Annual Renewal - \$3,903.70
2. New Business: Discussion and possible action on consolidation with Alva Fire Department

**Presentations/Awards**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**Treasurer's Report**

Bank account balances for the month of July 2020:

The operating account opened with \$2,726,627.32. There were deposits of \$6,090.86 and expenditures of \$315,337.67 for an ending balance of \$2,417,380.51.

The impact fee account opened with \$1,095,830.30. There were deposits of \$84,438.15 and no expenditures for an ending balance of \$1,180,268.45.

The 4-week C.D.A.R.S. opened with \$1,251,861.63. There were credits of \$240.10 for an ending balance of \$1,252,101.73.

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 July 31, 2020 were \$9,349,750.69.

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

## **Chief's Report**

### **Items of Interest**

- First and foremost, I would like to thank our Administrative Assistant and our Deputy Chief for their continued quality work. The last couple of months have been difficult and I made it through with their support. Thank you, Debbie and Bobby. And I would be remiss if I did not thank each and every one of you for your continued support as we move forward building and developing the type of Fire District our community deserves.
- Union negotiations have wrapped up. We will present the contract for approval at the September meeting after we get the final revisions.
- There has been no movement on the Verandah property.
- I received a message from FP&L about the training facility but there is no action to be taken at this time.
- You will be receiving the tentative budget in the coming week as we prepare for the first budget meeting on September 4, 2020.
- We have not heard anything about our Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant.
- Marine 82 is officially in service.
- We have a mandatory department meeting next week.
- We bid Captain Burrell a fond goodbye.

- You will consider approving the new Rules and Regulations and S.O.G. 31 – COVID 19 Actions in New Business.
- Alva request for consolidation
- We are doing FD pictures next week on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. You do not have to be there but please get in touch with Deputy Chief Rewis so he can take your picture.
- Department anniversaries: Captain Swindle – 15 years
- Birthdays to celebrate this month: FF Bronson Janey, FF Casey Gee, Volunteer Paul Salyers, and FF Mimbs' wife.
- Wedding anniversaries to celebrate this month: Captain Swindle and his wife, FF Austin Gee and his wife.

### **Meetings Attended**

- Lee County Fire Chiefs Association phone conference
- Monthly Officers meeting
- LCFCA Medical Branch phone conference

### **Training Attended**

- FF Mimbs, FF Janey, and FF Casey Gee attended the Boat Operators Search and Rescue week-long class. We now have 6 certified BOSAR operators.
- EMT Recertification is being completed for this biennial period.
- We have administered Narcan three times, all with successful outcomes.
- Captain Jones did some training with his shift at the City of Ft. Myers training facility. One of our former volunteers who now works at Lehigh brought one of their trucks and an Alva Firefighter also attended. We have an agreement with the City to allow us to schedule time to use their facility to train.

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

### **Attorney's Report**

- Contract negotiations went well. Everyone here is respectful and cordial, and does a good job in negotiations.

- Verandah: We have a contract for the Phase II environmental testing and the documentation recommending it. According to the terms of the sales contract we are allowed to do the Phase II testing if the Phase I test show a need for it.

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

### **Fire Prevention Division Report**

- Current Construction: Little Caesars Pizza, Multi-family in Portico
- New Construction: None to report
- Projects Completed: Eye Doctor's office
- Revenues: The Division billed \$210.00 for the month.
- Meetings Attended: Lee County Communications Committee remote meeting, Lee County Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association remote meeting, Lee County Fire Chiefs remote meeting
- Prevention Education: None to report
- Inspections: The division completed 19 various fire inspections for the month.
- The new volunteer background checks and physicals have been completed. We have selected 10 new applicants that will start after our meeting next Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

### **Public Input on Agenda Items**

None

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

1. Approve Emergency Purchase – Air Cylinders to replace outdated cylinders in Breathing Air Trailer for a total cost of \$2,581.40

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the emergency purchase of the air cylinders. Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed.

2. Approval of Union Contract

The final contract will be ready to be approved in the September meeting. Commissioner Detzel made a motion to table the approval until September. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed.

Chief Dowaliby asked the Commissioners if they would like to continue to have us bring items like the Rules and Regulations and S.O.G.s to the Board for approval. It is not required but he feels it is respectful to make sure the Board knows what is going on. After some discussion, all of the Commissioners confirmed that they would like to continue the current approval process.

3. Approval of Revised Rules and Regulations

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the Revised Rules and Regulations. Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed.

4. Approval of S.O.G. 31: COVID 19 Actions

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve S.O.G. 31. Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed.

5. Approval of Firehouse Cloud Renewal \$3,903.70

We will be transferring to the ESO platform beginning on October 1, 2020. They will prorate this payment and apply it to the new software.

Commissioner Kimball made a motion to approve the Firehouse Cloud renewal. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed.

6. Discussion of Alva Fire Department Consolidation request

Chief Dowaliby: There has been ongoing talk about consolidating with Alva since I got here the first time in 2005. Due to Alva's low staffing, we have changed our automatic response to mutual aid to send two trucks and back-fill the station. We attempted to offer administrative services and we met with some opposition. I am not comfortable at this time to move forward with anything more than our normal response. Commissioner Apperson agreed. Commissioner Ragen said that on the surface it seems like it would be a good thing but since everything seems

to be working as is for now we should leave it alone. Commissioner Kimball discussed the millage rates of the area districts making the point that they are all working at or close to the top of their caps now. He feels that we need to work on our second station and getting the needs of our District taken care of before we look at anything else. Alva Commissioner Crittendon said that he is personally in favor of consolidation, but they are currently in union negotiations and he does not think that administratively they are in a position for consolidation right now. Attorney Pringle noted that we can provide any help to Alva short of officially consolidating or taking over functions. We are currently helping to the extent that they want our help and we will continue to do that.

**Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:**

None

**Union Report:**

DVP Hunt thanked the Board and management for their support. There are quite a few guys back in college.

**Comments from Commissioners:**

Commissioners Ragen, Detzel, and Schneider: Everyone is doing a great job. Please be safe.

Commissioner Apperson commented on how proud she is to be a part of the District and thanked everyone.

**Adjourn**

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kimball seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.