

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
November 18, 2021  
MINUTES**

**Call Meeting to Order**

Commissioner Detzel called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Detzel, Ragen, Schneider and Shewmaker. Commissioner Apperson was out of town. Also in attendance were Chief Dowaliby, Assistant Chief Rewis, Captain Swindle, Attorney Pringle and Administrative Assistant Howard.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Amendments to the Agenda**

New Business: We would like to get approval to ask Lee County for authorization to use Impact Fees to purchase the engine that will be located at the new station.

**Presentations/Awards**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for October 7, 2021 and October 21, 2021 were presented for approval. Commissioner Ragen made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed.

## Treasurer's Report

<b>First Bank - General Fund</b>			
Opening Balance	October 1, 2021		\$2,920,699.24
Credits		\$41,009.33	
Debits		\$346,918.76	
Ending Balance	October 31, 2021		\$2,614,789.81
<b>First Bank - Impact Fee Fund</b>			
Opening Balance	October 1, 2021		\$1,609,774.29
Credits		\$191,258.38	
Debits		\$0	
Ending Balance	October 31, 2021		\$1,801,032.67
<b>First Bank - CDARS</b>			
	Beginning Balance	Interest	Ending Balance
4 Week Public Funds CD	\$1,255,988.03	\$192.72	\$1,256,180.75
13 Week Public Funds CD	\$2,500,000.00	\$0	\$2,000,000.00
26 Week Public Funds CD	\$2,000,000.00	\$0	\$2,000,000.00
Total CDARS			\$5,756,180.75
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$10,172,003.23</b>

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed.

## Chief's Report

### Items of Interest

- I would like to thank AC Rewis, Debbie and the crews for their support while I was away investing time with my Aunt.
- AC Rewis, FF Austin Gee, FF Casey Gee and I attended a ceremony at the Florida State Fire College that honored fallen firefighters. Assistant Chief Pete Gee's name was added to the wall.
- Audit week is over but there is still a lot of work for Debbie. She always does a wonderful job.
- The Fire Truck Workgroup is getting close to a recommendation and we expect to bring you a proposal in December.
- Debbie and I both completed our CDM projects and they were approved.
- We are in the process of remodeling the Chief's office to accommodate AC Rewis' transition to Fire Chief.
  - We will have bids for your consideration. Once again it has been difficult to get companies to bid on the project.

- We had some positive movement with Fortress. Studio AD produced some drawings that the workgroup brought forward to Fortress for their consideration. Studio AD has been instrumental in this process.
  - There will be plans for you to see at the meeting
  - We are getting closer every day
- We met with the Union for a VEBA presentation. We will meet with them and bring you the program for approval in December along with the paramedic pay incentive.
- We have put out the notice for the Deputy Chief examination. The application period ended this week. We are reviewing the applications. We will hold the examination in December.
- The school bus extrication class was well received. Hopefully we will never have to use the knowledge but when it happens the crews will perform well.
- The annual physicals are completed. I am going to meet with each shift to discuss the overall health of the District.
- Department Anniversaries: Administrative Assistant Howard (16 Years) and Engineer Mann (16 years)
- Birthdays: Engineer Mann's wife and daughter, Engineer Pledger's youngest son, FF Gee's wife and FF Peterson's wife.
- Wedding Anniversaries: Engineer Poulton and his wife (15 years), FF Taylor and his wife (1 year), FF Casey Gee and his wife (1 year)

#### **Meetings Attended**

- Fortress/Summit workgroup

#### **Training Attended**

- AC Rewis and I attended Active Shooter tabletop training with local agencies
- Captain Swindle will give the Captains' Training Report this month
- B-Shift participated with Tice FD and North Fort Myers doing TRT work at a 15-story condominium in North Fort Myers. The owners were welcoming during a remodel of the condo.

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

#### **Attorney's Report**

- The comprehensive agreement with Fortress will not be done until the design phase is completed.
- The letter to the Lee County Attorney in Old Business will be to request the use of Impact Fee funds for the purchase of an engine to be located at Station 2 when it is complete.

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

### **Fire Prevention Division Report**

- Current Construction: Multi-family units in Portico and at Pebblebrook in the Verandah; River Hall Pool House
- Revenues: The Division billed \$3,148.24 for the month.
- Meetings Attended: Lee County Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association; Lee County Communications Committee
- Education: FFMIA Annual Fire Prevention Conference in Coral Springs from October 31 – November 4. Assistant Chief Rewis and Engineer Hunt attended.
- Inspections: The division completed 67 various fire inspections for the month of October
- General Information: We have lost two volunteers who were hired by other departments in the area. We would like to congratulate them on their new adventure.

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

### **Training Report**

- Daily Training: All shifts continue to participate in various functional training and circuit style workouts; truck checks; SCBA and gear checks; Target Solutions
- Monthly Training: Ladder inspections and proper use; one pre-incident plan per shift; R.I.T. drills; fire ground skills; hydraulics/apparatus; EMT
- Upcoming Training: Confined Space at FPL postponed until early next year; High angle rescue of high rise in North district date TBA; Co-op training; Multiple classes being taken

- A-Shift: Mimbs is in an FO2 class; Salyers, Glenn are taking FO1 classes; Salyers has completed his probation with written and practical skills tests; finishing up Glenn's task book; trained on down FF CPR drill; Co-op at Bonita
- B-Shift: Continue to conduct mutual aid training with Tice; water supply to an aerial ladder; finishing up Schumacher's Probationary Task Book; Trench USAR refresher for USAR members; finishing up Target Solutions for the year
- C-Shift: School Bus Extrication class; building workgroup; Engine workgroup (specs and pricing for new engine purchase); Taylor has completed 90% of his task book; foam evolution with E-83

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

None – no public present

### **Old Business**

1. ESO Renewal – approved as part of the FY 2021-2022 Budget for \$15,000, actual cost was \$12,437

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the ESO renewal. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Shewmaker opened a discussion of hiring the Deputy Chief and when the Chief intends to leave. He would like to see the Chief stay until the end of his contract or at least until the new station is completed. He questioned the need to hire a Deputy Chief before the Chief leaves and why it would not be better for the Chief to stay until the end of his contract and bring a Deputy Chief in a few months before he leaves.

Chief Dowaliby said that in a previous meeting he was asked to stay through Union negotiations and he has already consented to that, which will take him close to the end of 2022. His contract has provisions allowing him to leave prior to the end of the term with written notice.

Assistant Chief Rewis said that he would prefer not to put off hiring a Deputy Chief because he would like to have time to learn the Chief's administrative duties. The Chief is determined to set Assistant Chief Rewis up for success in the Chief position by giving him time and opportunity to begin performing those administrative functions. He will not be able to do that until we have a Deputy Chief who can take over some of the Assistant Chief's current responsibilities.

Chief Dowaliby also explained that hiring a Deputy Chief is an Operations decision and should be up to the Chief, but we have always deferred to the Board and they will have the final say on when the Deputy Chief starts.

The Commissioners all expressed the Board's wish that the Chief would stay until the end of his contract but Commissioner Schneider noted that they understand if he feels like he is ready to leave sooner. Commissioner Schneider also agreed that personnel decisions are the responsibility of the Chief because they fall under operations.

Attorney Pringle explained that there is flexibility in the Chief's retirement date because he has not yet submitted written notice of his intention to leave. Commissioner Shewmaker again asked what the timing should be on hiring a Deputy Chief if the Chief does decide to stay through the end of his contract. He asked if hiring a Deputy Chief in September 2022 would be sufficient time to train them and allow Bobby the time he needs. Commissioner Schneider noted that the Chief has already said he will stay until union negotiations are complete but does not intend to stay until the end of his contract or until the completion of the new station. That will put his retirement at the end of 2022 and hiring a Deputy Chief in January or February will allow 10 or 11 months until the Chief leaves.

Commissioner Ragen commented that the District is growing, we are building the new station and we have applications from several solid candidates. Do we want to take a chance on losing those candidates by telling them we are going to wait a few months before we hire. Commissioner Detzel agreed and said that taking everything into account the difference would be between hiring in January or March, which is not long enough to risk losing good candidates. Commissioner Schneider said that the Board has already approved the budget for the new position and the only thing to be negotiated is how long the Chief is going to stay. Commissioner Detzel pointed out that the decision of when the Chief leaves is entirely up to him, no matter how much the Board would like to see him stay.

There was some further discussion but no action was taken.

### **New Business**

1. Updates for Chief's office – we budgeted to upgrade the furnishings to better suit AC Rewis' needs as he transitions to Fire Chief. We would like to install new flooring and two new electrical outlets, paint, install a ceiling fan, and install a built-in wardrobe cabinet and storage similar to the cabinets in the Assistant Chief's current office. The bid from Titan Contracting for all of the work is \$14,255.00. We did get a second bid for just the built-in cabinets but due to

the cost of materials it would be more expensive to split the job than to have it all done by one company.

We would like to move \$5,000 we had budgeted for furniture in the Chief's office from Furniture & Fixtures to the capital improvements line to cover the total cost of the upgrades. Commissioner Ragen made a motion to move \$5,000 from the Furniture & Fixtures budget line to the capital improvements line and approve the total expenditure at a cost not to exceed \$15,000 with Titan Contracting. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Two new fire engines are budgeted for 2022, one out of the operating fund and one out of Impact Fees for station 2. We will have proposals for the Board at the December meeting but we would like to get approval to have Mr. Pringle write a letter to the Lee County Attorney asking for authorization to expend Impact Fees for the Station 2 engine.

Attorney Pringle explained the process and requirements for using Impact Fees for the benefit of Commissioner Shewmaker who was not on the Board the last time the District made a purchase using Impact Fees funds.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve writing the letter to the Lee County Attorney. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

None

**Union Report:**

None

**Adjourn**

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.