

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
September 16, 2021
MINUTES**

Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Apperson called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. Attendees: Commissioners Apperson, Detzel, Ragen, Schneider, Chief Dowaliby, Deputy Chief Rewis, Attorney Pringle, Admin. Asst. Howard, Engineers Pledger and Hunt, FF Mimbs, Vol. FF Janey, and members of the public Anita Kressel, James Shewmaker and Deidre Heindl.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Amendments to the Agenda

1. New Business: Emergency repair on Engine 82 - \$5,992.02

Presentations/Awards

None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for August 2021 were presented for approval. Commissioner Detzel 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	August 1, 2021		\$3,511,481.37
Credits		\$4,959.08	
Debits		\$313,871.95	
Ending Balance	August 31, 2021		\$3,202,568.50

First Bank - Impact Fee Fund			
Opening Balance	August 1, 2021		\$1,609,370.82
Credits		\$205.03	
Debits		\$0.00	
Ending Balance	August 31, 2021		\$1,609,575.85
First Bank - CDARS	Beginning Balance	Interest	Ending Balance
4 Week Public Funds CD	\$ 1,255,554.50	\$240.84	\$1,255,795.34
13 Week Public Funds CD	\$ 2,500,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,500,000.00
26 Week Public Funds CD	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000,000.00
Total CDARS			\$5,755,795.34
Total			\$10,567,939.69

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

Chief’s Report

Items of Interest

- Commissioners Detzel and Ragen attended the proclamation ceremony at the Lee County Board of County Commissioners for Mr. Kimball. His sister, Barbara, gave a nice tribute. I received a message from his daughter Diana that they watched the tribute on the Lee County TV live feed.
- The September extra meeting was canceled.
- Union negotiations continue with VEBA. The Nationwide representative will be in attendance to explain the details of their program.
- The application period for the open Fire Board of Commissioners seat has closed.
 - We received three applications for your consideration at the meeting.
- We met with Fortress and the building workgroup on Wednesday. We are making progress.
- Mr. Pringle will update you on any movement with the Fortress/Summit contract.
- We have two budget meetings and the regularly scheduled FBOC meeting in September.
- When we advertise the meetings for the next year, I would like to see us conduct the meetings at Crossroads Baptist Church.
- Birthdays: Engineer Poulton’s youngest son and FF Casey Gee’s wife.

Meetings Attended

- Fortress/Summit workgroup
- Met with Pine Island FD about the EMT/Paramedic program.
 - They are moving forward with the paramedic program. They have six personnel in school.
 - We may have an increased cost for our Medical Director because they will be going with another Medical Director for their advanced program.
- Union negotiations
- Met with Lee County for our Development Order for Station 2.
 - Mr. Pringle will have an update.
- Chiefs Association meeting and special meeting concerning Alva FD staffing
- Officers meeting

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

Attorney's Report

- When the Board approves opening the wages article for negotiation you should also appoint the negotiating team.
- Update on contract with Fortress Secured: their legal counsel has reviewed and revised the agreement we sent them. So far all of the revisions are related to the differences in requirements for the Public Private Partnership. Those have been incorporated into the agreement. There is a good chance that we will have an interim agreement ready for approval in time for the extra meeting we have scheduled on October 7, 2021. The comprehensive agreement will then be entered into when the design phase is completed and they are able to provide us with a guaranteed maximum price. I was adamant about the fact that the Board have final approval decision for the design, all the elements of the construction and the guaranteed maximum price. They have agreed to that so all of that will be addressed in this interim agreement. In the last meeting Fortress committed to the fact that they are proceeding with the design work at their risk and the agreement they have provided to me confirms that. That is an indication to me of their truthfulness and sincerity. There is no need to approve anything tonight.

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

Fire Prevention Division Report

- Current Construction: Multi-family units in Portico; Publix at Buckingham; Verandah Pool House
- Revenues: The Division billed \$150 for the month.
- Meetings Attended: Lee County Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association; Lee County Fire Chiefs; Lee County Communications Committee
- Public Education: A-Shift visited the summer camp at Olga Community Center
- Inspections: In August we conducted three inspections.
- General Information: The confined space trailer interior lighting is completed and looks great; the trailer can now be used with or without power on emergency scenes.
Brush 82 is in getting the lighting installed and will be getting the lift and tires done after we get it back.

The apparatus work group has been meeting to discuss options for the new apparatus budgeted for next fiscal year. We recently had Engine 83 out of service for backordered parts and Engine 82 had a mechanical issue and also had to be removed from service temporarily. We had to use a neighboring district's spare engine while both trucks were down. The new apparatus will assist with us not having this type of issue in the future.

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

Training Report: Engineer Pledger gave the Training Report

- **Daily Training:** Functional training and circuit style workouts; Truck checks; SCBA & Gear checks; Target Solutions
- **Monthly Training:** Ladder inspections and proper use; 1 pre-incident plan per shift; R.I.T. drills; Fire ground skills; Hydraulics/Apparatus; EMT
- **Upcoming Training:** Tice TRT Training September 10th and October 15th; School Bus Training

- **A-Shift:** Working on pre-plan at Dollar General and Auto Zone; guys are studying for promotional test; Jones attending college classes; Glenn and Salyers passed State Pump Operators test; Forcible Entry Door training; Glenn and Salyers completed two classes for their Fire Officer 1; Continuing morning workouts
- **B-Shift:** Pre-plan for Fox Plumbing completed and awaiting presentation at the next Captains meeting; Schumacher passed State Pump Operator exam; Austin Gee passed Fire Officer 1 State exam; Janey scheduled to take Fire Officer 1 State exam; Pledger, Austin Gee and Janey continue to study for upcoming promotional testing; TRT Training with Tice September 10th; Swindle Trench Rescue class September 20-24 in Miami
- **C-Shift:** Pre-plan River Hall Elementary; Simmons is studying for Captain's promotional exam; Casey Gee is studying for Engineer's promotional exam; Hands-on pump and hose deployment training; Brush 82: mounted the pump, working on plumbing, bed liner and fabrication for hose reel mount

Public Input on Agenda Items

None

Old Business

1. Discussion and action to fill vacant Commissioner Seat

Three residents have turned in letters of interest and résumés: Anita Kressel, the Finance Director for Lehigh Acres Fire Department; Deidre Heindl, a past Board member who has also served on several other community boards and associations; and James Shewmaker, a Veterinarian with a practice in the District.

Commissioner Apperson gave the three candidates the opportunity to speak to the Board about why they want to serve on the Board and they each spoke briefly. Commissioner Apperson asked for input from the other Commissioners. Commissioners Ragen and Apperson both thought Anita's extensive experience in finance at another fire department would be most beneficial to the District right now. Commissioners Detzel and Schneider both preferred Dr. Shewmaker, Commissioner Schneider due to his experience starting and running a small business. Commissioner Detzel thought Dr. Shewmaker's medical experience would help if we are going to move forward with a paramedic program.

After further discussion Commissioner Detzel made a motion to appoint Dr. James Shewmaker to fill the vacant Board of Commission seat until the next general election. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed 3-1.

2. Update on contract with Fortress Secured: Done in Attorney Pringle's report.

New Business

1. Approval to open Article 30: Wages to discuss the paramedic incentive and appoint the negotiating team

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to approve opening Article 30 and appoint the negotiating team for the District; Chief Dowaliby, Attorney Pringle, and Deputy Chief Rewis. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed.

2. Approval to negotiate Dr. Rodi's Medical Director contract for fiscal year 2022 with a cap of \$7,500 per budget

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve negotiating Dr. Rodi's contract with a cap of \$7,500. Commissioner Ragen seconded. The motion was amended to authorize the Chair to sign the contract when it is completed. Motion passed as amended.

3. Approve moving the monthly meetings to Crossroads Baptist Church beginning in October 2021
Commissioner Detzel made a motion to hold the monthly meetings for fiscal year 2021-2022 at Crossroads Baptist Church, located at 10721 Palm Beach Blvd., Ft. Myers, FL 33905.

Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed.

4. Approve meeting schedule for fiscal year 2022

Third Thursday of each month: October 21, 2021; November 18, 2021; December 16, 2021; January 20, 2022; February 17, 2022; March 17, 2022; April 21, 2022; May 19, 2022; June 16, 2022; July 21, 2022; August 18, 2022; September 15, 2022

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to approve the meeting dates for the third Thursday of each month for fiscal year 2021-2022. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed.

5. Approve emergency repair on Engine 82. \$5,992.02

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the emergency repair. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed.

Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

Deidre Heindl spoke about her long friendship with the late Commissioner Kimball. They served together in several community organizations including the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Fort Myers Shores Civic Association, the East Lee County Council, and the Fort Myers Shores Planning Committee. Every new development order for the area goes through a detailed process which includes review by the Planning Committee. With Commissioner Kimball's passing they are looking for somebody else who is interested in serving on the committee. Deidre asked that everyone spread the word.

Chief Dowaliby asked what would happen if the planning committee is not functioning. Attorney Pringle explained that normally Developers have to meet with the planning committee as part of the approval process. The committee makes recommendations and the county takes those recommendations very seriously as they consider approval of a project. If there is no functioning committee the developers might be allowed to bypass that step in the approval process. Alternatively the developers could be required to advertise and hold a public meeting for members of the community.

Union Report:

DVP/Engineer Hunt – we are waiting for more information from Nationwide on the VEBA.

Comments from Commissioners:

Commissioner Shewmaker said thanks for the opportunity to serve on the Board. The other Commissioners welcomed Commissioner Shewmaker and thanked the other applicants for their interest. Congratulations to Mr. Pringle on his new grandchild. Thanks to everyone.

Adjourn

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.