

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

Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Apperson called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Apperson, Ragen, and Shewmaker. Commissioner Detzel arrived at 7:34. Commissioner Schneider was not in attendance due to illness. Also in attendance were Chief Dowaliby, Assistant Chief Rewis, Attorney Pringle, Administrative Assistant Howard, Pastor Cords, Eric from Ten-8, and several members of the department and their families.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Prayer – Chaplain Cords

Amendments to the Agenda

None

Presentations/Awards

Several new or newly promoted personnel were sworn in by Chief Dowaliby:

- New Firefighters Devin Taylor, Tommy Schumacher and Casey Gee have all completed or will soon complete their one-year probationary period.
- Engineer Danny Hunt and Captain Ricky Swindle have also completed their probationary period in their new positions.
- Captain Ricky Swindle was presented with the Firefighter of the Year Award for 2020.

Congratulations!

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for November 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 opened on November 1, 2021 with \$2,614,789.81. There were credits of \$736,304.77 and debits of \$376,169.21. The ending balance on November 30, 2022 was \$1,801,254.72.

First Bank Impact Fee Fund opened with \$1,801,032.67. There were credits of \$222.05 and no debits. The ending balance was \$1,801,254.72.

The four-week CDARS opened with \$1,256,180.75. There was interest of \$199.62. The ending balance was \$1,256,380.37.

The 13-week CDARS was maintained at \$2,000,000.00 and the 26-week CDARS was maintained at \$2,500,000.00.

Total of all accounts on November 30, 2021 was \$10,532,560.46.

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

Chief's Report

Items of Interest

- The fire truck work group has done exceptional work. They will have a proposal for your consideration in New Business.
- The building work group will have a meeting with the Fortress team on January 6, 2022. I am hopeful we will accomplish all the preliminary work so the project can go to permitting. Mr. Pringle will have more to add about the contract in his report.
- We met with the Union for negotiations and we will have Article 23: Health, Dental, Life, Short Term Disability, and Post Employment Insurance; Article 30: Wages; and Article 38: Duration for your approval. The Union has approved the articles.
- Mr. Pringle has the documents for the HealthInvest HRA for the formation of the post-employment insurance trust. Mr. Pringle will have an update in his report.
- The Deputy Chief examinations are January 12th and 18th
- AC Rewis, Admin. Asst. Howard and I rang the bell for the Salvation Army in front of the new Publix
- Department anniversaries: Engineer Hunt (5 years), FF Glenn (1 year), FF Schumacher (1 year)

- Birthdays: Commissioner Detzel, Commissioner Ragen, Engineer Mann, Engineer Washburn, Engineer Pledger, Captain Clouse's wife, Captain Swindle's daughter, Engineer Washburn's son, Engineer Pledger's wife, FF Salyers' wife

Meetings Attended

- AC Rewis and I met with the Airport Police Department to review the facility for an active shooter scenario
- Lee County Fire Chiefs Association
- FMSFD Officers meeting
- Admin. Asst. Howard and I met with HealthInvest HRA
- Union Negotiations

Training Attended

- Captain Clouse will give the Captain's Training Report this month.

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

Attorney's Report

Attorney Pringle reserved his comments until the items come up for action in Old and New Business.

Fire Prevention Division Report

- Current Construction: Multi-family units in Portico and in Pebblebrook at Verandah; River Hall pool house
- New Construction: None to report
- Projects Completed: None to report
- Revenues: The Division billed \$0 for the month.
- Meetings Attended: Lee County Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association; Lee County Fire Arson Task Force; Lee County Communication Committee; Lee County Fire Chiefs Association
- Prevention Education: Joint training with Lee County Sheriff's Office, EMS, and Fire agencies for active shooter events; Reunification Table-Top training with Region 6 at Florida Southwestern State College; Test burn with Lee County Fire Arson Task Force; Tour of SW Regional Airport – post active shooter training

- Public Education: Drive by Birthday Celebration with LCSO for Veteran's 100th birthday; CPR/AED – First Aid training for the staff at Calvary School daycare; Marine 81 was in the 5th Annual Christmas Boat Parade Sunday evening
- Inspections: No report on inspections this month. I will update next month.
- General Information: We have development orders in a the county for two separate storage facilities, one self-storage and one RV and boat storage.

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

Training Report

- Daily Training: functional training and circuit style workouts; truck checks; SCBA and gear checks; Target Solutions
- Monthly Training: ladder inspection and proper use; 1 pre-incident plan per shift; R.I.T. drills; fire ground skills; hydraulics/apparatus; EMT
- Upcoming Training: multiple classes being taken; Peer Fitness Trainer
- A-Shift: FF Mimbs is working on his FO2; FFs Salyers and Glenn are taking FO2 classes; Target Solutions; Co-op training in Bonita Springs; pre-connect advancement; studying for Glenn end of year test
- B-Shift: ongoing mutual aid training with Tice FD; FF Schumacher's Probationary Task Book completed; FF Schumacher final test; FF Schumacher Trench class; finishing Target Solutions for the year; Capt. Swindle beginning college class at the end of December; Engineer foam training and Fire Fighter Foam Application
- C-Shift: finishing Target Solutions for the year; FF Taylor is 95% done with his Probationary Task Book; pre-plan at River Hall Elementary

Commissioner Shewmaker made a motion to accept the Training Report. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Input on Agenda Items

None

Old Business

1. HRA for Post-Employment Insurance: The Union and the District have met with Gallagher HealthInvest and agreed on a plan to fund post-employment insurance for employees. The Union has approved using the HRA plan and the Union has calculated the initial District contribution based on each employee's years of service in FRS. The total initial contribution was budgeted at \$700,000.00 and the District will make additional contributions for each employee every pay period.

Currently the Union contract requires the District to pay 100% of the health and dental insurance for retirees on our insurance plan until they become eligible for Medicare. That provision is becoming unsustainable for the District for the long-term but we still want to offer employees a way to pay for their post-employment medical needs. The HRA will replace the current plan for future retirees and it will give each employee a lump sum they can use as needed for insurance premiums and other medical costs once they separate from the District. It will be exempt from income tax as long as they use it for qualified medical expenses for themselves or their families. The Union has agreed that current retirees will continue to have their insurance paid for by the District as agreed at the time of their retirement, but all future retirees will be covered by the new HRA plan.

There was some discussion and the Board took action as follows:

Motion was made by Commissioner Ragen to authorize the Chief and Attorney to continue negotiations and enter into the agreement with Gallagher HealthInvest for a post-employment HRA and enter into the agreement when negotiations are completed. The motion also authorizes the Chair to sign the completed agreement. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ragen to approve the updated Bargaining Unit Agreement Articles 23 and 33 dealing with the post-employment insurance and authorize the Chair to sign. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

New Business

1. Election of Board officers: Attorney Pringle explained the statutory requirement for the Board to elect officers each year and outlined the manner in which they can be elected. Commissioner Ragen made a motion to re-elect the current officers: Chair Nancy Apperson, Vice-Chair Jon

Detzel, and Secretary/Treasurer Corey Schneider. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Purchase of new fire engines: Captain Clouse and Eric from Ten-8 presented the proposal for two new engines to the Board. One is budgeted to be purchased out of the Operations Fund to replace one of our existing engines. The other one is budgeted out of Impact Fees to be used at Station 2. The proposal is for a total of \$1,448,834 for the two identical Pierce engines and includes discounts totaling \$75,714.00. A performance bond will also be included.

Eric and Captain Clouse answered several questions from the Board and after discussion Commissioner Shewmaker made a motion to approve the purchase of two Pierce engines from Ten-8 Equipment Company for a total price not to exceed \$1,448,834 with one engine to be purchased out of the Operating Fund and one out of the Impact Fee Fund. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed unanimously. There was an amendment to the motion to include approval for the Chief and Attorney Pringle to complete the contract negotiations and for the Chair to sign the completed agreement.

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to approve the expenditure of Impact Fees for the purchase of one of the engines. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Paramedic pay article: Approval of Article 30: Wages to include the addition of incentive pay of \$2.00 per hour for personnel who complete paramedic training and become certified, which will replace the current \$0.50 per hour for EMT certification. There are several additional steps in the contract that are dependent on the department moving forward with becoming ALS certified.

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to approve the updates to Article 30: Wages adding the Paramedic incentive pay item and authorize the Chair to sign. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed.

Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

None

Union Report:

Captain Clouse thanked the Chief for his hard work on the HRA plan.

Comments from Commissioners

Thanks for everything, congratulations to the personnel who were sworn in tonight and Merry Christmas!

Adjourn

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.