

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
November 17, 2022
MINUTES**

Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Apperson called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Apperson, Ragen, Detzel, and Schneider. Commissioner Shewmaker was not in attendance due to illness. Also in attendance were Chief Dowaliby, Assistant Chief Rewis, Deputy Chief Lamb, Attorney Pringle, Pastor Cords, Captain Swindle and his sons, Captain Clouse, Engineer Simmons, Firefighters Peterson, Casey Gee, and Taylor, Assistant Chief Rewis' mother, aunt, brother and his fiancée, and other members of his family and friends.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Prayer – Chaplain Cords

Amendments to the Agenda

Presentations/Awards

Chief Dowaliby presented a plaque to Commissioner Nancy Apperson as she retires from the Board of Commissioners with the appreciation of the entire department and the community for her many years of devoted service to the Ft. Myers Shores Fire District.

Chief Dowaliby swore in Chief Rewis who is becoming the new Fire Chief as Chief Dowaliby retires.

Chief Rewis took over running the meeting and began by congratulating Chief Dowaliby on his retirement and thanked him for his leadership over the last few years.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for October 2022 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

Account balances at October 31, 2022 :

Operating Account: \$2,375,839.10 ; Impact Fee Account: \$1,609,488.82 ; C.D.A.R.S. Accounts: \$5,759,896.08 ; Synovus Construction Account: \$2,607,737.36 ; Synovus Loan Payment Account: \$297,760.30

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

Chief's Report

This will be Chief Dowaliby's final report, Chief Rewis will take over next month.

Well, hopefully have lived through the last tropical event of the year. I hope everyone came through the storm unscathed. The District had no major damage and there were no events during the storm except for some local loss of power on First Street.

I would like to thank everyone in the organization for allowing me to finish my career with the FMSFD. The succession plan worked well and the leadership of the District is in good hands with Chief Rewis and Deputy Chief Lamb.

I wish each of you good health and may you continue to guide the District with the skill and compassion that provides your community service beyond expectation.

Items of Interest

- Debbie is preparing for the audit.
- Mr. Pringle has the contract proposal from Special District Services, Inc. for the performance review.
- Chief Rewis will give you a report on Station 2's stop work order. It is minor.
Chief Rewis – Last week there was an issue with the application for a water meter for the construction company to do the compaction on the site. The water meter was not received and they had a little bit of trouble over the use of the water. I spoke to Lee County Utilities and they said everything had been taken care of – they found that the permit application had been sent to the wrong place. It has now been cleared up and they were back to work Monday.
- Medical physical dates are being confirmed for February/March.

Attorney's Report

- Thank you to Commissioner Apperson for her years of service. Many changes has occurred since she started and particularly under her leadership. I appreciate her leadership.
- Chief Dowaliby and I have known each other for a considerable amount of time, first at Ft. Myers Beach Fire Department when he was negotiating on behalf of the Union. I believe he has accomplished the goals he set for the District and I would like to thank him for those years of service.
- Chief Rewis – congratulations on your new role. I believe that you are very capable of doing the job and I look forward to working with you.

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

Fire Prevention Division Report

Current Construction:

- Multi-family units is Portico
- Multi-family units in Pebblebrook at Verandah
- Greenwell Investment Properties – multi-tenant office building and warehouse
- Oakview Community on Buckingham Road – 51 single family homes
- Hemmingway Point Community

New Construction:

- Circle K – Palm Beach Blvd / Buckingham Road

Projects Completed:

- None to report

Revenues:

- The division billed \$307.98 for the month
 - 1 – New Building Shell

Meetings Attended:

- Rotary Meetings
- Lee County Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association

Inspections:

- The division completed 12 inspections for the month of March including 2 re-inspections.

General:

- I am working with the East Fort Myers Rotary group to provide smoke detectors to Alva, Bayshore, Tice, and Shores Fire Departments to be given out to the residents as needed while we are responding to calls for service.
- The annual inspections will begin in January for the new year cycle.

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

Operations Division Report

Items of Interest

- Hurricane Ian Recovery continues – several access issues in the river and land due to debris and heavy equipment. This is dynamic and changes weekly.
- Arson structure fire on Fifth St. (C-Shift, Captain Clouse) – fast response kept the fire contained no injuries. Thanks to Chief Underwood from Bayshore FD for his assistance.
- Hiring workgroup – Thanks to the group for their time and hard work selecting our next firefighter. I feel we have a good process in place and we will continue to improve it.
- Bunker gear committee has started the process of selecting a vendor. The committee has made 1 site visit to a manufacturer with other visits happening soon.
- The crews have run several intense and high acuity calls recently. Proud of their work and professionalism.
- Call data October 1st – 31st = 196 calls for service, generating 244 vehicle responses.
 - 50.3% FMS81 zone, 45.6% FMS82 zone, 4.1% out of district
- YTD call data January 1st – October 31st = 2056 calls for service, generating 2,562 vehicle responses.

Meetings attended

- East Lee County Chiefs
- Officers meeting
- Staff meetings
- Multiple conference calls with Lee County EOC and Lee Fire Chiefs
- Bunker Gear meeting with multiple vendors
- FEMA documentation and reimbursement

Training

- Daily functional fitness with crews

- District familiarization
- Conventional forcible entry on door prop
- EHR documentation – calling signal 7 (death in field)
- Dr. Atiyeh has approved EMT Credentialing curriculum. This will be our main EMS training for the remainder of the year.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to accept the Operations Division 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
- Jones, Clouse, Simmons, Taylor, Mimbs, and Pledger were part of the hiring work group and conducted interviews for a new hire.
- All shifts participated in forcible entry training.
- All shifts have completed EMT renewal requirements.
- A-Shift: Glenn finishing up FO1 Classes; Salyers is signed up for FO1 test
- B-Shift: EMS credentialing review; Schumacher continues to work on FO1; Target Solutions; Hydraulic training
- C-Shift: Peterson has one more class for FO1; Engineer training with Peterson and Taylor; District familiarization; finished EMT training needed for renewal

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

Public Input on Agenda Items

None

Old Business

1. Approval of contract with Special District Services for the performance review. The Board previously approved negotiating a contract with SDS. Attorney Pringle has suggested a few

changes to the contract to make it simpler. The basic elements of the contract will not change, nor will the guaranteed price of \$25,000 previously approved.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the contract, approve Mr. Pringle and staff to complete the contract, and approve the Chair to sign on behalf of the District when it is completed. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed.

New Business

1. Approval to hire one new employee now. The other budgeted positions will be filled prior to Station 2 opening.

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to hire one new employee, Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed.

2. Approval to purchase airway trainer for \$2,466

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

3. Approval for emergency repairs to pump on Engine 81 for \$8,510

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

4. Approval to order the gym equipment for Station 2 for \$34,623.59, approval to pay 50% of \$17,311.80 deposit at time of order and the rest upon receipt. Commercial Fitness will store the equipment if it arrives prior to completion of the station and then deliver and set it up.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the order and the payment. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed.

5. Approval to order a new utility truck to replace the 2006 Ford utility truck. We requested a quote using the state price but were informed that government ordering had closed and they do not know when it will open back up. If we are not able to get the preferred F-250 on the government price, we would like approval to look for a truck on the lot that will fill our needs at or no more than our budgeted price of \$56,000, even if it is an F-150.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the purchase, Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed.

6. Discuss options for the 2005 Ford utility truck. We intend to keep this truck for at least a couple more years. It had some damage from Hurricane Ian and we received \$ from the insurance

company to repair it. Deputy Chief Lamb also requested a quote to have it painted because the paint is badly faded. The quote to have it repaired and painted is \$4,881.96, an additional \$ above what we received from insurance.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to get the truck repaired and painted for the quoted price. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed.

Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

None

Union Report – Captain Clouse

Thank you Commissioner Apperson for your years of service to the District.

Congratulations to Chief Rewis on his promotion.

Congratulations to Chief Dowaliby on his retirement and for everything he has done for the department. We wouldn't be at this point if it wasn't for you. We only wish you would be here to see the station finished.

Comments from Commissioners:

Commissioner Ragen – Chief Dowaliby will be missed. It has been a pleasure working with you. We are looking forward to working with Bobby. Commissioner Apperson has been a great commissioner. She will be greatly missed.

Commissioner Detzel – Congratulations to Chief Dowaliby on his retirement. We didn't always agree but we were always able to work things out. I hope you enjoy your retirement. I have served on the Board with Nancy for over 20 years and we have seen this district go from one extreme to the other. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Commissioner Schneider – Congratulations to Bobby, looking forward to working with you. Chief Dowaliby - congratulations on your retirement. Commissioner Apperson you will be missed.

Commissioner Apperson – Thanked everyone and commented on how far the district has come in her years on the Board. Thanks to Chief Dowaliby for his professionalism and great leadership of the district.

Adjourn

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.