

FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
July 20, 2023
MINUTES

Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Schneider called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Schneider, Ragen and Shewmaker. Commissioner Detzel was unable to attend for medical reasons. Commissioner Kressel was out of town. Also in attendance were Chief Rewis, Deputy Chief Lamb, Attorney Pringle, Administrative Assistant Howard and Chaplain Cords.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Prayer – Chaplain Cords

Amendments to the Agenda

1. New Business – Approval to purchase alerting radio for Station 2 - \$6,851.50

Presentations/Awards: None

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for June 2023 were presented for approval. Commissioner Ragen made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Account balances at June 30, 2023 :

Operating Account: \$6,166,554.34; Impact Fee Account: \$678,151.32; C.D.A.R.S. Accounts: \$4,500,000;
Synovus Loan Payment Account: \$81,232.96

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

Chief/Prevention Report

Chief's Report

- We will be holding an open house and ceremony for the opening of the new fire house. Once a date is set I will notify everyone. We are tentatively looking at Wednesday, August 30th at 6:00 PM.
- We will also be doing a wash down and push in of the new apparatus for station 82 with a blessing from chaplain cords
- We have started the shift changes for the employees that will be getting promoted for the opening of the station.
- The practical portion and Chiefs interviews have been completed and we are getting the new hires through the pre-hire process.
- We expect the new hires to start the second to third week in August.
- We received a couple of additional bids on the plumbing for the replacement of the bay floors, I will have the updated information at the meeting.

Fire Prevention Division Report

Current Construction: Multi-family units in Pebblebrook in Verandah; Oakview community on Buckingham Road – 51 single-family homes; Hemmingway Pointe community; Circle K at Palm Beach Blvd. and Buckingham Road

New Construction: None to report

Projects Completed: Techy – tech repair shop; Tropical Smoothie; Pebblebrook Building HH (multi-family)

Revenues: The division billed \$973.84 for the month.

Meetings Attended: Rotary meetings; Lee County Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association; LCFCA Communications committee; River Hall CDD

Education: None to report

Inspections: The division completed 71 inspections for the month of June including 13 re-inspections.

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

Attorney's Report

- Use of Impact Fees for costs associated with the construction of the new station. The Lee County Attorney has previously approved the use of Impact Fees for construction costs and

repaying the debt. I have also discussed the use of Impact Fees to reimburse the general fund for construction costs and third party debt previously paid for the new station. There are no Lee County regulations that would prohibit the use of Impact Fees for that purpose and we will continue to discuss those options as we work on the budget.

- Preliminary millage rate – the rate you set tonight is the preliminary number and should be set at the highest rate which may be necessary for the budget planning. You can the rate at a later point in the budget process but cannot be increased so it is prudent to set it higher than you anticipate using for the final budget. Our maximum rate is 3.00 mills the recommended preliminary rate is 2.5 mills, which is the same preliminary rate set last year. The final rate last year was 2.25 mills.
- Update on Tuscan engagement – I am working with Mr. Tuscan and we are close to having the final language worked out and will bring you the agreement for approval at the August meeting.
- Additional class for the Gallagher HRA plan –Retired Chief Dowaliby did not participate in the HRA and instead the District agreed to pay him \$400 per month after he became eligible for Medicare at age 65. The District is proposing adding a separate category to the HRA to allow us to contribute the \$400 per month directly into the HRA to allow him to use it toward his medical costs.

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

Operations Division Report

Items of Interest

- All members have been sized for new bunker boots
- Completing PPE selection for fire gloves
- Hiring process for 5 new firefighters
- Water day at Manatee Park
- New engines are coming along nicely

Meetings attended

- Officer's meeting
- Lee County Fire Chiefs

- Lee County Fire Chiefs Ops group
- Several meetings and site visits @ Firehouse 82
- Vector Solutions Scheduling
- Hiring workgroup
- Medical Care Council

Training

- Daily functional fitness with crews
- District familiarization
- New engine orientation
- FTFC (First There, First Cares) and Gathering of Eagles EMS conference with Dr. Atiyeh

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to accept the Operations Division Report. Commissioner Shewmaker 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; one pre-incident plan per shift; R.I.T. drills; Fire Ground drills; Hydraulics/Apparatus; EMT
- A-Shift: Hose loads and deployment; hiring committee; air consumption training; morning workouts; 4 pre-fire plans; EVOC
- B-Shift: FF Sackman Probation Task Book; Eng. Hunt Acting Captain Task Book; hiring committee; workouts; engineer training; 5th Street Grace Water Day
- C-Shift: Working on new engines; Firehouse 82 punch out; vehicle maintenance; workouts

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

Public Input on Agenda Items

None

Old Business

1. Update on Tuscan Engagement renewal letter – Attorney Pringle requested that this item be tabled until the August meeting.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to table, Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

New Business

1. Approval of preliminary millage rate for DR-420 preparation.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to set the preliminary millage rate at 2.5 mills.

Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

2. Set date, time and location for the preliminary budget hearing.

After discussion Commissioner Ragen made a motion to set the preliminary budget hearing date for Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 7:30 at Crossroads Baptist Church. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

3. Approve additional class/category for HRA plan for retired Chief Dowaliby for the contractually required \$400 per month we are obligated to pay him toward his medical costs. Setting it up this way allows us to meet our obligation to him and comply with all IRS regulations.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the additional category for the HRA.

Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed.

4. Approval for purchase of Station 2 alerting radio for \$6,851.50.

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

Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

None

Comments from Commissioners:

Commissioner Ragen: You guys do a great job. I am very impressed by the new trucks.

Commissioner Schneider: It's a little somber to take a ride around some of the areas of the District that are still not repaired from the Hurricane so we have to keep in mind that there is still a lot of recovery needed.

Adjourn

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.