

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**September 21, 2023**  
**MINUTES**

**Call Meeting to Order**

Commissioner Detzel called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Detzel, Schneider, Ragen, Kressel and Shewmaker. Also in attendance were Chief Rewis, Deputy Chief Lamb, Attorney Pringle, Administrative Assistant Howard, Tim Jones from Local 1826, Alva Commissioners Crittenden and Fichter, and Alva Engineer Etcheverry.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Amendments to the Agenda**

1. New Business: Approve ESO for FY 2024 for \$8,157.27. Budget was \$8,500
2. New Business: Discussion and approval to submit reimbursement request for tax relief offset through the state in the amount of \$12,471.85

**Presentations/Awards**

None

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for August 2023 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**

Account balances at August 31, 2023 :

Operating Account: \$3,824,055.88 ; Impact Fee Account: \$767,552.83 ; C.D.A.R.S. Accounts:  
\$4,500,000.00 ; Synovus Loan Payment Account: \$27,096.86

We received our FEMA reimbursement for overtime and equipment use for Hurricane Ian at the end of August. The total reimbursement was \$78,315.00.

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

## **Chief/Prevention Report**

### **Chief's Report**

- Unfortunately, we had to cancel the grand opening of the new fire house due to Hurricane Idalia. We still placed the station in service on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August and it's a little bit of an adjustment with the crews being split now and how we operate on a day-to-day basis.
- We will be setting a new date for the grand opening event as well as a badge pinning ceremony for all of the newly promoted captains and engineers as well as welcoming the new hires to the department.
- There are some minor items that we are working on with the construction company that need to be taken care of at Station 2. Captain Clouse and Captain Poulton are helping keep track of things.

### **Fire Prevention Division Report**

**Current Construction:** Multi-family units in Pebblebrook in Verandah; Hemmingway Pointe community

**New Construction:** None to report

**Projects Completed:** Circle K at Palm Beach Blvd. and Buckingham Rd.; Oakview community on Buckingham; two multi-family units in Pebblebrook in Verandah

**Revenues:** The division billed \$882.68 for the month of August.

**Meetings Attended:** Rotary weekly meetings; Lee County Fire Chiefs Association; Lee County Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association; River Hall CDD

**Inspections:** The division completed 19 inspections in the month of August including two re-inspections.

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

### **Attorney's Report**

- You have completed your final budget adoption.
- I will give input on agenda items as we get to them.

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

### **Operations Division Report**

### **Items of Interest**

- Hurricane Idalia USAR deployment – Captains Pledger and Swindle, and Firefighter Janey
- Water Day at Buckingham Exceptional School
- Strike team leader
- All five new hires are credentialed EMTs
- Fifth Street – Vehicle rollover on fire, burn patient flown out via helicopter
- Call data for the month of August: 191 calls for service generating 239 vehicle responses
- Call data for the year through the end of August: 1,642 calls for service generating 2,042 vehicle responses

**Meetings attended:** Officers' meetings; Lee County Fire Chiefs Association; Lee County Fire Chiefs Ops group; budget planning; Medical Care Council

**Training:** Daily functional fitness with crews; district familiarization; new hire on-boarding; building new hire monthly and quarterly performance reviews; nine month probationary FF testing

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

### **Training Report**

- Daily Training: Functional training and circuit style workouts; truck checks; SCBA and gear checks; Vector 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: Probationary Firefighter training; pulling lines; extrication tools and equipment; completing taskbooks
- B-Shift: Probationary Firefighter training; pulling lines; extrication tools and equipment; completing taskbooks; Glenn and Mimbs – VMR Tech class; Sackman – nine month test
- C-Shift: Probationary Firefighter training; pulling lines; extrication tools and equipment; Taylor – VMR Tech class

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

**Public Input on Agenda Items:** None

**Old Business:** None

**New Business**

1. Approve Administrative Assistant Debbie Howard as the Business Officer for the credit card accounts and Chief Robert Rewis as the alternate.  
Commissioner Detzel made the motion, Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed.
2. Set meeting dates, time and location for fiscal year 2024 meetings.  
Commissioner Ragen made a motion to hold the fiscal year 2024 meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm at the Crossroads Baptist Church. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed.
3. Approve renewal of Dr. Atiyeh's Medical Director contract at budgeted \$10,000, authorize Mr. Pringle to update his contract with new dates, authorize Chair to sign completed contract.  
Commissioner Schneider made the motion, Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.
4. Approve paying Synovus Loan from Impact Fee fund for fiscal year 2023-2024, approve transferring funds to the existing Synovus account to pay the October 1<sup>st</sup> payment.  
Commissioner Detzel made the motion, Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed.
5. Workers Compensation Insurance renewal: Quotes from current carrier (FMIT - \$110,226 annual premium) and a new company (7710/ESIP) were presented. ESIP is lower but they are new and do not yet have a track record in the area. After discussing the options the Board decided to stay with our current carrier for the upcoming fiscal year mainly due to the fact that the other company has not been in Florida or Lee County for very long.  
Commissioner Schneider made a motion to renew workers' compensation coverage with FMIT. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed.
6. Approve renewal of VFIS Property, Portable Equipment, Auto, General Liability, Management Liability, Excess Liability and Accident & Sickness policies. VFIS presented optional slightly higher deductible alternatives that would save the After discussion the Board agreed to renew the policies with the higher deductible options for a total of \$69,689 plus taxes and surcharges for

Property, Portable Equipment, Auto, General Liability, Management Liability and Excess Liability.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the policy renewals, Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the Volunteer Accident and Sickness policy for \$1,664. Commissioner Ragen seconded the motion and the motion passed.

7. Approve renewal of United Badges group cancer policy for \$5,569

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to renew the policy, Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed.

8. Approve renewal of Florida Association of Special Districts membership for fiscal year 2023-2024 for \$4,000

Commissioner Ragen made the motion, Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

9. Approve 2023-2024 Capital Expenditures and authorize the Fire Chief to sign any necessary documents to authorize the work or place orders:

- i. Repair vinyl on Station 82 damaged in Hurricane Ian at a cost not to exceed \$12,000. We have received approximately \$5,300 from insurance for the damage to the building.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the repairs. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

- ii. Outdoor kitchen for Station 82 budgeted at \$12,000

We have one quote from a company owned by one of our employees. We are working to get additional quotes but would like to get the budgeted amount approved.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the outdoor kitchen at a cost not to exceed \$12,000. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

- iii. Pole barn for vehicle/apparatus/equipment storage at Station 81 – not to exceed \$60,000 including electrical service.

After some discussion Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the pole barn and electrical service at a cost not to exceed \$60,000. Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed.

- iv. Renewal of ESO reporting software for fiscal year 2023-2024 at a cost of \$8,157.27.

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

- v. Approval to apply to state for tax relief offset of \$12,471.85.

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to approve applying to state for tax relief offset.

Commissioner Ragen seconded and the motion passed.

**Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:** Commissioner Fichter from Alva Fire Department thanked the Board and Chief Rewis for their help and support as Alva works through their transition to a new chief. Commissioner Detzel said we are happy to help our neighbors.

Tim Jones, the new Vice President of Local 1826, thanked Chief Rewis and Chief Lamb for allowing the union members to go vote in the recent union elections.

**Comments from Commissioners:**

Commissioners thanked everyone for a great job. They also thanked the members of the public who attended. Congratulations to the promoted personnel and new hires.

**Adjourn**

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.