

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
January 18, 2024
MINUTES**

Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Detzel called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Detzel, Kressel, Schneider and Shewmaker. Commissioner Rage was not in attendance due to illness. Also in attendance were Chief Rewis, Deputy Chief Lamb, Attorney Pringle, Chaplain Cords, Administrative Assistant Howard and Commissioner Shewmaker's son.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Prayer – Chaplain Cords

Amendments to the Agenda - None

Presentations/Awards - None

Approval of Minutes

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

Treasurer's Report

Account balances at November 30, 2023

Operating Account: \$2,879,508.87 Impact Fee Account: \$781,611.35 C.D.A.R.S. Accounts: \$4,500,000

Synovus Loan Payment Account: \$18.57

Account balances at December 31, 2023

Operating Account: \$8,133,610.19 Impact Fee Account: \$754,799.32 C.D.A.R.S. Accounts: \$4,500,000

Synovus Loan Payment Account: \$18.57

In December we received reimbursement of \$12,471.85 we requested from the state for the ad valorem that was deducted from our FY 2023 distributions to pay back tax payers who qualified for relief due to Hurricane Ian damage.

In January we received reimbursement through the state for our USAR personnel deployed for Hurricane Idalia in the amount \$30,483.70.

We also received payment in the amount of \$1,095.43 of a claim from VFIS for an incident in December when a vehicle hit Station 81 as they were pulling in the parking lot seeking medical attention. The crash caused minor cosmetic damage to the building. VFIS will refund us the \$2,500 deductible when they receive it from her insurance company, and we can go back and amend the claim if the repairs are more than the insurance adjustor's estimate. We have requested quotes from a couple of companies but have not yet been able to get anyone to come out and look at it.

As of December we have received the first four ad valorem distributions for the year totaling \$6,703,637 or about 93% of our total budgeted ad valorem.

The Statement of Financial Interest forms (Form 1) that you have to do each year in June have always been completed on paper and sent to the Supervisor of Elections Office. Beginning this year they will need to be completed online through the State of Florida Division of Ethics. I will send you a link to the website so you can set up your account and then you will receive the notice when it is time to file the form. There is a new requirement this year that you attest to having completed a four-hour course on ethics, open meetings, and the Sunshine Law. We will be getting you information about that so you have plenty of time to complete it before the forms are due. There is an online course through FSU and Florida Association of Special Districts is also going to be offering one. We hope to have that information for you in February.

Chief Rewis added that the Fire Chiefs Association has been notified that there are some homes that have still not been evaluated for hurricane damage so it is possible there could be more deductions from ad valorem this year.

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

Chief / Prevention Division Report

Chief's Report:

- I hope everyone had a great holiday season and a Happy New Year! We hope that 2024 keeps going forward with the growth and addition of services that we have been working for. I want to thank each of you as the Fire Commissioners for our great fire district, for your support of

the administrative staff and operations staff by providing us with the education, tools, and equipment we need to offer the community the highest possible level of service.

- Station 82 Grand Opening was very well attended and had positive comments from the community. The residents are happy we are in their community now.
- We also had positive remarks from our employees and their families. They were appreciative for holding the open house and for pinning the newly promoted Engineers, and Captains. They also congratulated Firefighter Sackman for completing his first year with our department and completing his probationary period.
- The end of year banquet was well received and appreciated as well. I would like to congratulate Captain Clouse who received the Pete Gee award for excellence, and Captain Poulton as the Firefighter of the Year. Captains Clouse and Poulton provided a lot of their time and knowledge during the planning and construction of Station 82. And the additional time Captain Clouse spent along with Captain Simmons, Engineer Mimbs, Engineer Austin Gee, Engineer Casey Gee and myself planning for the build of both new engines.
- As of December 1, 2023 our new ISO rating for all properties within 5 road miles from both fire stations is now a 3, with the exception of the Hickey Creek area that is a 3Y due to not having water supply within 1000' of their properties.
- Myself and a few other members from the Fort Myers East Rotary group assisted pack meals for the homeless the morning of December 16th.

Prevention Division:

- New construction: Great American Self Storage; Buckingham 365 has received approval on Phase 1 for approximately 400 + homes of 998 total
- Projects completed: Goodwill Industries of SWFL; Amalia Cioccolato Chocolate Shop; JPR Electric; Gibson Hair Studio; Gene & Gerald's Barber Shop
- Revenues: The division billed a total of \$857.68 for November and \$540 for December.
- Meetings attended: Rotary Club; Lee County Fire Chiefs Association; Lee County Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association; Lee County Arson Task Force; River Hall CDD; Lee County EMS regarding the possibility of stationing an ambulance at Station 82; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts subcommittee at the Florida Capital regarding Special District changes; Florida Forestry Arson Alert Association – Florida Fire Conference

- Education: CPR AED / First Aid for Calvary Day Care; Rotary Leadership Institute level 1
- Inspections: The division completed 56 inspections for the months of November and December including 19 re-inspections; For the calendar year of 2023 there were 506 inspections including 154 re-inspections

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

Attorney's Report

- Discussion of HB 7013 and the changes it makes to Special Districts. The bill will impose 12-year term limits beginning with the 2024 election. requires all Special Districts to institute goals and objectives, and imposes additional reporting requirements. There was a provision in the bill requiring special districts to hold a referendum every 10 years to ask if the districts will continue to be funded. There were a lot of problems with that provision they had not considered so it has been removed from the current version of the bill.

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

Operations / Training Report

Operations:

- Check-It vehicle inspection software build is underway
- Replacement brush truck purchased
- Firehouse 82 Grand Opening / Promotional Ceremony
- Annual training plan developed
- Structure fire in Tice district (Engine 81 – Capt. Swindle's shift)
- Pediatric drowning
- Call data: November, 180 calls generating 229 vehicle responses; December, 205 call generating 271 vehicle responses.
- Total calls for the calendar year: 2407 generating 3001 vehicle responses

- Meetings attended: Officer's meeting; Lee County Fire Chiefs Association; Lee County Fire Chiefs Training; Lee County Fire Chiefs Operations Group; Medical Care Council; Strike Team Leader; North/East Lee Fire Training Group
- Training: daily functional fitness with crews; district familiarization; EMS-basic cardiology EDGs and rhythm interpretations; bus extrication drill with Bayshore & NFM; search and ladder drills; hose loads and deployment

Training Report

- Daily Training: Functional training and circuit style workouts; truck checks; SCBA and gear checks; Target Solutions
- A-Shift: Probationary FF training; building familiarization; fireground scenario at Station 82 training tower (VES) (SEARCH); brush truck review; finish up Target Solutions for the year; hose loads, lengths and deployment
- B-Shift: Probationary FF Juarez Probationary Task Book; Capt. Swindle finished Fire Service Law class, starting new class; Target Solutions; fireground skills; tactics training with Chief Lamb; 2.5" new load lay out
- C-Shift: Probationary FF training; Engineer training; fireground training; Mayday/downed firefighter rescue and CPR; FF Schumacher USAR trench rescue; end of year training

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

Public Input on Agenda Items

Old Business

1. Bay floor – approve updated cost of \$96,800. The Board previously approved \$80,000 for the concrete work and plumbing. We discovered on the day they came to begin breaking up the old floor that there was a mistake on the quote, probably due to our discussions of whether to replace the entire floor or just the damaged part. They did not quote removing and replacing the back section of Bay 1. Chief Rewis spoke to Commissioner Detzel that day and the decision was made to complete the work on the entire bay. The updated quote is \$96,800, an increase

of \$16,800. We have enough in that budget line to absorb the additional cost of the floor without amending the budget. We will be about \$19,000 under budget on the pole barn, which was approved at a total of \$60,000 but will end up at or under \$41,000.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the updated cost of \$96,800 for the Station 1 bay floor and drain installation. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded the motion passed.

2. New Utility truck – approval of final cost of \$65,982.20. This was budgeted at \$75,000. We did not expect the truck to arrive for a couple more months, and the district is not committed to the purchase until the Board takes action.

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

3. Close remaining Synovus account.

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to close the remaining Synovus account and authorize the Chair to sign any required paperwork, with the remaining funds to be deposited in the First Bank Operating Account. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

New Business

1. Declare surplus and authorize disposal of assets out of service in accordance with Florida Statute 274.06 and department policy. These items have fully depreciated. The extrication tool does not have any resale value due to its age and can be disposed of at the Board's discretion. The Chief will have information on the estimated value of the utility truck and the procedure for selling it.

- i. Old utility truck (2006 Ford F-250): Inventory #00064, purchased 11/7/05, original cost \$27,387. The estimated remaining value is between \$2,000 and \$3,500 so the truck can be disposed of at the Board and Chief's discretion.

The Board and Chief agreed to offer the truck to other local fire departments and if we do not receive any interest open it up to anyone interested through a closed bid process.

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to declare the truck surplus and authorize it's disposal in accordance with FS 274.06. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion passed.

- ii. TNT extrication tool: Inventory #000003, purchased 1/6/09, original cost \$20,425. The Chief recommends donating it if there is any interest from other departments.
Commissioner Schneider made a motion to declare the TNT tool surplus and authorize it's disposal in accordance with FS 274.06. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.
2. Approval to purchase heart monitor: budget \$35,000
Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the purchase. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.
3. Approval for installation of lights, sirens, radios, graphics on the new utility truck: budget \$15,000
Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the expenditure. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.
4. Discussion and possible action on coating for new bay floor
We would like to get the coating done on Station 81's new bay floor. There will be enough in the capital expenditure line to get this done now but it can be postponed until next fiscal year. If we can get it done now we will not have to clear out the bay again and it is better to get it sealed and the non-skid coat applied to new floors. We would like to get approval for up to \$22,000.
After discussion the Board agreed that they would prefer to get the floors completely done now instead of putting it off until next year. Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve purchase at a cost not to exceed \$22,000 and give Chief Rewis the authority to choose the best company to complete the work. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.
5. Discussion and possible action on EMS ambulance moving in to Station 82. There is no update from EMS and no action needed at this time.

Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

None

Comments from Commissioners:

Commissioner Kressel: I hope everyone had a very nice Christmas and New Year. I am excited about the new guys starting paramedic school. The district is doing marvelous things. We're going in the right direction.

Commissioner Shewmaker: You all are doing a great job. I appreciate another commissioner going to the grand opening. I enjoyed it.

Commissioner Schneider: Everyone is doing a great job. Sorry I wasn't able to attend the grand opening or awards banquet.

Commissioner Detzel: I hope everyone had a great holiday.

Chief Rewis read a commendation letter from Commissioner Ragen thanking Capt. Jones, Eng. Austin Gee, and in particular FF Chelsea Gross for giving a tour of Station 82 to Commissioner Ragen and a friend visiting from overseas. A copy of the letter will be placed in each employee's file.

Adjourn

Commissioner Schneider made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.