

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
March 21, 2024  
MINUTES**

**Call Meeting to Order**

Commissioner Detzel called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Commissioners Detzel, Ragen, Schneider and Shewmaker. Commissioner Kressel was not able to attend. Also in attendance were Chief Rewis, Deputy Chief Lamb, Attorney Pringle, Administrative Assistant Howard, Chaplain Cords, Alva Fire Commissioner Crittendon and Jeff Tuscan from Tuscan & Co.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Prayer – Chaplain Cords**

**Amendments to the Agenda**

1. New Business: Declare the military brush truck surplus, approve removing it from the fixed assets list and authorize returning it to FDOR as required in our loan agreement with them.

**Presentations/Awards** – None

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for February 2024 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 February 29, 2024 :

Operating Account: \$7,188,437.33 Impact Fee Account: \$751,070.73 C.D.A.R.S. Accounts: \$4,500,000  
Synovus Loan Payment Account: \$0.00 – account closed and the remaining \$8.58 was deposited in the operating account

All commissioners, the Chiefs and Admin have been set up to take the FSU Ethics course online as required by law this year. You have 45 days to complete it after you start and you will get a certificate when you complete it.

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:**

- The new brush truck build has started. The bed has been swapped over and we are moving on to the next step. Deputy Chief Lamb or Captain Clouse will have more information if you have any questions.
- I have been reviewing development orders for what may be coming to the district, and reviewing plans for projects that are being started. The district has already seen a big change in the last 10 – 15 years and there is more coming.
- We are still receiving requests for letters for the new ISO rating within the River Hall community. We will be sending out letters for the Hickey Creek residents as well.
- Brush 81 breakdown – we had an emergency repair that was completed within a couple of days after the truck broke down on the way to a fire.
- Utility truck update: We put the old utility truck out for bid to the other Lee County Fire Districts and we received only one bid from Upper Captiva. After the Chief paid for the truck but prior to him picking it up we discovered that he was going to use the truck for his personal vehicle, which was not our intention when we opened the bidding process. We notified him that we would need to open up the bidding process again to our employees and would refund his payment for the truck. We received several bids from our employees and have already notified the highest bidder.
- Grant for hiring three employees: We are going to apply for a grant to allow us to hire three new employees to help staff Station 82. The process is lengthy but if we are successful, we will come back to the Board for authorization to accept the grant.

#### **Prevention Division:**

- New construction: Rick Johnson Auto Tire

- Current construction: Great American Self Storage; Buckingham 365 Phase I; Riverdale High School addition; Hemmingway Pointe
- Projects completed: Kraken Tackle
- Revenues: the division billed \$210 for last month
- Meetings attended: weekly Rotary meetings; Lee County Fire Chiefs Association; Lee County Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association; River Hall CDD; Ft. Myers Fire Dept. Key Secure program; BDA group meeting
- Inspections: the division completed 8 inspections for the month including 3 re-inspections

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

### **Attorney's Report**

- Caution about using personal email for official business.

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

### **Operations / Training Report**

#### **Operations:**

- Brush truck build continues.
- Tice FD coverage for retired Chief Trammels funeral.
- Paramedic school starting soon for our three personnel.
- Dr. Atiyeh and his wife are expecting a baby soon.
- Call data: February 2024 = 201 calls for service generating 251 vehicle responses; Year to date = 405 calls for service generating 534 vehicle responses
- Meetings attended: Officers' meeting; Lee County Fire Chiefs Association; Lee County Fire Chiefs Training; Lee County Fire Chiefs Operation group; EMS protocol & training subcommittee; North/East Lee fire training group

- Training: District familiarization; EMS – patient refusal of care and documenting death in the field (Signal 7) in-service with Dr. Atiyeh; gear wash NFPA 1851; Tesla specific EVs; multi-agency live fire training at SWFLPSA – Alva, Bayshore, NFM, Shores & Tice

### **Training Report**

- Daily Training: Functional training and circuit style workouts; vehicle inspections/maintenance; SCBA/PPE checks; Vector Solutions
- A-Shift: Probationary FF training Task Book; ladders, hydrant hookup; brush truck review; air consumption drill; dexterity training; paramedic school prerequisites; Probie 6-month evaluation
- B-Shift: Probationary FF training – FF Juarez Probationary Task Book; Captain Swindle started another college class; Vector Solutions; FF Sackman taking paramedic prerequisite; Eng. Mimbs starting HazMat Tech class; hydrant maintenance; EAST training ladders/search & rescue; Brush 82 training; Probie 6-month evaluation
- C-Shift: Probationary FF training; boat operations; Probie 6-month evaluation; hydrant and firehouse maintenance

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

**Public Input on Agenda Items** - None

**Old Business** - None

### **New Business**

1. Presentation of the fiscal year 2023 audit by Jeff Tuscan. Mr. Tuscan reviewed the audit report noting the clean (unmodified) opinion and that there were no comments this year. He also reviewed the graphs prepared by Tuscan & Co. showing a comparison of the last several years which give a clear picture of how much the District has grown and developed in the last few years. Mr. Tuscan also cautioned that as we plan for the future we will need to take into

account the considerable increases in costs to replace trucks and equipment, as well as the increased operating costs for two stations and additional personnel.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the fiscal year 2023 audit as presented.

Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed.

2. Adoption of Resolution #2024-01 amending the fiscal year 2024 budget carry forward amount to match the audited fiscal year 2023 fund balance. The amendment details the changes to individual budget lines to assign the increased excess funds to reserve lines.

Mr. Pringle read the title of the resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION #2024-01 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT (“DISTRICT”), LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA: TO AMEND THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Commissioner Detzel called for public input on the resolution and there was none.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion. The resolution passed on a roll-call vote as follows: Commissioner Detzel – Yes; Commissioner Ragen – Yes; Commissioner Schneider - Yes; Commissioner Shewmaker - Yes; Commissioner Kressel – Absent.

3. Declare the military brush truck surplus, authorize removing it from the fixed assets list and returning it to FDOR as required by the loan program under which we received the truck. The brush truck consists of two items: #00065 – brush truck remodel, 9/30/08, original cost \$20,454; #00067 – tires, 7/1/12, cost \$5,867. All equipment, including the pump and radios, have been removed to use on the new brush truck.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to declare the truck surplus, approve removing the referenced items from the fixed asset list, and approve disposing of the truck by returning it to the Florida Department of Forestry. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed.

**Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:**

None

**Comments from Commissioners:**

Commissioner Ragen: You guys are doing a good job.

Commissioner Detzel: Thanks to Mr. Tuscan for presenting the audit and to the Chiefs and Debbie for their work on it. Everyone be safe.

Commissioner Schneider: Thanks to Mr. Tuscan and to the guys. They have come out to a couple of neighborhood kids' birthday parties.

### **Adjourn**

Commissioner Shewmaker made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Schneider seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.