

**FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**October 19, 2023**  
**MINUTES**

**Call Meeting to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence**

**Prayer – Chaplain Cords**

**Amendments to the Agenda** - None

**Presentations/Awards** - None

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the tentative budget hearing, final budget hearing and September monthly meeting were presented for approval.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to accept the tentative budget hearing minutes as presented.

Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to accept the final budget hearing minutes as presented.

Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to accept the September monthly meeting minutes as presented.

Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Account balances at September 30, 2023 :

Operating Account: \$3,032,771.25 ; Impact Fee Account: \$740,735.62 ; C.D.A.R.S. Accounts:

\$4,500,000 ; Synovus Loan Payment Account: \$27,096.88

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

### **Chief and Fire Prevention Division Report**

- Grand opening of Station 82 has been rescheduled to Friday, December 1, 2023 at 6 PM.
- We are planning for an end of year awards banquet for all department members to be held on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the Verandah Club. Once more planning is completed we will provide you with the time.

### **Fire Prevention**

- Current construction: Multi-Family units in Pebblebrook at Verandah; Hemmingway Pointe community
- Projects completed: Multi-Family units in Pebblebrook at Verandah – 2 remaining units to be finalized
- Revenues: the division billed \$381 for the month of September
- Meeting attended: Rotary weekly meetings; Lee County Fire Chiefs Association; Lee County Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association; Lee County Fire Arson Task Force
- Inspections: the division completed 14 inspections for the month of September, including 4 re-inspections

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

### **Attorney's Report**

- Rep. Botana has announced his intention to file a bill this legislative session to dissolve Fort Myers Beach Fire District and have it taken over by Bonita Springs Fire District. There was no advance notice given to either fire district and there is no provision in the draft bill for a study to determine if a merger would be beneficial to the districts' residents. There is also no provision for bringing the proposal to the residents as a referendum. In the past when consolidation has been discussed there have been studies done and they have always shown that there would not be any benefit or cost savings to consolidation. The Chair of the Local Legislative Delegation has indicated that she is only going to put it on the agenda at their

meeting in October as a discussion item. However, her term as Chair ends after this meeting so a new Chair could call another meeting and have a vote to advance it to the legislature.

At a bare minimum everyone should be aware that the concept of consolidation is under discussion and Rep. Botana has indicated that this is a first step. We do not know at this point exactly what that means but we will keep the Board informed.

Chief Rewis also asked the Board if they would be okay with having us begin discussions with our neighboring Fire Districts to see if they are interested at some point in pursuing a study to see if a geographical consolidation might be in the best interest of our area. After further discussion the Board gave Chief Rewis permission to speak to the neighboring districts to see if there is any interest. He will update the Board in future meetings.

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

### **Operations Division Report**

- Items of interest: Annual physicals are complete; Fire Prevention & Life Safety Day at Buckingham Exceptional School (Capt. Simmons); annual fire hose and ladder testing is complete; researched replacement brush truck; passenger vehicle fire (Acting Capt. Washburn)
- Call data for September: 180 calls for service generating 209 vehicle responses
- Call data January 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup>: 1822 calls for service generating 2,251 vehicle responses
- Meetings attended; officers' meeting; Lee County Fire Chiefs Association; Lee County Fire Chiefs Training; Lee County Common Treatment Guidelines Pharmacology update; Medical Care Council; Vector Check-It; labor/management – SOG 24/OT; First Arriving dashboard
- Training: daily functional fitness with crews; district familiarization; EMS in-service – albuterol & aspirin; new hire training; North Marine Co-Op

Commissioner Shewmaker made a motion to accept the Operations Division Report. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed.

### **Training Report**

- Daily Training: Functional training and circuit style workouts; truck checks; SCBA and gear checks; Vector Solutions
- A-Shift: Probationary FF training; building familiarization; public events x 2; fireground scenario at Station 82 training tower; FF Salyers – Health & Safety class; EMS medications

- B-Shift: Probationary FF training; FF Juarez - Building Construction class; Capt. Swindle – Fire Service Law class; pump training and truck training at Station 82 training tower; pre-plans x 2; fireground skills; EMS medications
- C-Shift: Probationary FF training; Engineer training; fireground training; odds and ends – tools and equipment for Station 82; EMS medications

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

**Public Input on Agenda Items** - None

**Old Business**

1. Impact Fee / Synovus Loan payments:

Commissioner Detzel made a motion to approve setting up monthly automatic payments from the Impact Fee account for the Synovus Loan payments of \$27063.37 per month. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve transferring \$27,068.37 from the Impact Fee account to the Synovus Loan payment account for the November 1, 2023 payment because the automatic payments can not be set up in time for that payment. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded and the motion passed.

**New Business**

1. Approve purchase of Hurst eDraulic Tool to replace the TNT Rescue Tool, budgeted at \$60,000.

The updated quote is \$49,268.

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

2. Approve purchase of brush truck cab and chassis to begin the process of replacing the old military brush truck on loan from the Department of Forestry at a cost not to exceed the budgeted \$50,000.

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 said everyone is doing a good job.

Commissioner Detzel said thanks to everyone for all they do and be safe.

Commissioner Shewmaker said thanks and he is glad to be a part of the district.

Commissioner Kressel said she appreciates all that everyone does and she looks forward to getting more information about the consolidation issue in future meetings.

**Adjourn**

Commissioner Shewmaker made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Detzel seconded and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.