FORT MYERS SHORES FIRE & RESCUE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
September 18, 2025
MINUTES

Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Detzel called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. In attendance were: Commissioners Detzel, Ragen, Schneider, Shewmaker, and Kressel ; Chief Rewis, Deputy Chief Lamb, Fire Marshal Simmons, Attorney Pringle, and Chaplain Cords.

Prayer – Chaplain Cords

Amendments to the Agenda – New Business – Approval to pay Synovus Bank loan out of Impact Fees for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for August 2025 and the Tentative Budget Hearing on September 3, 2025 were presented for approval.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the August 2025 minutes as presented. Commissioner Schneider seconded, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Shewmaker made a motion to approve the minutes for the Tentative Budget Hearing. Commissioner Schneider seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Account balances at August 31, 2025 :

Operating Account: $6,785,013.72 ; Impact Fee Account: $716,875.78 ; C.D.A.R.S. Accounts: $4,500,000.00

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

Chief's Report:

- Station 82 has officially been open for 2 years as of August 30th. The first year Station 82 ran 1,148 responses, and the second year they responded to 1,207 incidents. As we continue to get busier in the next couple of years, I would like to look at running a second rescue truck out of Station 82.

- We held our second annual blood drive in partnership with the Fort Myers East Rotary club, in remembrance of 9/11. We had a total of 13 units of blood donated that will remain in the Southwest Florida area.
- We will go over the administrative contracts in new business to review proposed amendments to line up with some of the changes in the new Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- Meetings Attended: Rotary meetings, weekly; Lee County Fire Chiefs; Wildfire Response meeting – surveyed the district with the company reviewing the county's response
- Education: ICS 300 – Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents at RSW Airport

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

Prevention Division:

- New Construction: single family homes on Barcelona Avenue; Storage King
- Current Construction: Buckingham 365 Phase I; Hemmingway Pointe; Riverdale High School; Bluewave carwash; Palm Beach RV and Boat Storage; River Hall multi-family homes; Culvers; Sherwin Williams
- Revenues: The division billed $235 for the month of August
- Meetings Attended: Lee County Fire Marshal's & Inspector's Association
- Education: ICS 100/200/300/700/800
- Inspections: The division conducted 61 inspections for the month including annuals and reinspections.

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

Attorney's Report

- No report.

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

Operations / Training Report

Operations:

- Items of Interest: Engineers Austin Gee and David Mimbs are now Acting Captains; Strike Team Leader; IMT Division Supervisor

- Call Data: August 1st-31st = 249 calls generating 307 vehicle responses; January 1st – August 31st = 1,678 calls generating 2,043 vehicle responses
- Meetings Attended: Lee County Fire Chiefs Association Operations & Training Group; Lee County Fire Chiefs Association; Regional Medical Care Council with Dr. Atiyeh; NFM Lt. promotional assessment
- Training: Mastering ISO Readiness; EMS – Altered Mental Status scenarios; Vector Solutions Learning Management System; standpipe operations; annual BLS skills proficiency; Lithium-Ion Battery Demo at CCFD training facility

Training Report

- Standpipe operations; Documentation; Advanced EMS Scenarios and Evaluations, Target Solutions, Pre-fire Plans, Volunteer training, pumping and first due engine ops, FF search and rescue, SOG reviews, FDC and hydrant hook-ups
- A-Shift: FF Dressel working on Engineer task book and paramedic school; Probationary task book with FF Busbee; FF Busbee Confined Space class; Capt. Jones, Capt. Washburn, Eng. Gee, and FF Gross in Health and Safety Officer class; Eng. Taylor completed paramedic program and passed his state test. Eng. Austin Gee completed Acting Captain task book; Capt. Washburn Swiftwater Tech class
- B-Shift: Probationary task books with FFs Robertson and Coleman; Eng. Mimbs Acting Captain Scenarios; Eng. Mimbs and FF Juarez – Legal Issues for the Safety Officer class; FF Robertson paramedic school; Capt. Pledger paramedic school; FF Juarez Acting Eng. Task book
- C-Shift: FF Floyd paramedic school; Eng. Casey Gee working on FO2; Capt. Clouse, FFs Beauchamp and Schumacher in Health and Safety Officer class; finished concrete prep on the new barn

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

Public Input on Agenda Items - None

Old Business

1. Approve updated quote for United Badges Cancer Policy. There was an omission on the policy quote approved last month, which results in an increase of $212.46 for a total policy cost of $6,623.96.

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the additional cost. Commissioner Schneider seconded, and the motion passed.

New Business

1. Set meeting dates, time, and location for fiscal year 2025-2026 regular meetings.
   Commissioner Detzel made a motion to hold the meetings for FY 2025-2026 on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at Crossroads Baptist Church. Commissioner Ragen seconded, and the motion passed.
2. Approve renewal of Dr. Atiyeh's Medical Director contract for fiscal year 2025-2026 for $10,000. Authorize Chief Rewis to update the contract with the new effective dates – the contract will otherwise remain the same – and authorize the Chair to sign the completed contract.
   Commissioner Ragen made the motion to approve the contract renewal, authorize the changes and authorize the Chair to sign. Commissioner Schneider seconded, and the motion passed.
3. Approve renewal of the VFIS insurance policies. Total premium for fiscal year 2025-2026: $132,668.59 including taxes, surcharges, and fees of $1,183.59. Breakdown: Property $94,165; Portable Equipment $1,633; Auto $23,975; General Liability $3,968; Management Liability $4,716; Excess Liability $3,028.
   Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the renewal. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded, and the motion passed.
4. Approve renewal of EGIS/7710 workers compensation insurance for fiscal year 2025-2026, $113,093.50.
   Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the renewal. Commissioner Schneider seconded, and the motion passed.
5. Approve renewal of Florida Association of Special Districts membership, $4,000.
   Commissioner Shewmaker made a motion to approve the renewal. Commissioner Detzel seconded, and the motion passed.
6. Approve payment of USAR annual dues, $9,000.
   Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the payment. Commissioner Schneider seconded, and the motion passed.
7. Approve purchase of budgeted Capital items for fiscal year 2025-2026:

i. Epoxy coating for Station 82 bay floor, $25,00 – Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the epoxy coating. Commissioner Ragen seconded, and the motion passed.
ii. APX Next radio, $14,000 – Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve the purchase of the APX Next radio. Commissioner Schneider seconded, and the motion passed.
iii. Aqua Eye Pro, $13,000 – Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the purchased of the Aqua Eye Pro. Commissioner Ragen seconded, and the motion passed.
iv. Hurst Tool Set, $40,000 – Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve purchasing the Hurst Tool Set. Commissioner Ragen seconded, and the motion passed.
v. Breathing Air SCBA fill station, St 81 $23,500 – Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve installing the SCBA fill station. Commissioner Ragen seconded, and the motion passed.
vi. Zoll monitors (2), $70,000 ($35,000 each) – Commissioner Ragen made a motion to approve purchasing the Zoll monitors. Commissioner Schneider seconded, and the motion passed.

8. Approve payment for Ready Rebound for fiscal year 2025-2026, $12,864.
Commissioner Schneider made a motion to approve the payment. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded, and the motion passed.
9. Review of updates for administrative employment agreements.
Chief Rewis and Attorney Pringle reviewed the proposed changes to the Fire Chief, Operations Deputy Chief, Fire Marshal, and Administrative Assistant employment agreements. The updates will mirror some of the changes made in the new Collective Bargaining Agreement. They include $2,500 annual raises, increased annual vacation time, annual longevity pay (equal to the CBA), an increase in the hourly per incentive pay from $0.48 to $0.75 (no additional incentives). After some discussion of paying longevity for years of service with the district vs. years of service in the fire service, the board directed the Chief to look into how many Union members would benefit from a change to years in fire service (Special Risk in FRS only). There was also a suggestion to offer line personnel 50% credit. The Board approved allowing Operations Deputy Chief Lamb full credit for his past service at this time and gather information for a possible Memorandum of Understanding with the Union if the Board decides to make a change to the CBA.

Commissioner Kressel made a motion to approve the proposed changes to the administrative contracts effective October 1, 2025, authorize Attorney Pringle to make the changes, and authorize the Chair to sign when they are completed.

10. Approve paying Synovus loan payment from Impact Fees for FY 2026.

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

Public Input on Non-Agenda Items: Local 1826 rep Tim Jones thanked the board for approving the new CBA. He noted that the negotiations went smoothly.

Comments from Commissioners: Thanks to everyone. We are happy negotiations went well.

Adjourn

Commissioner Ragen made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Shewmaker seconded, and the motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.