

MINUTES  
WORK SESSION & MEETING OF THE  
FORT MYERS BEACH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TIME: 9:30 AM  
DATE: MAY 11, 2022  
Fort Myers Beach Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Larry Wood, Vice-Chairman Ron Fleming, Secretary/Treasurer John Bennett, Commissioner Jacki Liszak, Commissioner Jim Knickle, Fire Chief Ronald Martin, Attorney Salzman, District Chief of Operations Scott Wirth, Fire Official Jennifer Campbell, Assistant Chief Chris Armiger, Finance Director Jane Thompson and District members.

1. **Meeting Called to Order**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Chairman Wood motioned to move the topic of the donation from the Women Who Care Foundation to the unfinished business portion of the Agenda. Commissioner Knickle seconded. Motion approved unanimously 5-0.

4. **Restate Agenda Items** [Information]

5. **Public Input on Non-Agenda Items** – *no input*

6. **Consent Agenda** [Approval] Items listed are considered routine, and action will be taken by one motion; if a Commissioner desires discussion, the specific item will be removed during the Adoption of the Agenda and considered separately.

A. April 13, 2022, Work Session Minutes

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve, Commissioner Knickle seconded, vote of 5-0 unanimously approved.

7. **Unfinished Business**

A. Community Donation by Women Who Care [Presentation]

Debra Nelson and Barbara Mezeske of the organization Women Who Care presented the District with a donation of \$2,000 toward EMS services and thanked the District for its outstanding work.

B. BOFC Meeting Times

Chief Martin discussed staff recommendations for possible changes to meeting times. Based on the information Chief Martin stated that the recommendation is for the Board to finish the current schedule with only one change of moving morning meeting times to 10:00 am. Additionally staff will re-assess and make changes for the 2023 schedule. Some of the changes may include breaking the

year into quarters and scheduling daytime meetings at 10:00 am and 5:00 pm for planned work sessions. Chief Martin shared he would also like the December meeting to serve as a State of the District meeting and possibly an open house. Chairman Wood asked about moving evening meetings to 6:00 pm. Chief Martin advised that a 6:00 pm time would impact the library staff schedules and he does not recommend it. Chief Martin also advised that the meeting today (May 11, 2022) is the first live broadcast on YouTube. Commissioner Knickle motioned to approve, Commissioner Bennett seconded, vote of 5-0, unanimously approved.

## 8. **New Business**

### A. Mid-Year Budget Review [Discussion]

Chief Martin presented the mid-year budget review, summarizing that the District is at or even below budget in a majority of areas, excluding fuel expenses. There were no questions from the Board Members.

### B. District Salary and Wage Adjustment [Discussion/Approval]

Chief Martin requested to open Articles 14 and 22 of the District 3 Collective Bargaining Agreement to make salary adjustments and increases. Chief Martin added that increases are necessary to keep the District competitive and help offset the recent inflation.

Chairman Wood opened the discussion to public input, which there was none. Commissioner Lyszak agreed we have to make adjustments, and pointed out local housing prices.

Commissioner Fleming echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Lyszak and added that he believes part of the issue may be the mandatory overtime. He hopes that a pay increase will help fill positions.

Commissioner Knickle agreed, adding that there is an obligation to the community and employees. He also stated that the District needs to recruit and retain employees, and that he believes this will help.

Commissioner Bennett agreed an increase is necessary. He noted that the wording is a little vague and asked that it be changed the bargaining agreement is being opened to increase wages.

Chairman Wood agreed with the rest of the Board, adding these are unique times and the District needs to make sure its people are taken care of.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to adjust the wording, Commissioner Fleming seconded. Commissioner Lyszak asked if the motion needs to be more specific.

Attorney Salzman specified the articles needed, and Commissioner Bennett adjusted his motion to include Articles 14 and 22. Commissioner Fleming seconded. Commissioner Fleming asked if this will overlap with District 15 negotiations. Chief Martin responded that he believes it will.

Commissioner Lyszak asked on a timeline for the raises. Chief Martin advised this is a priority and will work on rolling it out as soon as possible.

Vote of 5-0, unanimously approved.

C. Overhead Bay Door Procurement [Discussion/Approval]

Chief Martin presented a proposal to replace three overhead bay doors at Station 32 with metal rolling doors. Cost for this project is approximately \$68,918 which includes rerouting electric and plumbing to accommodate the new doors. This figure is well under budget.

Commissioner Knickle had no questions or comments.

Commissioner Bennett asked the anticipated total cost. Chief Martin responded that the cost is approximately \$68,918.

Commissioner Fleming asked if these doors are hurricane rated. Chief Martin advised they are.

Commissioner Liszak asked if there is an opportunity to repurpose old doors or to sell them. Chief Martin advised the vendor will haul them away and scrap them.

Chairman Wood asked Chief Wirth if there is a manual override on the doors should the motor fail. Chief Wirth answered that yes there is a chain on the side for manual operations.

Chairman Wood opened discussion for public comment- none.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve, Commissioner Liszak seconded.

Vote of 5-0, unanimously approved.

9. **Fire Chief Remarks** [Information/Discussion]

Chief Martin thanked the Board for a great meeting.

Chief Martin presented Assistant Chief Chris Armiger, the District's first internal promotion to management since 2012.

Chief Martin recognized Jennifer Gordon, who was just elected to serve as the District 3 Vice President. Chief Martin highlighted recent events. On the evening of April 19<sup>th</sup> Station 33 was dispatched to a Maritime Emergency Response for a vehicle in the back-bay with Lieutenant Jensen in charge. Driver Engineer Gonzalez and Firefighter Paramedic Cracchiolo entered the water, in the dark, searched the partially submerged vehicle, and discovered an unconscious patient, and was able to rescue them from the vehicle. Firefighter Paramedic Lundy and Firefighter Paramedic Pujol treated the patient on shore and transported them to the hospital. Chief Martin recognized Lieutenant Jensen and crew for a job well done.

Chief Martin recognized exceptional community service and commitment from Life Safety Specialist Bill Genevrino for helping a citizen install a car seat on a holiday while off work.

Chief Martin stated on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> Paul Montenegro was deployed, as part of the local Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team, and assisted with a trench collapse in Charlotte County. Chief Martin recognized Firefighter Paramedic Montenegro and Battalion Chief Terry Brunson for their efforts. Chief Martin provided an update on the new Headquarters Facility, advising that we are close to finalizing a design and the next step is site plan development. As part of the site design we will be working to re-parcel the property. This will be completed in the next 3-4 months. Chief Martin and Director Thompson are monitoring the cost of construction and exploring funding options.

10. **Attorney Report**- no report

11. **Commissioner's Remarks** [Information]

Commissioner Liszak thanked employees and staff for doing a great job and added that all the community feedback she gets is grateful. She thanked everyone for a calm and safe season.

Commissioner Fleming thanked the Women Who Care for their donation. He added that he is glad we will look at wages. He thanked the crew for a job well done on the water rescue and recognized Bill Genevrino for a job well done. He thanked Chief Wirth for his hard work on the new facility.

Commissioner Knickle thanked staff for their hard work and extended appreciation from the community.

Commissioner Bennett thanked everyone and congratulated Assistant Chief Armiger on his promotion. He also thanked present District members for their attendance.

Chairman Wood reiterated the comments of the rest of the Board and thanked Information Technology Manager Craig Kaufman for live streaming the meeting.

12. **Adjournment** 10:19am