

**Minutes for the Meeting of
the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Board of Commissioners**

June 28, 2023 5:00 pm
Diamondhead Beach Resort
2000 Estero Boulevard

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Larry Wood, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Knickle, Commissioner Ron Fleming, Commissioner Jacki Liszak, Acting Fire Chief Scott Wirth, Finance Director Jane Thompson, Attorney Andrew Salzman and District members.

1. Meeting Called to Order 5:00pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adoption of Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

4. Restate Agenda Items [Information]

5. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

Linda Miller, owner of Shop Local Productions, spoke regarding a Farmer's Market in Times Square. She requested changes to the classification of the plan review and inspection fees for this type of event.

Fire Chief Gene Rogers from South Trail Fire District spoke regarding the ongoing plan review services and thanked Fort Myers Beach for their assistance. He also presented the Board with a challenge coin and patch to add to the Pier Peddler's collection.

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. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 24, 2023

B. Check approval 48150 thru 48204 total = \$362,872.79

Commissioner Liszak motioned to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

7. Fire Chief's Report

Chief Wirth noted that it has been eight months since Hurricane Ian and the 2023 hurricane season has begun. The District has secured a storm location at the Holiday Inn. The District participated in a table exercise with the Town of Fort Myers Beach and Lee County

Sheriff's local law enforcement to review what did and did not work in response to Hurricane Ian.

District members completed annual physicals in May.

Chief Wirth attended the May 15th Town Council where the state representative gave an update on funding.

Commissioner Wood, Finance Director Thompson and Chief Wirth joined state senators in a post-session meeting and received an update on legislative funding initiatives.

On May 21st District members and Commissioners attended the beach kids' concert.

Trevor Mercure recently completed his Facilities Manager Certification. Chief Wirth thanked him for his hard work getting District facilities up and running following the storm.

In May, Finance Director Thompson participated in the Florida Emergency Management FROC program to train on the recording and tracking of post storm events.

The District received initial tax revenue numbers showing a revenue decrease of 38.3%.

Final numbers will be available after July 1st.

Station 33's final loan payment was made in May.

Chief Armiger participated in the Beach kids' foundation meeting and along with Commissioner Fleming participated in a Florida Association of Special Districts conference.

Chief Kraus and Medical Director Dr. Pereira attended the medical care council meeting for protocols and guidelines. There is a significant change in guidelines coming.

Chief Wirth highlighted the District response to a fire at the Seagrape in May. He thanked responding firefighters for their quick work.

May training highlighted first due operations on high rises, apparatus driver confidence and airway management. Crews continue to participate in technical rescue training. Dr. Pereira provided in service medical training.

Plan review and permitting numbers are up and inspection numbers are down. Inspections are expected to increase as the rebuilding effort continues. Chief Wirth thanked the Life Safety Specialists for all their hard work.

Chief Wirth recognized anniversaries of Ben Noelle with 4 years, Darwin Adames with 9 years and Jane Thompson with 17 years.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Fire Chief Selection Process [Discussion/Action]

The District received one internal candidate for the vacant Chief position. The Board will have one on one discussions with the candidate and discuss at the July 26th meeting. Attorney Salzmann directed the board to not discuss contract items during these meetings and to stick to ideology and views on the District.

No motion was required for these decisions.

B. Update on Facilities and Lands [Discussion/Action]

Chief Wirth provided an update on the District facilities and lands. He discussed options of possibly trading properties with the Town. The Town and District are getting current appraisals on the properties. Chief Wirth briefed the Board on options for obtaining properties for replacement and new facilities.

Commissioner Wood motioned to authorize the Chief to liquidate the vacant property; Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion. There was no public input and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Fleming motioned to allow the Chief to enter tentative agreements to purchase one or more parcels of property, contingent on Board review and approval. Commissioner Liszak seconded this motion. There was no public input and the motion carried 5-0.

C. Procurement- Upgrades to Roof at Station 32 [Discussion/Approval]

Presented quote on roof replacement and mitigation for Station 32. This project is reimbursable by FEMA.

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve the Station 32 roof upgrades totaling \$129,005.00. Commissioner Knickle seconded the motions and the motion carried 5-0.

8. New Business

A. Fiscal year 21/22 Audited Financial Statement [Presentation/Discussion/Adoption]

Finance Director introduced Jeff Brown, the audit partner responsible for the District's independent audit this past year. The audit is due to the state July 1st. Mr. Brown gave a brief overview of the audit, noting no deficiencies or noncompliance and all positive statements.

Commissioner Bennett moved to accept the audit report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Liszak and the motion carried 5-0.

B. Resolution 2023-02 Amend Budget for Year 22/23 [Discussion/Adoption]

Finance Director Thompson explained that once the audit is complete, the District needs to adjust the budget for following year. With approval, she would like to place the difference in millage sustainment fund.

Commissioner Knickle moved to approve resolution 2023-02 to amend the budget for FY2022-2023 and carry forward the \$1,306,127 adjustment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fleming. The roll call votes were as follows:

Commissioner Liszak voted aye.

Commissioner Fleming voted aye.

Commissioner Woods voted aye.

Commissioner Knickle voted aye.

Commissioner Bennett voted aye.

The motion carried 5-0.

C. AFG Grant for Incident Management Training [Discussion/Adoption]

The District received a grant that would fund incident management training thanks to assistance from the local 1826 and IAFF who offered resources to improve grant application. Training will be online followed by scenario based training and takes approximately four months total.

Commissioner Liszak moved to accept the grant and Commissioner Knickle seconded.

The motion carried 5-0.

D. Capital Overview for 2023/24 [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth presented an overview of plans for capital purchases.

E. Surplus Capital Assets 2023-01 [Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented a list of assets, some lost or destroyed in Hurricane Ian and some aged out.

Commissioner Wood moved to accept and Commissioner Liszak seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

F. Comments from Local 1826, District 3 DVP [Information]

DVP Jennifer Gordon presented guests from FMB Strong with a donation check totaling \$12,969.83 from the sales of Hurricane Ian Recovery shirts. The Local 1826 was also able to donate to the Beach Kids foundation, books and PE equipment for the local school, sponsor the recent Mother's Day 5k and many other community initiatives through the sale of these shirts.

DVP Gordon shared recent accomplishments of District employees. Joel Martinez won the Day Before Mother's Day 5k. He also competed in and won three events in the United States Police and Firefighter Championship.

Firefighters Llaser, Gaudet and Miranda recently participated in a ropes rescue course. Firefighter Rojo's family welcomed a baby boy on June 16th.

Firefighter DeClercq was accepted to paramedic school and will begin in the fall.

DVP Gordon and Engineer Galewski attended the Florida Board of firefighter's conference.

DVP Gordon noted there have been a lot of changes and uncertainty since Hurricane Ian but all members are back in their homes.

Personnel numbers recently changed from 11 to 9 and Lee County EMS moved into Station 32.

Labor remains dedicated to the Beach and its residents and looks forward to continuing a professional relationship with acting chief and board.

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

Chief Wirth thanked Jane for all her hard work in the audit.

He highlighted the Life Safety Branch and all their hard work in completing plan review.

Chief Wirth read a letter from the Fire Chief for City of Fort Myers thanking Engineer Galewski for his involvement in a recent USAR high angle rescue.

The District has received donations in memory of beach resident Ron Johansson who passed on May 28. He thanked Mr. Johansson's family and friends for their kind gestures.

10. **Attorney Report** [Information/Discussion]

Attorney Salzman briefly shared what he has been working on with Chief Wirth and Finance Director Thompson.

11. **Commissioners Remarks** [Information]

Wood thank Chief Rogers for his gesture to Cereceda family. He shared that he is proud of the local 1826. He thanked DVP Gordon for presenting this evening and for the donation to FMB Strong. He thanked Jane for her hard work on the audit.

Commissioner Fleming echoed Commissioner Wood's sentiments. He expressed the importance of the land swap for District properties. Commissioner Fleming thanked Jane for a successful audit. He shared that FASD approved ethics training for all commissioners. He thanked Chief Rogers for his contribution of patches for the Pier Peddler and thanked DVP Gordon for the local 1826's hard work locally.

Commissioner Knickle enjoyed DVP Gordon's remarks and added that he appreciates living next door to Station 33. He thanked Jane for audit and for all her hard work. He noted an increase in fires due to structure conditions.

Commissioner Lyszak echoed everyone's remarks and thanked Jane. She thanked Linda Miller for sharing her thoughts and concerns and thanked Chief Rogers for the patches. She expressed that she would like to have a community event to see and tour fire equipment. She shared that the singer/songwriter fest is coming up in September. She asked that the District have a liaison for the Lets Go FMB Group.

Chairman Bennett thanked members of the public for comments and thanked DVP Gordon for remarks. He wished everyone a safe and happy 4th of July and thanked members for their hard work in taking on extra duties and roles the past few months. Lastly, he thanked Jane and Brown & Brown for their hard work on the audit.

12. **Adjournment** – 6:21pm