

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE
FT MYERS BEACH BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**TIME: 7:00 P.M
DATE: May 08, 2007
PLACE: Station One Meeting Room
3043 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach**

IN ATTENDANCE: Chair Scanlon, Vice Chair Reckwerdt, Sec./Treasurer Goodacre, Commissioner Schmid, Commissioner Morris, Chief Becker, Assistant Chief Evans, Attorney Pringle, Administrative Assistant Sharon Medeiros, Financial Director Jane Thompson, Union Representative Troy Mesick, Design and Construction representatives from Gora and McGahey and Fowler Company, Fire Fighters, Members of the Press and Interested Citizens

Meeting Called to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Vice Chair Reckwerdt for the approval of the April 10, 2007 Regular Meeting minutes

Seconded by Sec/Treas Goodacre

Motion carried unanimously

Sec/Treas Goodacre read the treasurer's report into the record and asked to the approval of the department checks

Commissioner Schmid stated 3 checks #31524, #31525 and #31526 were missing and wanted to know why.

Chief Becker explained the checks were voided.

The voided checks will now be included with the treasurer's report.

Commissioner Schmid asked why there is no ambulance billing revenue shown in the packet.

Chief Becker explained computer problems were directly related to the connectivity needed in order for ADPI to receive our data but that it should be resolved shortly.

Vice Chair Reckwerdt made a motion to accept the listed checks

Chair Scanlon seconded

Motion carried unanimously

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Becker read the Chief's Report into the record discussing the cost of the temporary remodel of Station 33 with the bids coming in high and the remodel will not be able to be transition to the temporary Station. Option one is to stay the current course with the remodel of a

temporary station at Cap Plaza, option two is to take a very aggressive construction planning approach by advancing both construction projects simultaneously, fast tracking station 33 while maintaining our efforts with Station 32, foregoing the re-model of Station 33, capitalizing on current construction cost, we avoid the inflation costs for both projects and we leverage off our construction team abilities and partner with labor to relocate our response units south to meet the needs of the south end of the island during the transition. Option three is to advance the Station 33 project while delaying the construction of 32 until after 33 was completed however, it would expose the district to inflation costs for Station 32 which is the more costly of the projects. Chief Becker recommended option two using some debt service and this option represents the highest savings to the district at around \$500,000.

Representatives from both Fowler Company and Gora and McGahey were present to discuss the options and answer questions.

Also discussed were the Tax Reform Special Session and the anticipated completion and presentation of the Comprehensive Plan.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Richard Pringle read his report into the record, clarifying the district's comprehensive plan encompasses a broader scope as a strategic plan as compared to the planning that is required by the statute and discussed the process of submitting the plan.

Chair Scanlon restated the Agenda Items:

Old Business:

- Item #1. Approval of IT Position
- Item #2. Rules and Regulations that govern the district

New Business:

- Item #1. Approval of Construction Bids for temporary Station 33
- Item #2. Separation agreement for CRO Bill Lees
- Item #3. Approval of VRM850 Modem for Command Computer

PUBLIC INPUT

Citizen Pat Smith congratulated the Chief on his other options for the construction project and approves of option two. She also asked to hear the particulars of CRO Bill Lee's separation agreement.

Citizen Richard Werner feels the change in the Station 33 construction project is happening too quickly for a decision, he also wants to hear Bill Lee's separation agreement.

OLD BUSINESS

Item #1.

Chair Scanlon made a motion to give Chief Becker approval to hire for the IT Position

Seconded by **Sec/Treas Goodacre**

Commissioner Morris doesn't understand what the position entails and asked for clarification.

Chief Becker responded in detail.

(Confusion on vote)

Role Call:

Sec/Treas Goodacre Aye

Vice Chair Reckwerdt Aye

Chair Scanlon Aye

Commissioner Morris Nay

Commissioner Schmid Nay

Motion passes 3 to 2

Item #2.

Discussion ensued concerning the rules and regulations and paperwork governing the District with **Commissioner Morris** feeling there is a need for this type of activity.

Vice Chair Reckwerdt asked if there have ever been any problems in the past concerning the rules and regulations governing the board.

Chief Becker explained the statute that is followed and additional items can be adopted by resolutions.

Attorney Pringle expanded on the process.

Commissioner Morris made a motion to have a special meeting to review all documents and come up with one document pertaining to the rules and regulations that govern the board.

Seconded by **Commissioner Schmid**

Role Call:

Commissioner Morris Aye

Commissioner Schmid Aye

Sec/Treas Goodacre Nay

Vice Chair Reckwerdt Nay

Chair Scanlon Nay

Motion fails 3 to 2

NEW BUSINESS

Item #1.

Chair Scanlon made a motion not to move forward with the temporary re-model of Station 33.

Seconded by **Vice Chair Reckwerdt**

Discussion ensued concerning the amount of money it would cost the taxpayers for the temporary re-model

Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Becker asked for direction to move forward with option two.

Chair Scanlon made a motion for the chief to pursue the feasibility of option two with Gora McGahey and Fowler Company.

Seconded by **Vice Chair Reckwerdt**

Discussion continued with **Commissioner Morris's** concerns that the switch from the original plan to option two was done in a short time.

Chief Becker stated he is asking for direction only to review, articulate and formally present option two.

Motion carried unanimously

Item #2.

Chief Becker asked to address the concerns brought up by the public regarding Bill Lee's separation agreement and stated Mr. Lee is not afforded any special consideration in his agreement, it is a standard agreement that would be given to any employee with 25 years of employment. No special consideration has been given.

Sec/Treas Goodacre made a motion to approve Bill Lee's separation agreement

Seconded by **Vice Chair Reckwerdt**

Commissioner Morris wanted to know why the separation agreement states the district will pay 100% of the FRS.

Chief Becker explained the language referenced in Section 7A does not apply to retirees. Once retired, the district does not contribute to the Florida Retirement System on behalf of the employee.

Attorney Pringle explained that, at the time of retirement, no funds are paid to the FRS.

Commissioner Morris would like the approval to include the language that there will be no employer contribution to FRS.

Questions continued about the health care coverage, age requirement for retirement, and years of service requirement for FRS.

Commissioner Morris does not want to pay 100% of Mr. Lee's health insurance.

Chair Scanlon asked how to move forward with the motion to clarify the FRS section of the agreement.

Atty Pringle suggested amending the motion to state there is no FRS employer contribution for retirees.

Discussion continued with options other than paying 100% of the health care premium.

Chief Becker does not feel this is the time nor forum to change the standard benefit, he feels it would be best addressed during collective bargaining.

Roll Vote

Commissioner Morris Nay

Commissioner Schmid Nay

Sec/Treas Goodacre Aye

Vice Chair Reckwerdt Aye

Chair Scanlon Nay

Motion fails 3-2

Item #3

Chair Scanlon made a motion to approve the purchase of the VRM850 modem

Seconded by **Sec/Treas Goodacre**

Motion passes unanimously

OTHER BUSINESS

Union Representative:

Troy Mesick introduced himself as the new DVP Union representative for district 3 effective June 1st. He's looking forward to the contract negotiations coming up and to working with management in transitioning to the construction option two

Remarks of the Commissioners:

Commissioner Morris recognized the chief's efforts to save the district money

Commissioner Schmid recognized the employee's achievements and anniversaries and still is not happy with the discrepancies with the transportation reports. He would also like to see the health care issue resolved feeling it is a costly benefit.

Sec/Treas Goodacre recognized the employee achievements and anniversaries and is pleased to have an IT person on board to assist with all the computer problems that have been troubling the district.

Vice Chair Reckwerdt also congratulated the employees who completed fire school and recognized the anniversaries. He's disappointed that Bill Lee's separation agreement wasn't passed. He also witnessed a Med-Vac helicopter rescue and actually took part as a CERT member.

Chair Scanlon recognized the men for their anniversaries and achievements and is pleased the temporary re-model of cap plaza has been voted against.

PUBLIC INPUT

Citizen Pat Smith congratulated the board on some really good decisions concerning the re-model of cap plaza and she feels to approve Mr. Lee's separation agreement would set precedence and that a policy is needed for non-fire fighter employees.

MEETING ADJOURNED 9:05 PM.