

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
FT. MYERS BEACH BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
TIME: 7:00 PM
DATE: December 21, 2010
PLACE: 3043 Estero Blvd., Station 31 Meeting Room
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

IN ATTENDANCE: Chairwoman Carol Morris, Vice-Chairman Theodore (Ted) Schindler II, Sec./Treasurer David Brower, Commissioner Betty Goodacre, Commissioner John Scanlon, Attorney Richard Pringle, Chief Mike Becker, Assistant Chief Darren White, Finance Director Jane Thompson, District members and members of the public.

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Morris at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairwoman Morris called for a motion to approve the November 16, 2010 regular meeting minutes.

Commissioner Scanlon motioned to approve the November 16, 2010 regular meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman Schindler seconded.

November regular meeting minutes were approved unanimously 5 – 0.

Chairwoman Morris requested Sec./Treasurer Brower read the Treasurer's report.

Sec./Treasurer Brower read the November 2010 Treasurer's Report for the record.

Sec./Treasurer Brower reviewed the summary of bank and investment account activities for month ending November 30, 2010.

- A. Sec./Treasurer Brower asked for approval of department checks #036451 through #036539 for a total of \$225,366.91 for November 2010.

Commissioner Goodacre motioned to approve the department checks. Commissioner Scanlon seconded.

Department checks for November 2010 were approved unanimously 5 – 0.

Chief's Report

Chief Becker reviewed the items on the Chief Report.

Chief Becker noted that he spoke with Terry Stewart at the Town Hall and both daytime and evening times are available for the District to hold the monthly meetings.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Pringle noted he might not be available for the first monthly meeting due to his obligation to Iona/McGregor's Fire Board. They meet the third Wednesday of every month.

Reports from Local Union Representatives

Troy Mesick – DVP District 3 noted that Wednesday, December 22nd Santa and his Elf's will be on the Fire Truck delivering toys to Beach children for the Spirit of the Holidays.

Public Input

Beach resident Ted Reckwerdt stated he would give public input during the agenda items.

Old Business

None

New Business

- A. Fire Commission Meeting Dates and Time for 2011** – Chairwoman Morris stated she would like the Board to consider having monthly workshops.

Discussion continued between the Board.

Sec./Treasurer Brower motioned to have two meetings a month. Vice-Chairman Schindler seconded.

Motion approved unanimously 5 - 0.

Chairwoman Morris motioned to have a monthly workshop the week prior to the regular meeting. Sec./Treasurer Brower seconded.

Motion approved unanimously 5 – 0.

Finance Director Jane Thompson asked if the Board would want financial data at the workshop.

Chairwoman Morris state the Board may periodically want to review financials.

Chief Becker noted that he has not spoken with Terry Stewart in regards to having two meetings at Town Hall.

Vice-Chairman Schindler motioned to have the regular monthly meetings the third Tuesday of every month at Town Hall to begin at 7:00 PM and the workshops to be held the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 AM with the location to be determined. Sec./Treasurer Brower seconded.

Motion approved 4 to 1.

Chairwoman Morris – Aye

Commissioner Goodacre - Aye

Vice-Chairman Schindler – Aye

Commissioner Scanlon - Nay

Sec./Treasurer Brower - Aye

Chairwoman Morris motioned to finalize Vice-Chairman Schindler’s motion to have the workshop at Station 31 at 10:00 AM the second Tuesday of every month. Sec./Treasurer Brower seconded.

Motion approved unanimously 5 – 0.

B. Commissioner Items

- 1) Freezing Total Firefighter Positions** – Sec./Treasurer Brower stated he has reviewed data but has not finalized the spreadsheet yet. Sec./Treasurer Brower reviewed overtime scenarios and dollars spent over a twelve month period and concluded that freezing positions may not be the answer to reduce costs.

Chief Becker handed out a packet to the Board to review the overtime the District is paying and the positions that are the most costly in overtime. Chief Becker noted there is a shortage of engineer positions and this position greatly affects overtime.

Vice-Chairman Schindler noted this topic should be discussed at the workshop in January. Vice-Chairman Schindler suggested that the Board task Chief Becker to come up with short and long-term solutions and ways to achieve them.
No motion made.

- 2) **Signer for District Payroll and Accounts Payable** – Chairwoman Morris recommended that two signatures for check signing be removed from the District By-laws

Discussion continued between the Board.

Attorney Pringle stated for the Board to say they are going to be governed by Florida Law is better since it means fewer rules that are self-imposed. To amend the By-laws, the Board would need to notice the intent and then bring it up at the next meeting for official action to be taken to make the change.

Sec./Treasurer Brower motioned to put the item on the agenda for the next regular meeting. Vice-Chairman Schindler seconded.
Motion approved unanimously 5 – 0.

Discussion continued between the Board.

Chairwoman Morris stated she would send the notice out at least ten days prior to the meeting.

- 3) **Financial Discussion – Sec./Treasurer Brower (Notes and Assumptions and Spreadsheet)** – Sec./Treasurer Brower stated he prepared a spreadsheet which is independent of the District financials. After talking with Finance Director Jane Thompson, the spreadsheet was prepared to review the current financial situation of the District and where the District will be in the next year, with a calculation of one percent increase in ad valorem taxes and a one percent decrease in ad valorem taxes. Sec./Treasurer Brower stated the spreadsheet was available to anyone wanting a copy, but to remember it is independent of the District's financial data and was prepared by Sec./Treasurer Brower for discussion purposes.
No action taken

- 4) **Chairwoman Morris Proposal for New Commissioner Website** – Chairwoman Morris proposed to put together a website for the surrounding 17 districts to gather information on how other districts run and operate. Chairwoman Morris stated she would do the research and find out what the cost would be and see if other districts would have an interest in participating.
No action taken.

Reports from Local Union Representatives

Troy Mesick DVP District 3 wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and remind everyone that Santa would be delivering presents on Wednesday, December 22nd.

Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Scanlon congratulated the employees on their years of service and wished everyone a nice Christmas and New Years.

Commissioner Goodacre congratulated the employees on their years of service; wished everyone a Merry Christmas, and wanted to commend Commissioner Brower on his spreadsheet, it was very informative.

Sec./Treasurer Brower wished everyone a happy holiday.

Vice-Chairman Schindler wished everyone a Merry Christmas and congratulated everyone on their years of service and stated Chairwoman Morris' idea of the inclusion of public input during the meeting has been successful. The Board encourages public attendance, and feels the public will be able to give the District some good ideas.

Chairwoman Morris wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Public Input

Beach resident Lee Melseck gave public input on the workshops.

Beach resident Ted Reckwerdt gave public input on workshops and staffing of the stations.

Adjournment

Call for adjournment of meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM