

MINUTES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE
FT. MYERS BEACH BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
TIME: 7:00 PM
DATE: February 16, 2010
PLACE: 3043 Estero Blvd., Station 31 Meeting Room
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

IN ATTENDANCE: Chairwoman Carol Morris, Vice-Chairman Joe Schmid, Sec./Treasurer Betty Goodacre, Commissioner Ted Reckwerdt, Commissioner John Scanlon, Attorney Richard Pringle, Chief Mike Becker, Asst. 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

Moment of silence for our troops

Chairwoman Morris noted that the Architect Firm Gora McGahey was in attendance to present an award to the District.

Gora McGahey presented the District a merit award for Station 32 that was presented to them from Fire Industry Equipment Research Organization that certifies all equipment used by firefighters in the US, Canada and Mexico. Gora McGahey was the only firm that was awarded a "Merit Award" for a fire station project in Florida.

Chairwoman Morris called for a motion to approve the January 19, 2010 regular monthly meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman Schmid motioned to approve the January regular monthly meeting minutes. Commissioner Reckwerdt seconded.

January regular meeting minutes were approved unanimously 5 – 0.

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

Sec./Treasurer Goodacre read the January 2010 Treasurer's Report for the record.

Sec./Treasurer Goodacre reviewed the summary of bank and investment account activities for month ending January 31, 2010.

- A. Sec./Treasurer Goodacre asked for approval of department checks #035640 through #035708 for a total of \$109,350.90 for January 2010.

Vice-Chairman Schmid noted there was a check missing on the check register - 035685.

Commissioner Reckwerdt motioned to approve the department checks. Vice-Chairman Schmid seconded.

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

Chief's Report

Chief Becker reviewed items on the Chief's Report and the Chief Recommendations for Agenda Items.

Chief Becker stated he needed direction from the Board regarding closest unit response, and if the Board wanted the District to participate and at what level.

Commissioner Reckwerdt stated he was concerned with the billing for treat and no transport. He also noted that it should be advertised so the community is aware of the new procedure.

Commissioner Reckwerdt stated he is concerned about there being no ambulance at Station 32 and Lee County only being there for 12 hours and the response times to the District.

Chief Becker reviewed a power point presentation created by Kim Dickerson and Lee County to layout the process with different scenarios.

Communication continued between Chief Becker and the Board on Lee County EMS stationed at 32 and the response times during peak season.

Discussion continued between the Board and Chief Becker on closest unit response and the concern on how far out the Beach should go assisting the other Districts.

Chairwoman Morris requested Chief Becker create a draft policy on closest unit response and bring it to the Board for review.

Chairwoman Morris asked what the impact of Asst. Chief White, Ellner and Captain Whiteside's salaries and the FLSA issue would have on the budget.

Chief Becker stated that the Board is welcome to come to the office and review the budget, as it changes on a daily basis. The District has seen some credits from Worker's Comp and the Commercial insurance that will positively affect the budget and if Whiteside's contract is agreed upon, it will be a savings of over \$45,000.00.

Vice-Chairman Schmid asked Chief Becker if the District has any liability with the elementary school, boy scouts and the explorers.

Chief Becker stated the District is essentially covered with the Explorers with the exception of one document he is waiting on explaining the Districts exposure.

Chairwoman Morris asked that the "Issues with Station Flooring" be put on the March agenda.

Attorney Report

Attorney Pringle stated he had one item not on the agenda to discuss with the Board.

1. To follow up on closest unit response one item for the Board to consider is the timing of implementing something with another District referring to boundaries which could possibly initiate an adoption from Legislation to amend District boundaries. An inter-local agreement would allow a quicker solution for the District.

Attorney Pringle stated he would answer any questions the Board may have during the agenda items as they come up.

Public Input on Agenda Items

Beach resident Flip Harby suggested the Chief talk with one of the educational facility that the old ambulances were donated to for assistance with diversity training so the District could save money. Mr. Harby also noted that he hopes the Board sees the advantages and disadvantages of limiting the meetings and discussion time for agenda items. The public may see that as limiting their ability to give input. The Chairperson has the ability to control the meeting if they chose to do so. Mr. Harby stated that he feels the closest unit response issue could be resolved if the District would sit down with John Wilson of Lee County and dispatch.

Beach resident Pat Smith noted that public input is not the issue with the meetings going long and to limit the commissioners on their discussion is not a good idea either. Ms. Smith suggested that the District look at the minimum and maximum range on response times for the District. The closest unit response concerns citizens because the revenue is not coming back to the District.

Old Business

- A. Healthcare Recommendation from Insurance Committee** – Vice-Chairman Schmid stated the Insurance Committee narrowed the healthcare providers down to two choices, Lee County (AETNA) and United Healthcare. The committee voted and determined based on co-pays, prescriptions, and the support of Lee County’s administrative staff the Lee County plan would be the provider the District would switch to April 1, 2010. The long term savings for the District looks to be more advantageous with the Lee County plan.

Vice-Chairman Schmid motioned to proceed to switch to the Lee County healthcare plan (AETNA). Commissioner Scanlon seconded.

Approved unanimously 5 – 0.

- B. Update on Medical Officer Contract** – Chief Becker stated that prior to sending the contract to Labor Counsel, he wanted the Board to be aware of the wages and the manner in which the personal paid leave would be paid. If acceptable with the Board the contract will be forwarded to Attorney Hament for finalizing.

Sec./Treasurer Goodacre motioned to contact Attorney Hament to work up the terms and finalize the contract for the Medical Officer. Vice-Chairman Schmid seconded.

Motion approved 3 – 2.

Commissioner Scanlon - Nay
Commissioner Reckwerdt - Aye
Sec./Treasurer Goodacre – Aye
Vice-Chairman Schmid – Aye
Chairwoman Morris - Nay

C. Commissioner Items:

- 1) By-Laws Related Items – Board Suggestions** – Commissioner Scanlon motioned to authorize Attorney Pringle or Chief Becker to take the Lehigh Acres document and adapt it to the District’s needs and then submit it to the Board for approval. Sec./Treasurer Goodacre seconded.

Discussion continued on who should review the documents, make changes and bring back to the Board.

Commissioner Scanlon rescinded his motion.

Commissioner Scanlon motioned to authorize Chief Becker along with Chairwoman Morris' assistance to take the Lehigh Acres document and adapt it to the needs of the District and bring back to the Board for review.

Motion approved 4 to 1. Commissioner Scanlon - Aye
 Commissioner Reckwerdt - Nay
 Sec./Treasurer Goodacre – Aye
 Vice-Chairman Schmid – Aye
 Chairwoman Morris - Aye

2) Chief Evaluation – Collection of Individual Evaluation for Consolidation –
Chairwoman Morris stated the evaluations would be collected and she will add up the score in the presence of the Board and then Tammy Peacock will type up one consolidated evaluation and bring back to the Board at the next meeting.

Attorney Pringle stated the Board's motion was to compile the scores, and once the individual evaluations are turned in, they are a part of public record. The only action the Board took was to total the scores. If the Board is going to do something, anything they must take action in a public meeting.

No action was taken.

New Business

A. Ambulance Billing Write-off Request: Vice-Chairman Schmid motioned to write-off the billing to the patient. Commissioner Scanlon seconded.

Motion approved unanimously 5 – 0.

B. Commissioner Items:

1) Limit Regular Commission Meetings to Two Hours – The Board discussed the pros and cons of limiting the regular commission meetings.

Commissioner Reckwerdt motioned to limit the commission meetings to two hours. Commissioner Scanlon seconded.

Motion failed 2 to 3. Commissioner Scanlon - Aye
 Commissioner Reckwerdt - Aye
 Sec./Treasurer Goodacre – Nay
 Vice-Chairman Schmid – Nay
 Chairwoman Morris - Nay

2) Limit Discussion on Agenda Items to 15 Minutes – Commissioner Reckwerdt motioned to limit the commission meetings to two hours. Commissioner Scanlon seconded.

Motion approved 3 to 2. Commissioner Scanlon - Aye
 Commissioner Reckwerdt - Aye
 Sec./Treasurer Goodacre – Aye
 Vice-Chairman Schmid – Nay
 Chairwoman Morris - Nay

Reports from Union Representatives

No comments

Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Scanlon recognized the employees for their years of service. Commissioner Scanlon noted that there are only two people from the community attending the 7:00 PM meeting and we don't have the attendance we did at the 1:00 PM meeting.

Commissioner Reckwerdt recognized the employees for their years of service. Commissioner Reckwerdt stated he has been contacted by the news media and on next month's agenda, he would put on the agenda "Chief's violation of rules and regulations of the District" and the Board should take action on it.

Chairwoman Morris stated she didn't understand Commissioner Reckwerdt's statement and asked if it was from the investigation or from something else.

Commissioner Reckwerdt stated the investigation showed the Chief violated rules and regulations of the District. It may affect employees of the District. Commissioner Reckwerdt stated he would put it on the agenda for next month.

Sec./Treasurer Goodacre recognized the employees for their years of service.

Vice-Chairman Schmid asked Finance Director Jane Thompson to put together a running budget list to keep the Board apprised of the ongoing spending since property values are decreasing by an average of 10 percent and adjust the budget by that number and take it out of the budget so the Board can see where they stand before the end of the year. Vice-Chairman Schmid congratulated the employees on their years of service. Thanks to the Union for bringing a competitive healthcare provider to the District and thanks to Lt. Brunson for the discussion on closest unit response so the Board could understand the challenges the District is faced with.

Chairwoman Morris stated she had an update from the County and stated no more parking spaces could be put at Station 32 – no exceptions. Chairwoman Morris asked if the employees parked off site, could the District utilize the building. She will update the Board once the County responds. Chairwoman Morris asked the Board to consider working meetings to cut down on the regular meetings and asked that the Chief look at the format the Fort Myers Beach uses for their meetings. There aren't many people at this meeting but many of the beach residents don't know they can attend. The District may want to put something in the paper to let them know about the meetings.

Public Input

Beach resident Dick Warner stated that he could not attend the 1:00 PM meeting, so he is glad it is at 7:00 PM. He also thinks that limiting the meetings to two hours is ridiculous and if members don't want to do the job don't run.

Beach resident Pat Smith stated since the Board voted to limit the agenda items to 15 minutes; it will allow the commissioners to only three minutes each to make their point so each commissioner should try to limit themselves so they don't take up another commissioner's time.

Adjournment

Call for adjournment of meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:42 PM.