

MINUTES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE
FT. MYERS BEACH BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
TIME: 7:00 PM
DATE: March 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, 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 called for a motion to approve the February 16, 2010 regular monthly meeting minutes. Sec./Treasurer Goodacre motioned to approve the February regular monthly meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman Schmid seconded.

February regular meeting minutes were approved unanimously 5 – 0.

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

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

Sec./Treasurer Goodacre reviewed the summary of bank and investment account activities for month ending February 28, 2010.

- A. Sec./Treasurer Goodacre asked for approval of department checks #035709 through #035786 for a total of \$98,130.20 for February 2010.

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

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

Chairwoman Morris requested that "Finalization of the Chief's Evaluation" be added to "Old Business" Item D.

Vice-Chairman Schmid asked about the ambulance "treat no transport" billing not appearing on the report and the amount the District is recouping from each statement versus Medicare/Medicaid write-offs, etc.

Chief Becker stated they are working with ADPI on the reporting mechanism to identify the billing versus recouping payment. This will be reported to the Board as soon as the program is available. Chief Becker stated next month the Board and Management would be addressing financial aspects of the District and that would be a good subject to review.

Chief's Report

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

Commissioner Reckwerdt asked Chief Becker if Station 32 is fully manned.

Chief Becker stated that the ambulance that is normally staffed at Station 32 is currently at Station 31 with EMS staffed for 12 hours at Station 32. So Station 32 is not fully manned.

Commissioner Reckwerdt stated that EMS has done quite a few transports since they have been manned at Station 32 and that is lost revenue for the District.

Attorney Report

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

1. The District manual was prepared and released by Chief Becker and Attorney Pringle has not reviewed the changes and/or additions to the manual. When the manual is adopted, it can be done through the adoption of a resolution.

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 Al Agathen asked that the Board support the donation of the District van to CERT. CERT would take over all liability and relieve the District of any liability.

Old Business

- A. Water Pooling at Station 32 and Station 33** – Chief Becker requested that Mr. Fowler discuss the issues with the Board and the proposed remedy.

Mr. Fowler reviewed the issue of the pooling at both Stations and the best remedy without damage to the stations or interrupting service.

The Board discussed with Mr. Fowler the issue and how it was to be addressed at each station and the responsible party for rectifying the issues.

Mr. Fowler determined that the solution would be to saw-cut tracer lines to the nearest floor drain or apparatus bay at Station 32 and drill holes to allow drains to catch more water at Station 33. Mr. Fowler stated he would do the work needed but would need a walk behind saw for some of the work which would cost approximately \$300.00. The District would pay for the equipment. Mr. Fowler stated he was not charging any labor for the work he would do at the Stations.

Commissioner Scanlon stated no Board approval was needed to complete the job since it is under \$1000.00.

The Board stated they supported the remedy Mr. Fowler proposed and would look at the pooling situation after the work has been done to see if it has rectified the issue.

Mr. Fowler stated if there was a dispute after the work is done, then the Board would take the issue up with the architect since the contractor provided work based on industry standards. There is language in the contract that refers to that.

B. Medical Officer Contract – Commissioner Scanlon motioned not to approve the Medical Officer Contract. Chairwoman Morris seconded.

Conversation continued between the Board and Chief Becker on the pros and cons of not signing the contract for the Medical Officer and the savings the District would see by not contracting the Medical Officer position.

Chief Becker stated he is aware of two candidates that have the credentials to fill the position from District 3.

Chairwoman Morris called for a vote.

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

Commissioner Scanlon motioned for the Chief to seek elsewhere for the Medical Officer position, in house or outside of the District. Vice-Chairman Schmid seconded.

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

C. Commissioner Items:

1) By-Laws Draft Update – Chairwoman Morris motioned to review the submitted draft from Chief Becker, make any changes and give to Chief Becker. Chief Becker can then send out an updated packet prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Scanlon seconded.

Attorney Pringle stated that the resolution at the end of the draft packet is not part of the manual which ends at article 10 and the Board would want to take it out. If the Board determines they have something they want to adopt in April Attorney Pringle will under separate cover prepare a resolution that states the Board adopts the Board of Commissioners Manual. Once the Board adopts the manual then the resolution will be attached.

Motion approved unanimously 5 – 0.

Chief Becker asked if the track changes he submitted were acceptable and if so he would update the draft and go forward with any updates the Board has as track changes.

Chairwoman Morris stated that was acceptable.

- 2) **Closest Unit Response Draft from Chief Becker** – Chief Becker reviewed the draft. The first three paragraphs in the draft are already in place. The remainder of the draft is a recommendation to the Board.

Commissioner Scanlon motioned to accept Chief Becker’s Closest Unit Response Document as is. Vice-Chairman Schmid seconded.

Motion approved 4 - 1.

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

- D. Finalization of Chief Becker’s Evaluation** – Chairwoman Morris stated at the last meeting the numbers were added up but according to the report it is to be put on one sheet with a total of the scores. Chairwoman Morris stated she totaled the scores and also typed up the goals and objectives with no names of the commissioners. At the end of the report there is a line for the signature of the commissioner completing the evaluation and the signature of the Fire Chief. Chairwoman Morris stated she has signed off on the form and asked Chief Becker to sign the form, not necessarily agreeing with, but aware of the evaluations. The goal is to tack on the individual evaluations behind the total score along with the Fire Chief’s comments which would then be a part of public record. Chairwoman Morris stated that the total rating was 31.60 (divided by 10 questions) which would be a score of 3.16. Chairwoman Morris then read the goals and objectives for the Chief for the next appraisal period.

New Business

- A. Donation of Surplussed District Van to CERT** – Chief Becker stated that there is no provision in the District liability insurance coverage for non-employees to operate District vehicles. The van was surplussed last year and has been utilized for CERT activities. If the District donates the van to CERT, they will take over all coverage and ownership of the van.

Commissioner Scanlon motioned to donate the van to CERT. Sec./Treasurer Goodacre seconded.

Al Agathen, CERT Team Leader verified he can implement coverage for the vehicle immediately.

Motion approved unanimously 5 – 0.

Reports from Union Representatives

FF Troy Mesick – DVP District 3 reminded the Board that the Annual MDA Boot drive would be this weekend and noted that Lee County’s contribution last year was the second highest in Florida. FF Mesick noted that the Medical Officer position cannot be ordered to fill the position from the floor since it was negotiated to leave vacant.

Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Scanlon recognized the employees for their years of service.

Commissioner Reckwerdt recognized the employees for their years of service. Commissioner Reckwerdt recognized Mike Coenen, Dave Reckwerdt and all the other firefighters that helped at the Shrimp Festival set up chairs, etc.

Sec./Treasurer Goodacre recognized the employees for their years of service and congratulated the Union for their contribution to the MDA Boot Drive. Sec./Treasurer Goodacre thanked the Board for donating the van to CERT and noted how important it is to have a CERT vehicle to help transport personnel and equipment and also noted the support of CERT in the Shrimp Festival Parade.

Vice-Chairman Schmid congratulated the employees on their years of service.

Chairwoman Morris stated she is still concerned about the District firefighter's physical condition and there is a huge difference in a yearly physical and fit for duty. Chairwoman Morris stated the District should have something to make sure the firefighters stay fit for duty in addition to being physically fit. The District used to have something that assured this.

Chief Becker stated it is a collective bargaining issue that could be addressed. Chief Becker noted there is an assessment of the firefighter standards which the employee is evaluated on when they go for their annual physical.

Public Input

Beach resident Al Agathen thanked the Board for the donation of the Van to CERT. Mr. Agathen stated he is a retired firefighter and was in a district where a line was drawn and they could not respond to an incident because they were in a different county. The inability to respond may have cost a life or lives. When it comes to life or death situations you want the closest unit to respond.

Adjournment

Call for adjournment of meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM