

MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
FT. MYERS BEACH BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
TIME: 7:00 PM  
DATE: September 21, 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, Assistant Chief Darren White, District members and members of the public.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Explorer Post 1001 Presented Colors

Chairwoman Morris called for a motion to approve the August 31, 2010 special meeting minutes.

Sec./Treasurer Goodacre motioned to approve the August 31, 2010 special meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman Schmid seconded.

August special meeting minutes were approved unanimously 5 – 0.

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

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

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

- A. Sec./Treasurer Goodacre asked for approval of department checks #036198 through #036259 for a total of \$146,728.63 for August 2010.

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

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

Chief Becker presented Commissioner Reckwerdt and Vice-Chairman Schmid plaques for their time and service to the District as Commissioners.

Chief Becker reviewed the Chief's Report.

Chairwoman Morris asked Chief Becker if the District could staff based on minimum staffing of 13 and use the others to fill in the void to eliminate overtime.

Chief Becker stated the contract allows for three people to be on vacation per shift. The CBA states a seven day advance notice has to be given to change duty days.

Troy Mesick – DVP District 3 stated that the positions have to be filled, i.e. if there are not enough engineers to cover the shift; the position will have to be filled by overtime.

Chairwoman Morris asked if the Shift Commander was able to deny PPL based on the need for the positions for each shift.

Vice-Chairman Schmid asked Chief Becker if the fire code fee schedule would bring in more money to the District and if Chief Becker supports the fee schedule.

Chief Becker stated it would not bring in a significant amount of money, but it would be some additional revenue and he does support the proposed fee schedule.

Vice-Chairman Schmid asked Chief Becker if he could disclose the status of Attorney Hament's fees.

Chief Becker stated Attorney Hament's fee deals with the grievances that have gone to arbitration. Attorney Hament is working with the Union's counsel to resolve the grievances.

Vice-Chairman Schmid asked Chief Becker if the termite issued had been resolved at Station 31 and the Admin. building.

Chief Becker stated that the buildings have been treated and the District has purchased warranties for the treated buildings to guarantee against further infestation.

Chairwoman Morris stated the attorney fees seem too high and asked if the fees are necessary.

Chief Becker stated that Attorney Pringle made revisions to the TeleStaff which needed an attorney's review based on all the components of the contract.

Chairwoman Morris asked if under the current agreement on overtime, if 9.6 of the contract is being practiced since there is so much overtime.

Chief Becker stated to the best of his knowledge, it is being followed.

Chairwoman Morris asked why the server is "mission critical".

Chief Becker stated the server has to be able to operate the TeleStaff software purchased. Without it, the software is pointless.

### **Attorney's Report**

Attorney Pringle stated that he wanted to clarify a comment made from the budget hearing. Board members do have the authority under law to talk individually to the Chief, but the Chief should not be used to "daisy chain" to convey communication from one commissioner to the other. The decision whether to speak to the Chief outside of a board meeting is up to the commissioners. Under the Sunshine Law it is okay and not illegal.

### **Public Input**

No public input

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

- A. Procurement for Dell Server - \$3,145.03** – Commissioner Scanlon motioned to approve the Dell server for the TeleStaff program for \$3,145.03. Commissioner Reckwerdt seconded.

Vice-Chairman Schmid asked if the CDWG server could be modified.

Joe LaCroix – IT Manager stated it could be modified but it would increase the price above the Dell product. Joe LaCroix stated the District sent out bids to several vendors and only received bids back from Dell and CDWG. CDWG did not follow specifications and only quoted the shell with no hard drives or operating system. The engineers from CDWG did not follow the specifications and capabilities. Dell was the only company that came back with the specifications required.

Vice-Chairman Schmid asked if the District talked with anyone else using the TeleStaff program on what server they used.

Joe LaCroix stated they use Dell across the board.

Commissioner Scanlon asked why the server wasn't purchased at the time the TeleStaff software was purchased.

Chief Becker stated that the engineer piece needed to be researched to make sure the product was specific to District needs.

Motion approved unanimously 5 – 0.

#### **Reports from Local Union Representatives**

Troy Mesick – DVP District 3 – stated that the budget was passed last night and with the millage rate being higher than last year, he can understand all the taxpayers not being here tonight as they were last night. In regards to spending, he noticed that the lawyer's fees have increased over 50 percent from last year. Troy Mesick requested that the union remarks be moved up on the agenda and asked if the Board had considered the request.

Commissioner Scanlon asked for what reason should it be moved up.

Troy Mesick – DVP District 3 – stated that there are some things he responds to at the end that may not influence a decision, but may give more food for thought to the discussion of certain items.

Chairwoman Morris requested the item be put on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

Attorney Pringle stated that he thought it the agenda for the meetings was part of the bylaws and he would check to see if anything needs to be done prior to the next meeting.

Commissioner Scanlon congratulated everyone on their years of service and thanked both Ted and Joe for their years of service with the Board to help better the District.

Commissioner Reckwerdt congratulated everyone on their years of service and wanted to commend Chief Becker on his work with the Explorer Post 1001. Commissioner Reckwerdt stated he watched channel 98 today where Chairwoman Morris was on with the Mayor and had a problem with Ms. Morris not making viewers aware that she was just one of five commissioners and she was only telling her side and not the opinion of the whole Board. Commissioner Reckwerdt asked if the union negotiation process was going forward.

Troy Mesick – DVP District 3 stated that he was going to bring dates to Chief Becker tomorrow to set the next meeting for negotiations.

Commissioner Reckwerdt stated that after this meeting he will be coming back as a taxpayer to give public input.

Sec./Treasurer Goodacre congratulated everyone on their years of service as well as Ted and Joe for their years on the Board. Sec./Treasurer Goodacre stated she is proud of the Explorers and the CERT team. Sec./Treasurer Goodacre commended Ron Martin and his work with the Beach Elementary on the CPR program. The Beach Elementary is the only school doing this program and she is very proud of the District for providing this service.

Vice-Chairman Schmid congratulated everyone on their years of service and the Explorers for their participation tonight. Vice-Chairman Schmid noted that in the Medical Officer's report he talked about LeeSar and the security of medications and asked Chief Becker to explain what LeeSar provides and if it would be costly for the District and is he comfortable with the security of the medications now.

Chief Becker stated that Lee County does use LeeSar, but there are pros and cons to it. You don't have to worry about expired drugs any longer, but if you use a few of the drugs in the kit, you have to dispense of the full kit and use a new one and you lose control of competitive bidding. Chief Becker stated Medical Officer Kraus has cleaned up some practices on dispensing medical supplies. Station 32 is now the only location to secure medical supplies.

Vice-Chairman Schmid stated that the he feels the website content at the end of the commission packet is not needed.

Vice-Chairman Schmid stated he wanted to commend Chief Becker and Jane Thompson on the budget and everyone from the staff. Vice-Chairman Schmid thanked all the commissioners and it has been his pleasure to serve as commissioner.

Chairwoman Morris stated she wanted to comment on Commissioner Reckwerdt's statement regarding her attendance at the tax day session, that both she and Chief Becker were invited to. Chairwoman Morris stated she did not feel there was anything derogatory or political and her comments were strictly factual. Chairwoman Morris stated that last night a comment was made about the building being used on San Carlos Blvd. When she spoke with zoning about the restrictions, they did not find anything in the books stating we could not use the building for office space. The only issue was parking limitations. There may be some other options, since the Town is looking at some other space. They may have an interest in renting the administration office if the staff could relocate.

Chief Becker stated he is working with the Town to consolidate and possibly allow the Town to rent some of the office space.

Chairwoman Morris asked if over the next year the District starts having attrition and we do not rehire, is there a way to hire staff directly from fire school on a part time basis, etc. without the benefits if there is a need for additional staffing during peak season.

Chief Becker stated it is all subject to collective bargaining.

Chairwoman Morris thanked everyone for their service and good luck to Ted Reckwerdt and Joe Schmid.

### **Public Input**

Beach resident Al Agathen stated he had the privilege of participating with the Explorers at the 911 ceremonies. Mr. Agathen stated he was disappointed to see so few people at the VFW ceremony. Mr. Agathen noted that the Explorers did excellent work cutting a car apart under the direction of BC Grow. BC Grow has offered to help with the training of the Explorers as well as Chief Becker. Mr.

Agathen stated the program Ron Martin is providing at the Beach Elementary is a huge success and Principal Larry Wood is ecstatic with the program.

Beach resident and Explorer of Post 1001 John J James stated he wanted to express his thanks for what the Board, Chief Becker, Al Agathen and Alan Vacks has been able to do for him. The District has given him a chance to do something with his life, to be a hero. Mr. James noted he hopes through the continued support of the District more kids get the same chance he has gotten and he hopes with the next classes he will get a chance to work with the next faces of heroes of the future.

Beach resident Flip Harby stated that when the District is looking at cutting back various things, manpower, closing stations, etc. you need to keep in mind the ISO rating which is the insurance rating. If the response times increases, it will increase the rating which will increase your rates. Mr. Harby stated he hasn't heard that mentioned by the Board in quite a while. Mr. Harby stated that if there was ever an example of dedication, Ted Reckwerdt is the epitome of that as an elected official and as a concerned tax payer and he has done a good job and Commissioner Schmid has done an excellent job coming in cold and wishes them both the best of luck. Mr. Harby stated that if he was an elected official and he was asked to speak at a local event or make a public appearance, as a professional courtesy he would have communicated to the board on a making a public appearance. That was not done by Chairwoman Morris. The appropriate thing to do would be to advise the board and get their blessing and that was not done. Mr. Harby stated that when he saw Chairwoman Morris at the meeting he was surprised and if she would have communicated to the Board they may have wanted to attend the event as well.

Chairwoman Morris stated that she only received the e-mail last week and she could not relay that information during the budget meeting. If she would have had the information at the previous meetings she would have shared it with the Board.

Commissioner Reckwerdt stated the only reason he was disappointed was that Chairwoman Morris should have explained she was only one of the five commissioners and was not speaking for all five.

Fire Inspector Ron Martin noted that the CPR program at Beach Elementary, like with anything else it goes nowhere without direction and support. Inspector Martin thanked Asst. Chief White for listening to his idea over a year ago, Chief Becker for putting him in contact with the Kiwanis and to instructors Alex Gonzalez, Joe Devito, Al Agathen and Alan Vacks for all their support. Members of the suppression staff, BC Miceli and B Shift 31 came out and helped hand out the certificates to the kids which were a special treat for the kids. Inspector Martin stated he hopes everyone can go home tonight knowing that they have a visionary department with visionary leadership and commitment.

### **Adjournment**

Call for adjournment of meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM