In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Larry Wood, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Knickle, Commissioner Ron Fleming, Commissioner Jacki Liszak , Fire Chief Scott Wirth, Finance Director Jane Thompson, Fire Official Jennifer Campbell, and District members.

Absent:

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 10:00 am
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Liszak motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

1. **Restate Agenda Items** [Information]
2. **Public Input on Non-Agenda Items**

Multiple residents shared their thoughts on the proposed merger of Fort Myers Beach Fire and Bonita Springs Fire.

1. **Consent Agenda** [Approval]

*Items listed are considered routine and action will be taken by one motion; if a Commissioner desires discussion, the specific item will be removed during the Adoption of the Agenda and considered separately.*

* 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 27, 2023
  2. Approval of Final Budget Hearing Minutes from September 27, 2023.
  3. Checks approval 48359 – 48411 total $281,212.79

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Liszak seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

1. **Unfinished Business** 
   1. Update on Potential Land Swap [Information/Discussion/Action]

Chief Wirth provided an update on the property and potential land swap with the Town of Fort Myers Beach. The Town has decided to mutually withdraw from any pending agreement.

Commissioner Knickle asked Chief Wirth about site planning and if already existing plans can be used moving forward. Chief Wirth answered there are zoning and utilities changes.

The Board briefly discussed different options of building placement and which property would work better for the district. The board requested Chief Wirth have another meeting with Mayor Allers and Chairman Bennett to clarify the Town’s position on the properties.

Commissioner Knickle motioned to approve, Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. Commissioners Liszak and Fleming clarified they want one more conversation with Town of FMB.

Mr. King added public comment stating the Town has no definitive answer yet on where Town hall will be and they are looking at all options including Bay Oaks.

The motion passed 5-0.

1. **New Business** 
   1. Imposed Merger of Fire Districts [Information/Discussion/Action]

Chief Wirth gave a brief synopsis of the proposed merger from Representative Botana. He read a letter from the chair of the local delegation stating the bill will not be placed on October 30th meeting for vote but will be on agenda for discussion.

Commissioners inquired about the possibility of a mailer to beach residents.

Labor Rep Gordon shared labor’s views and opinion on the merger.

The Town representative, Mr. King, expressed showing up to October 30th meeting is important and that the Town supports the Fire District.

Chairman Bennett motioned to approve the official Board position as in opposition to the merger, Commissioner Liszak seconded and the motion carried 5-0 .

* 1. Board Policy [Information/Discussion]

The Board is set to complete an annual review of the Board policy. Any proposed changes will brought forward at the November 15th meeting.

1. **Fire Chief Remarks** [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth thanked the community and media for getting the word out and voicing their opinions.

1. **Commissioners Remarks** [Information]

Commissioner Fleming thanked staff, firefighters and the public for support.

Commissioner Liszak stated she is proud to be a part of the district and thanked everyone for all they do.

Commissioner Knickle thanked the firefighters for their incredible work and all they have pushed through in the past year.

Commissioner Wood stated he supports firefighters and appreciate all they do. He thanked Chief for all his hard work over the past week and fellow commissioners for their hard work as well. Thanked media for helping get the message out.

Chairman Bennett thanked Beach Talk radio for their communication with residents. He noted that the merger came as a complete shock and surprise.

1. **Adjournment** – 11:24am