

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE
SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 19, 2021

Chairman Robert Hoke called the North Fort Myers Fire Control and Rescue Service District Board of Commissioners to order at 5:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioners: Mike Gatewood
Tom Mere

Danny Ballard
Robert Hoke

Chief Ronald Beecroft

Assistant Chief John Manson

Assistant Chief of Training Eric Klos

Office Manager Monique Brooks

Fire Marshal Rick Jones

Public Education Officer Kulwicki

Union Representative Jarrett Slaybaugh

Absent: Leroy Nottingham (excused)

Invocation: Commissioner Mere

Pledge: Commissioner Gatewood

Public Input: None

Minutes:

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept the March 15, 2021, minutes, as written. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0. (1)

Commissioner Ballard noted that the Minutes from the Retiree Insurance Policy Workshop on March 22, 2021 needed to be amended to reflect the name of the workshop. Monique amended the minutes.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept the March 22, 2021 Retiree Insurance Policy Workshop Minutes, as written and amended. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0. (2)

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Audit by Jeff Tuscan.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Audit, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0. (3)

Treasurer's Report: The March treasurers report was presented. At this time, we are 50% through the budget year, received 95% of revenues (including cash brought forward) and spent 50% of expenditures (less reserves). Monique also added that her and Rick have been working with Mobile Eyes, because they are setting up a portal for customers to pay by credit card. There were no questions or comments. (4)

Chief's Report:

By Chief Beecroft -

- Currently watching several pieces of Legislation, most notably the requirement for a Performance Audit. A performance audit is being considered as mandatory, and will be extremely expensive. This bill is being opposed by many, including us. Another bill that is being monitored is the ethics bill (this would require annual training of Elected Officials). Also watching the Local Government efficiency Task Force, in Tallahassee regarding consolidation of special districts and their usefulness.
- All District employees will be issued a department email

By Asst. Chief Manson-

- Run report is attached
- Annual Hydrant maintenance is complete. Commissioner Hoke asked what is involved in the hydrant maintenance? Grease, flush and painting of the hydrants

- Began the remodeling/renovation of Trail Dairy station, should take about two weeks
- New Rescue trucks – all three are in service
- All the old Rescue trucks have been decommissioned, so we are ready to deem them as surplus equipment and sell them.

Commissioner Mere made a motion deeming the Three (3) 2012 Ford F550's as surplus equipment, and allowing administration to sell the three trucks for the best price possible. Seconded by Commissioner Ballard. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0.

Fire Prevention: Report attached. There were no questions or comments.

Public Education: Report attached. Christi added that she has been very busy with CERT, and this year the team decided to have a “disaster drill” instead of a picnic. Commissioner Hoke asked how many active members we have? 323 members. There were no other questions or comments.

Training:

- Still training at Merchants Crossing
- Two classes recently brought in house, which certified all the Battalion Chiefs and Acting Battalion Chiefs to be Strike Team Leader.
- Began EMT re-certification training
- Several structure fires, a large brush fire, vehicle fires and investigations recently. A Shift had 3 fires within a 12 hour period. Commissioner Hoke asked were we checking on the guys for exposures and health after that many fires? Yes
Commissioner Mere thanked Bayshore Fire and the neighboring departments for their help and assistance.

Union: Exchanged letters with the Chief regarding negotiations. Held a few meetings, and the personnel are in favor of pursuing the VEBA.

Old Business:

- **Retiree Insurance Policy Revision** – We held a workshop on March 22, 2021 regarding the policy and suggested revisions. Commissioner Mere does not like the stipend extending for 15 years,

he would like to make an exception for the one person it affects. Commissioner Hoke said that at the workshop the Board had directed administration to increase it from 10 years to 15 years.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept the Retiree Insurance Policy revision, to be effective October 1, 2021, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0. (5)

- **Sale of Brooks Road Property Bid Selection –**

Only one bid was received, and it was from Thomas A. Mere. Commissioner Mere stated that he had a voting conflict and has filled out the Declaration of Voting Conflict statement. (6) **Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to select the Bid Sheet submitted from Thomas A. Mere, to purchase the Brooks Road Property. Motion was amended to allow Chairman Robert Hoke sign the contract and all closing documents, and seconded by Commissioner Ballard. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 3-0. (7)**

New Business:

VEBA (Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association) – Chief Beecroft explained that he has been talking with Union DVP Slaybaugh and other Fire Districts about the VEBA process. The VEBA would allow us to offer post – retirement health insurance benefits to those hired after October 1, 2014. One of the very first steps in starting the process is to have an actuary performed. Commissioner Ballard asked if we would have the number in time for budget purposes. Yes.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to allow administration the ability to have an actuarial performed to determine the cost and feasibility of creating a VEBA. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0.

Commissioner Items:

Ballard – the community Newspaper called “The Neighbor” is changing their publication style, more to a magazine type, once monthly possibly, and he suggested that Public Education Officer Kulwicki have a page in there.

Public Input: Tony Mere asked if we utilized our CERT team? Christi replied yes, that our CERT team has been the only activated in the County to help with COVID-19. She further explained they manage their own communities, and especially during a disaster. Monique added that they have been activated several times over the past.

Community Goodwill & Thank You:

TaraWoods Community

Commissioner Mere made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0.
Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. March 15, 2021 Minutes
2. March 22, 2021 Retiree Insurance Policy Workshop Minutes
3. 2019/2020 Audit
4. March Treasurers Report
5. Retiree Insurance Policy Revision
6. Declaration of Voting Conflict
7. Response/Bid Sheet for Brooks Road Property