

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

July 20, 2020

Chairman Michael Gatewood 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	Danny Ballard
Robert Hoke	
Thomas Mere (via video)	Leroy Nottingham

Assistant Chief John Manson  
Office Manager Monique Brooks  
Fire Marshal Rick Jones (via video)  
Public Education Officer Kulwicki  
Union Representative Slaybaugh

**Absent:** None

**Invocation:** Commissioner Ballard

**Pledge:** Commissioner Hoke

**Public Input:** Firefighter Gembecki presented a letter to the Board, asking for an exception to the retiree policy for himself. He is asking to be granted the retiree insurance benefit. Commissioner Hoke stated he fully supports him and thanks him for everything he has done for the District. Commissioner Ballard said he would like to discuss this under new business. **Commissioner Hoke made a motion that Firefighter Gembecki be granted the exemption and allowed to receive the benefits of our retiree insurance policy, as a 25 year retiree. Seconded by Commissioner Nottingham. The**

**motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. The vote was 4-0. (1)**

**Minutes:**

**Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept the June 22, 2020 minutes, as written. Seconded by Commissioner Hoke. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. (2)**

**Treasurer's Report:** The June treasurers report was presented. At this time, we are 75% through the budget year, received 101% of revenues (including cash brought forward) and spent 72% of expenditures (less reserves). (3) There were no questions or comments.

**Chief's Report:**

By Assistant Chief Manson-

- Monthly Run report attached
- A/C has been installed in the Brush truck
- Rescue 3 had a new pump and motor installed
- Lee Control updated all radios, in preparation for the major upgrade project coming in next few months
- Waiting on new Chief to be named, so we can go forward with the bathroom renovation at Trail Dairy. Commissioner Hoke noted that the personnel are asking for only 1 shower with tile, just like the ones at the other stations. Asst. Chief Manson replied that the shells for the showers have already been purchased and they are not returnable. Commissioner Ballard asked if you could put doors up to separate the two showers? No. Asst. Chief Manson said once the new Chief was named, they would go forward.

**Fire Prevention:** Report attached. Barricades are up at Merchants Crossing, ready for the demo to begin. Commissioner Ballard noted they already have their demo permit, and are ready to move forward. He also added that the three day hearing for Paradise Isle is next week, and he will be in attendance. There were no other questions or comments.

**Public Education:** Report attached. She has been utilizing the new Extinguisher Simulator. There were no questions or comments.

**Union:** Held a meeting with the guys and looking forward to negotiations with the New Chief.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Fire Chief Position –**

Commissioner Ballard stated that a letter was received in the mail today, by the Commissioners and wanted it to be read.

Commissioner Mere said he had not received any letter, as well as Commissioner Gatewood. Commissioner Ballard provided his letter to Chairman Gatewood to read. Commissioner Mere asked that they move on with voting for the new Fire Chief, and 3-2 agreed to move on with voting.

Papers were handed out for the votes to be cast. Commissioner Mere mailed his in, and the sealed envelope was opened with his vote in it. Chairman Gatewood opened all the envelopes and read the votes. Votes were: Beecroft, Beecroft, Westra, Beecroft and Beecroft. (4) Congratulations Ron Beecroft. Ron Beecroft thanked the Board for the opportunity.

Monique inquired what the salary would be for Chief Beecroft?

**Commissioner Ballard made a motion that Chief Beecroft's base salary would be 5% more than Assistant Chief Mansons present base salary. Seconded by Commissioner Hoke. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.**

Chief Beecroft stated that he would like an employment agreement with the Board. The Board stated that he provide his draft of the agreement to the Board by the next meeting, so they could have time to review it. Chief Beecroft stated that his normal duty day was tomorrow, and he would continue on shift tomorrow, then transition to Administration on Wednesday, which is the beginning of the new pay period.

### **Purchase of New Rescue Trucks –**

Asst. Chief Manson stated that they definitely want to purchase the Dodge 5500's for the new Rescue Trucks. He did weigh our current rescue trucks, and they are way under weight. Commissioner Ballard stated that the 3500 is too small, the 4500 is close and the 5500 is good. He also added that he would like to see the water capacity that is carried on the trucks decreased, he would like only 100 gallons carried. He feels that if we arrived on a scene and can not fight fire with that amount, then we need to do more training. Administration and some personnel in attendance stated that we definitely need 300 gallons of water. Lieutenant Klos stated that he can attest that 300 gallons of water will put out a 1 acre brush fire, because he recently did it. Commissioner Gatewood added that he would like to see us get on a different rotation for replacing the rescue trucks than we currently have. Feels they should be replaced on alternating cycles. **Commissioner Nottingham made a motion to purchase three (3) Dodge 5500 trucks to be used as Rescue trucks. Seconded by Commissioner Hoke. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. The vote was 4-1.** Commissioner Ballard stated that he opposed because of the water capacity.

## **New Business:**

### **2020/2021 Millage Rate –**

Monique presented the DR 420 for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 which sets the millage rate. Commissioner Mere stated that we need to be very careful with our budget due to the uncertainty of our economy.

**Commissioner Ballard made a motion to keep the millage rate at 3.5000 mills for the Fiscal Year 2020/2021. Seconded by Commissioner Mere. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. (5)**

Dates for Budget Hearings were also established. September 14, 2020 will be the Tentative Budget Hearing and September 28, 2020 will be the Final Budget Hearing.

### **New Engine – Added by Commissioner Ballard**

Commissioner Ballard stated that the costs are going up and if we are going to be requesting a new Engine, we need to get our letter of intent to purchase in. Chief Manson stated he is putting together a truck committee.

### **Retiree Insurance Policy – Added by Commissioner Ballard**

It is time for the Board to review our Retiree Insurance Policy and make any revisions necessary.

## **Commissioner Items:**

### **Ballard –**

- Reminded everyone of the Public Hearing next week regarding the Paradise Isle Project
- Really need to consider a ladder truck
- Merchants Crossing is going forward with their project, and this project will be 3 stories

**Public Input: None**

**Community Goodwill & Thank You: None**

**Commissioner Nottingham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Hoke. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. Retiree Insurance Exception letter from Firefighter Gembecki
2. June 22, 2020 Minutes
3. June Treasurers Report
4. Ballot votes for New Fire Chief
5. DR 420 for Fiscal Year 2020/2021