

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 17, 2023

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:

Commissioner Robert Hoke
Commissioner Bill Schaible
Commissioner Tom Mere
Chief Ronald Beecroft
Assistant Chief of Training Eric Klos
Office Manager Monique Brooks
Public Education Officer Christi Fulton
Union Representative Joshua Ballard

Commissioner Michael Gatewood
Commissioner Danny Ballard

Assistant Chief John Manson

Admin Specialist Emily Grgurich

Absent: Fire Marshal Rick Jones

Invocation: Commissioner Mere

Pledge: Commissioner Gatewood

Swearing in of Fire Inspector Avrey Brooks – Chief Beecroft administered Oath of Office to Fire Inspector Avrey Brooks

Public Input: None

Minutes:

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept the June 19, 2023 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 5-0. (1)

Treasurer's Report: The June Treasurer's Report was presented. At this time, we are 75% through the budget year, received 101% of revenues (including carryover) and spent 65% of expenditures (less reserves). (2)

Monique announced the September Budget Hearing Dates: Tentative Budget Hearing is on Monday, September 18, 2023 and the Final Budget Hearing will be on Monday, September 25, 2023.

Chief's Report:

By Chief Beecroft –

- Final Ad Valorem values are in, and the District will see a 5.5% decrease in revenue.
- Introduced our new Administrative Specialist Emily Grgurich.
- Issued a Purchase Order for a New Pierce Fire Engine which should arrive in December 2025.
- Still Researching properties for a new station.
- In Next Years Budget, would like to add one additional Firefighter which will even out the shifts and will allow us to run a second Rescue unit out of Station 2.
- General Counsel Attorney – Mr. Dirk Smits is here with us tonight and would like to present his services to the Board.

By Chief Manson –

- Run report attached.
- Chairs have been replaced at Station 1 and Station 2. Commissioner Hoke asked if these were the recliners? Yes
- New outside light fixtures have been installed at Station 1, as well as the street light out front has been repaired.
- The New Rescue units will begin their transformation next month.

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

Public Education: Report attached. Commissioner Hoke asked what Healing Stitches was? Christi explained. There were no other questions or comments.

Training: Report attached. Not a lot of training during the last month because of hydrant maintenance and public education events. There were no questions or comments.

Union: Lieutenant Bramwell was re-instated to his position. Union Negotiations begin this week.

Old Business:

- **Purchase of New Engine** – A Purchase Order was issued to Pierce for a new Fire Engine. The cost came in at \$984,000. Commissioner Hoke asked: (1) what size tank? The same as the others. (2) do we have areas that are lacking in hydrants? Yes

New Business:

- **2023/2024 Millage Rate** – Administration would like to keep the rate at 3.5000. **Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to keep the millage rate at 3.5000 for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. Seconded by Commissioner Schaible. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.**
- **2022/2023 Budget Amendment** – Office Manager Brooks went over the Proposed Budget Amendment. Commissioner Ballard asked if we were short from the Hurricane, from what we received from FEMA and Insurance? Yes, due to the deductibles. **Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to accept the 2022/2023 Budget Amendment, as presented via Resolution 2023-01. Seconded by Commissioner Schaible. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. The vote was 4-1. (3)**
- **Update signers on SBA account forms** – Monique noted that the signors on the SBA accounts needed to be updated, removing Commissioner Nottingham and replacing with Commissioner Schaible. She has the paperwork that needs to be signed and submitted.
- **Consider and take action on hiring legal counsel** – Mr. Dirk Smits presented his services to the Board. Said he would like to be present at every meeting via a remote meeting platform, he will charge an annual retainer plus fees. He provided an overview of his background, expertise and knowledge. **Commissioner Mere made a motion to retain Mr. Dirk Smits as General Counsel for the District. Seconded by Commissioner Ballard. Commissioner Ballard amended the motion to add that we will review the agreement in a year. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.** Commissioner Ballard asked when do you start? Mr. Smits replied today.

Commissioner Items:

Commissioner Ballard –

1. Would like to suggest to the Chief that he put together a Building Site and Selection Committee. Commissioner Gatewood suggested they go and look at other stations to see pros and cons of other stations.
2. Thanked Christi for coming to the Hurricane Seminar at the Civic Association.

Commissioner Mere –

1. Made mention of the “Step and Repeat” backdrop that Christi obtained.
2. Thanked Battalion Chief Westra for his extra efforts.

Public Input: None

Community Goodwill & Thank You:

City of Fort Myers Fire Department
Letter commending Battalion Chief Westra

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. June 19, 2023 Minutes
2. June Treasurer’s Report
3. Resolution 2023-01, 2022/2023 Budget Amendment