

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 15, 2024

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:

Commissioner Michael Gatewood

Commissioner Bill Schaible

Commissioner Mere

Chief Ronald Beecroft

Assistant Chief of Training Eric Klos

Fire Marshal Rick Jones

Public Education Officer Christi Fulton

Office Manager Monique Brooks

Union Representative Josh Ballard

Labor Counsel York Flik, Esq.

Attorney Remotely: Dirk Smits, Esq.

Commissioner Danny Ballard

Commissioner Robert Hoke

Assistant Chief John Manson

Admin Specialist Emily Grgurich

Absent: None

Invocation: Commissioner Mere

Pledge: Commissioner Hoke

Public Input: Band Camp at N. Ft. Myers High School this week – if anyone wants to go by and cool them down

Minutes:

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept the June 17, 2024 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. (1)

Treasurer's Report: The June Treasurer's Report was presented. At this time, we are 75% through the budget year, received 100% of revenues (including carryover) and spent 71% of expenditures (less reserves). There were no questions or comments. (2)

Chief's Report:

By Chief Beecroft–

- Have a contract on Property located at 151 Pondella Road. Have a meeting with the County to discuss any restrictions on the property.
- Emily has been here a year and has far exceeded our expectations and we would like to give her a slight increase in her salary. Commissioner Mere asked if this had to come to the Board for approval? We did it as a courtesy. Commissioner Ballard asked if she was getting an increase now and then again October 1? Yes. Then why not do both at 10/01? Because she is coming off probation and deserves it now. Is the money in the budget? Yes.
- Our Final Ad Valorem numbers for Fiscal Year 2024/202 are published, and we are at 16% in Ad Valorem Revenue.
- Working on next years Budget and Insurance Renewals
- Tentative Budget and Final Hearing Budget dates have been set. They are 09/16/2024 (Tentative) and 09/23/2024 (Final).
- One of the Probationary Firefighters was terminated.
- Therapy Dog (Conan) is in service as of today.
- More Union Negotiations tomorrow

By Asst. Chief Manson-

- Monthly run report attached.
- Parking, sod and fence project at Station 2 (Barrett Road) is complete.
- Finished repairs (stucco and painting) at Trail Dairy.
- Working on items for Budget next year. Commissioner Ballard asked about the Bay garage doors at Station 1? They have been ordered. He feels we need more fans in the bays.

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

Public Education: Report attached. She recently attended the NFPA Conference in Orlando. There were no questions or comments.

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

Union: Negotiations continue this week.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- **2023/2024 Budget Amendment:**

Monique presented the 2023/2024 Budget Amendment. **Commissioner Mere made a motion to accept the 2023/2024 Budget Amendment, as presented via Resolution #2024-02. Seconded by Commissioner Schaible. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. (3)**

- **2024/2025 Millage Rate:**

Commissioner Mere made a motion to set the Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 at 3.5 mills. Seconded by Commissioner Schaible. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. (4)

- **Review of Legal Counsel Contract:**

Commissioner Ballard asked: (1) how much the rate was? The rates are listed at the bottom of page 1. (2) how much is the increase? \$10.00 per hour. (3) we have separate general counsel and labor attorneys? Yes (4) how come the Board does approve an annual contract with the labor attorneys? We have a standing contract with the labor attorneys, as they are on retainer.

Commissioner Hoke made a motion to accept the Contract for Legal Services with Dirk Smits. Seconded by Commissioner Ballard. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. (5)

- **Approval of Purchase Contract for Vacant Land at 151 Pondella Road:**

Commissioner Mere asked how many acres is Trail Dairy? Approximately 2 acres. Commissioner Ballard asked: (1) if we had looked at this property before? Yes, and while we were looking at it, they raised the price. (2) what is the current elevation? 5.5' and it needs to be 11'. (3) Is this location better than the one on Old 41 next to Scottie's canvas? Yes (4) Is DOT going to put a light in? No, because it is too close to existing traffic light and with the new County traffic signal system it should not be an issue. (5) Would Administration be moving to this location? That is not the plan.

Commissioner Gatewood thinks it is in a perfect location to suit our needs.

Commissioner Mere made a motion to accept the Real Estate Purchase Contract for vacant property located at 151 Pondella Road. Seconded by Commissioner Ballard. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. (6)

Commissioner Items: None

Public Input: None

Community Goodwill & Thank You: Letter for Public Education Officer Fulton

Per State Statute, we are closing the public meeting and will go into Executive Session.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. June 17, 2024 Minutes
2. June Treasurer's Report
3. 2023/2024 Budget Amendment
4. 2024/2025 Millage Rate
5. Renewal of Legal Counsel Contract
6. Approval of Purchase Contract for 151 Pondella Road