

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

December 18, 2023

Vice 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 Danny Ballard
Chief Ronald Beecroft
Assistant Chief of Training Eric Klos
Office Manager Monique Brooks
Public Education Officer Christi Fulton
Attorney Remotely: Janette Smith, Esq.

Commissioner Tom Mere
Commissioner Bill Schaible
Assistant Chief John Manson
Fire Marshal Rick Jones
Admin Specialist Emily Grgurich
Union Representative Josh Ballard

Absent: Commissioner Robert Hoke (excused)

Invocation: Commissioner Mere

Pledge: Commissioner Schaible

Public Input: None

Minutes:

Commissioner Mere made a motion to accept the November 27, 2023 minutes, as written. Seconded by Commissioner Schaible. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0. (1)

Treasurer's Report: The November Treasurer's Report was presented. At this time, we are 17% through the budget year, received 57% of revenues (including carryover) and spent 16% of expenditures (less reserves). There were no questions or comments. (2)

Chief's Report:

By Chief Beecroft –

- Thanked the Board for a wonderful Annual Awards Banquet and everyone that attended.
- The Lee County Charter Review Committee is working on language for the referendum
- Legislative Update – There is a current House Bill (7013) presented by one of our Local Representatives (Jenna Persons-Mulicka) which is asking for several things from Special Districts: (1) Requires a Performance Review Audit every year (2) Term limits of 12 years for Board Members (3) Requires a vote every 10 years by the citizens to see if they want to keep the Special District or not (4) Requires Fire Districts to report their training hours to the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training every year. We are closely monitoring this Bill and oppose it. Basically this Bill is imposing unfunded mandates on Special Districts.
- We are learning a new Computer program (Tablet Command) which is being utilized by most Fire Districts in the County, which allows us to command scenes via the program and others can see how the scene is going, their assignments and accountability.
- The Annual Toy Drive was very successful and thanked Christi for her hard work and endless hours of dedication. Over 250 families were assisted with Christmas presents.
- The Two new Firefighters completed their orientation and are on shift now.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

By Asst. Chief Manson-

- Monthly run report attached
- Annual Pump Testing, Mask and FIT test has been completed.
- New Rescue 2 is complete and should be in service in January.

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

Public Education: Report attached. There were no questions or comments.

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

Union: Everything is going well. In January/February, they will begin reviewing the contract in preparation for this years contract being entirely open. Also noted that Firefighters McHugh and French hosted a Casino Night fundraiser and raised over \$7,000 for children with Cancer.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- **Approval of Purchase Contract for 2189 N. Tamiami Trail, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903 –**

Commissioner Ballard asked why the price changed from \$840,000 to \$850,000? That was the counter offer from the seller.

Commissioner Gatewood asked if the median was an issue? No, because most of the calls will be to the South.

Commissioner Mere asked how many calls would be affected by not being able to directly turn North? Not many – the majority of the calls this location would serve would be South of the location.

Commissioner Mere made a motion to accept the Purchase Contract for 2189 N. Tamiami Trail, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33903. Seconded by Commissioner Ballard. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0. (3)

- **Approval to use Impact Fees for Tone Alerts and Service Truck –**

We have received approval from the County Attorney to use Impact Fees for the Soft Tone Alerts at all stations, as well as to purchase a Service Truck.

Commissioner Ballard asked if the Service Truck was new or a replacement? New. This truck will not run calls. Commissioner Ballard feels we need to buy two service trucks to be able to cover the District. Chief Beecroft said he does not feel we need a second truck at this time. Commissioner Gatewood asked if it could wait? Yes, and we would prefer to wait. Commissioner Schaible asked what the turnaround time is for purchasing a new truck, if the need arises? Approximately 4 months. Commissioner Ballard disagrees with only purchasing one, and said if we came back to the Board at a later date and asked for a second Service truck, he would be asking for resignations.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to use Impact Fees to purchase Soft Tone Alert Systems for the three stations, as well as a Service Truck. Seconded by Commissioner Schaible . The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0. (4)

Commissioner Items:

Mere – Is any counseling offered for on scene personnel who recently worked a really bad wreck? Yes. Also, thanked Administration for a wonderful Awards Ceremony.

Ballard – (1) Feels that we need to revisit the Roof Top Assessment. He thinks we need to ask the voters if they would like for us to stop collecting Ad Valorem and assess a roof top fee instead. There was lengthy discussion about the history of the roof top assessment issue.

(2) Asked the Attorney if a merger or consolidation were to occur, what happens to the funds? They would be combined.

Public Input: None

Community Goodwill & Thank You: None

Commissioner Mere 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 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. November 27, 2023 Minutes
2. November Treasurer's Report
3. Purchase Contract for 2189 N. Tamiami Trail
4. Impact Fee Approval Letters from County Attorney