

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 24, 2025

Chairman William Schaible 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 Tom Mere

Chief Ronald Beecroft

Assistant Chief of Training Eric Klos

Public Education Officer Christi Fulton

Office Manager Monique Brooks

Union Representative Josh Ballard

Attorney Remotely: Dirk Smits, Esq.

Commissioner Bill Schaible

Commissioner James Land

Assistant Chief John Manson

Admin Specialist Emily Grgurich

Absent: Commissioner Danny Ballard (excused) Fire Marshal Rick Jones

Invocation: Commissioner Mere

Pledge: Commissioner Land

Public Input: None

Minutes:

Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to approve the January 27, 2025 minutes, as written. Seconded by Commissioner Mere. 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 January Treasurer's Report was presented. At this time, we are 34% through the budget year, received 95% of revenues (including carryover) and spent 37% of expenditures (less reserves). There were no questions or comments. (2)

Chief's Report:

By Chief Beecroft–

- G and myself recently attended a Drone Conference for First Responders and we are ready to enhance our Drone Program.
- Attached a summary of G's projects and he is making beneficial changes to our District. Commissioner Mere was happy to see our expenses were being reduced, but asked about Starlink? G replied that we will only be using Starlink as a back up, which can be activated and de-activated at any time, and we only pay when it is activated.
- Currently working with the County on an Impact Fee Study, so that the Impact Fees we receive can be adjusted to fit our current needs.

The piece of property that is adjacent to the Station (here at Trail Dairy, to the West, with frontage on 41 and Trail Dairy) is currently For Sale by Owner. It is approximately 2.8 acres, and he is asking \$1,200,000.00. This parcel would be perfect for expansion for our District. We would like to see if the Board is interested in negotiating a contract to purchase this property. Commissioner Land noted that Real Estate is prime right now, and inquired if this is the right piece for us? Chief Beecroft replied yes. Commissioner Gatewood noted that we would have the four corners of our District completely covered. **Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to allow Chief Beecroft to try and negotiate a contract for this property and bring a contract back to the Board for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Mere. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0.**

- My Contract expires this year, in July 2025. I would like to extend my contract until December 31, 2025. That will allow me time to work with the next Chief through negotiations, the budget process and end and beginning of the fiscal year items. Commissioner Gatewood is in favor of extending the contract until December 31, 2025, and Commissioner Mere agrees. Attorney Smits will draw up the extension and we will present it at the next meeting for acceptance. Commissioner Land noted that he would like a copy of the current contract. Chief replied that we will get you one. Commissioner Mere stated that he would like to interview the Candidates and will value and accept Chiefs input and recommendation. Chief replied that he will bring the list of Candidates next month.

By Asst. Chief Manson-

- Monthly run report attached.
- PMI's on the trucks are completed. Commissioner Schaible asked how are we on the new Engine? We had a slight glitch in the anticipated February 2026 delivery date, due to the Engine; however, the cost will come in slightly cheaper. Commissioner Mere asked what brand of Engine did we purchase? Pierce. Commissioner Land asked where they were built? Wisconsin, but they have a service center here in Fort Myers.

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

Public Education: Report attached. Reminded everyone that the CERT picnic was this Friday at 11:00 a.m. There were no questions or comments.

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

Union: Everything is quiet for now. Will begin working with Chief on this year's negotiations. Also, added that he just attended a conference regarding Cancer in the Fire Service and will be coming back with some recommendations.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Commissioner Items: None

Public Input: None

Community Goodwill & Thank You:

Heron's Glen Homeowners Association

Emergency Communications Supervisor for Firefighters Archila and Riggio

Commissioner Mere made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to a vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. January 27, 2025 Minutes
2. January Treasurer's Report