

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 17, 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

Commissioner Danny Ballard

Chief Ronald Beecroft

Inspector Lloyd Adams

Office Manager Monique Brooks

Union Representative Josh Ballard

Attorney Remotely: Hunter O'Connor, Esq.

Commissioner Bill Schaible

Commissioner James Land

Assistant Chief of Training Eric Klos

Admin Specialist Emily Grgurich

Absent: Assistant Chief John Manson

Public Education Officer Christi Fulton

Invocation: Commissioner Mere

Pledge: Commissioner Gatewood

Public Input: None

Swearing in of New Firefighter: Firefighter Francois was not in attendance.

Minutes:

Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to approve the February 24, 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 5-0. (1)

Treasurer's Report: The February Treasurer's Report was presented. At this time, we are 42% through the budget year, received 95% of revenues (including

carryover) and spent 44% of expenditures (less reserves). There were no questions or comments. (2)

Chief's Report:

By Chief Beecroft–

- Busy working on the Audit for last Fiscal Year
- Working on data compilation for the Impact Fee Study Revision. Commissioner Land asked how much of a percentage increase could we see? Unsure at this time, however, statutorily it can only increase by 50%
- Hired new Firefighter to fill the third budgeted spot and he begins orientation on April 14, 2025
- The VEBA Board has met, accepted and signed their plan documents.
- Following State Legislation closely
- The RFQ for an Architect for the Pondella Road Property has been noticed and hopefully we can bring something to the Board next month
- Our Firefighter currently out with Cancer has received great news regarding his diagnosis
- Received 4 letters of interest for the Upcoming Chiefs position and would really like to have a decision by May, at the latest. Commissioner Schaible asked if Chief could send via email how much time each candidate has left as well as their education.
- Information Technology report attached.

By Asst. Chief Manson-

- Monthly run report attached.
- Printed report attached.

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

Public Education: Report attached. The CERT picnic was a huge success and a large turnout. There were no questions or comments.

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

Union: Everything is quiet for now. They have a meeting tonight to discuss the New Chief.

Old Business:

- **Approval of Chiefs Contract Extension** - The addendum to extend the Chiefs current contract until December 31, 2025 is included and ready to be signed. **Commissioner Mere made a motion to extend Chief Beecroft's employment contract until December 31, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood.** Commissioner Land asked when do we receive new vacation days? October 1. He then asked if he was taking vacation time off and running his time out and not going to be there? No. **Commissioner Ballard made a motion to amend the motion placing the new Chief selected as Acting Chief in May, and Chief Beecroft can leave before October 1, 2025. There was no second, so motion dies. The original motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. The vote was 3-2. Ballard and Land were Nay. (3)**

New Business:

- **Approval of Contract to Purchase Properties located at 2750/2800 Trail Dairy Circle for Expansion –**
Commissioner Mere made a motion to accept the two contracts to purchase the properties located at 2750/2800 Trail Dairy Circle. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. Commissioner Ballard asked is it the intent to build an administration building, Training or a new station there? We are unsure at this time, but will be looking at all options. Commissioner Land suggested we check with the FAA and make sure we can place a training tower there, due to the proximity of the Air park. He also added that there is a large parcel on Littleton Road, and he would be willing to go to the developer and see what kind of deal they would be willing to work out with us. **The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. (4)**
Monique read Resolution 2025-001 aloud, and all voted yes. (5)
Commissioner Mere questioned the address stating Trail Dairy Circle, and Chief Beecroft explained that their access was on Trail Dairy Circle, so they have Trail Dairy addresses.
Commissioner Ballard asked if there was a third piece? No
Commissioner Ballard asked if the billboard issue on the Pondella Road piece of property has been corrected? No – we need to get renderings from an Architect on the station and decide the best place for all things to be placed. Attorney O'Connor entered the conversation and shared his computer screen and showed some photographs of the property, and also said that talks are on-going with the seller of the property, the real estate

agent and Lamar regarding the re-location of the sign. He also explained that Title Insurance does not cover these types of situations. Commissioner Gatewood asked how much revenue is received from the lease of the property for the sign? Very little. Commissioner Land asked if the contract can be re-negotiated? Attorney O'Connor stated that we are trying to avoid litigation and hopes that we can come up with a location on the property to move the sign. **Commissioner Ballard made a motion to allow the Chief and the Attorneys 30 days to resolve the sign issue. There was no second, so motion fails.**

Commissioner Items:

Ballard – noted that the Supervisory responsibilities in the Fire Chief Job Description needs to be updated.

Public Input: None

Monique asked for clear direction on the next step in the selection process for the new Fire Chief. **Commissioner Ballard made a motion for all applicants to have resumes, education, time remaining and whatever else they feel is pertinent turned in by April 7, with interviews to follow. Seconded by Commissioner Land. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.** Commissioner Schaible asked if they had to interview everyone, even if they did not have sufficient time left with the District? The Board tentatively agreed that they had to interview all applicants, however, they would like us to call the Attorney and ask him.

Community Goodwill & Thank You: None

Commissioner Gatewood 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 6:06 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. February 24, 2025 Minutes
2. February Treasurer's Report
3. Chiefs Employment Agreement
4. Real Estate Contract for 2750 & 2800 Trail Dairy Circle
5. Resolution 2025-001