

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 19, 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 Bill Schaible

Commissioner Tom Mere

Commissioner James Land

Commissioner Danny Ballard

Chief Ronald Beecroft

Assistant Chief of Training Eric Klos

Fire Marshal Rick Jones

Public Education Officer Christi Fulton

Office Manager Monique Brooks

Admin Specialist Emily Grgurich

Union Representative Josh Ballard

Attorneys Remotely: Dirk Smits, Esq.

Absent: Assistant Chief John Manson

Invocation: Commissioner Mere

Pledge: Commissioner Gatewood

Public Input: None

Minutes:

Commissioner Mere made a motion to approve the April 21, 2025 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 April Treasurer's Report was presented. At this time, we are 59% through the budget year, received 99% of revenues (including carryover) and spent 55% of expenditures (less reserves). There were no questions or comments. (2)

Chief's Report:

By Chief Beecroft—

- Assistant Chief John Manson and Inspector Lloyd Adams both had a death in their family.
- We have been preparing for the ISO audit, and the inspection will take place on June 3rd.
- Due diligence period on the Trail Dairy properties has been extended due to the attorney researching the oil and gas mineral rights, and closing will be on June 5th.

Commissioner Mere asked what about the oil and gas mineral rights are in question? Chief Beecroft replied that the question is who owns the rights. Commissioner Mere asked are the rights not transferred with the property? Attorney Dirk Smits replied that the mineral rights have existed for a long time, but the title company listed them. We have since had the title company to remove them. The title company will receive an affidavit from the owner.

- We are working on updating the Employee Manual and SOG's.
- Battalion Chief Dunn and I have met with Chris Lee, the architect, and we are working on a draft contract.
- Last month you asked for the cost of my personal days after October 1 through December 31st. Every year I get 33 days and the cost of that is \$22,994.00 in the event I didn't use any, which I usually take a couple of weeks of vacation in November.

Commissioner Ballard asked Chief Beecroft is that the total for the 33 days or just from the 1st of October to the end of December? Chief Beecroft replied that is for the 1st of October through the end of December. You get your vacation days at the beginning of October. Commissioner Ballard asked so you get your vacation days all at one time? Chief Beecroft replied yes. Commissioner Ballard asked even though you are leaving and not taking the whole year, do you get all those days paid for. Chief Beecroft replied yes. Commissioner Ballard asked Chief Beecroft why did you ask for an extension on your contract? Chief Beecroft replied I asked for an extension to train Battalion Chief Duun for the Chiefs position. Commissioner Gatewood asked Chief Beecroft, aren't there somethings that you need to cover with the new chief that will not be addressed until you get into

October, November, and December? Yes. Commissioner Ballard stated that if there are other items he would like those outlined. Chief Beecroft replied he will present that to the board next month.

- Monthly run report attached.
- Special ops team, water ops team, and the IT report attached.
- Therapy dog report was a handout.

Commissioner Ballard asked why do we need to purchase a new Battalion Chief vehicle? Chief Beecroft replied that the vehicle has been wrecked and is due to be replaced.

Prevention: Report attached. Commissioner Gatewood asked if any updates have been provided on the Wawa on Bayshore Rd? Fire Marshal Rick Jones replied that no updates have been received, but he will check in on that project. There were no more questions or comments.

Public Education: Report attached. Sewing group is saving the District money by making our stuffed animals that we keep on the trucks to hand out to children. We are the first Fire Department in Lee County to partner with Lee County Animal Services to be able to scan microchipped pets to return them to the owner. We have already put the training to use, and we were able to reunite the animal with its owner successfully. There were no questions or comments.

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

Union: We filed a grievance today over annual physicals.

Old Business: Discussion of New Fire Chief Transition Plan

Chief Beecroft stated that the original plan was to bring Battalion Chief Dunn over full time in October, and he feels that is the most cost effective.

New Business: None

Commissioner Ballard requested to hear from the employees who provided the attached reports. Battalion Chief Westra reviewed the Water Rescue report.

Union Rep. Josh Ballard reviewed the Special Ops report. IT Directory G reviewed the IT report.

Discussion ensued regarding how the teams are toned out.

Commissioner Mere asked if there are incentives for employees for the special ops and water rescue team members after they are certified? Yes, 0.60 cents an hr.

Commissioner Mere asked if that cost is built in the budget? Yes. Commissioner Mere also asked why was the cost of the trailer so expensive? Union Rep Ballard responded because it is a heavy duty and enclosed trailer. Commissioner Mere

also asked why such an expensive light package? Union Rep Ballard said he was not fully sure, but they did hope to use some of the lighting on the trailer for scene lighting.

Commissioner Items:

Commissioner Mere asked if an employee resigns after the new fiscal year, do they get paid for the vacation days they just received? Yes, after the employee has completed the probation period they are entitled to their vacation days.

Commissioner Land asked Chief Beecroft if he had time to respond to the email inquiring about potential land purchase on the corner of Littleton/41. No, a building design is requested, and we do not have one currently. Chief Beecroft and Commissioner Land will work on that together.

Public Input: Debra Ballard stated the District should work on purchasing the property at the corner of Littleton/41. Debra Ballard also stated that we should involve the media more in the dive team and the therapy dog program.

Commissioner Schaible replied that Christi has been busy on the news lately.

Christi replied once the dive time and special ops teams are completed and running calls we will reach out to the media. Commissioner Land asked if other dive teams have boats? Yes. Commissioner Land replied that it is something we need to start researching.

Community Goodwill & Thank You:

Email about B-Shift on 05/03/2025

Email about C-Shift on 04/18/2025

Donation from American Legion

Thank you from Diana Hertel

Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Land. 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. April 21, 2025 Minutes
2. April Treasurer's Report