

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE  
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 19, 2022

Chairman Robert Hoke called the North Fort Myers Fire Control and Rescue Service District Board of Commissioners to order at 5:11 p.m.

**Roll Call**

**Present:**

Commissioner Robert Hoke	Commissioner Danny Ballard
Commissioner Michael Gatewood	Commissioner Tom Mere
Chief Ronald Beecroft	Assistant Chief John Manson
Assistant Chief of Training Eric Klos	Fire Marshal Rick Jones
Public Education Officer Christi Kulwicki	
Office Manager Monique Brooks	
Union Representative Jarrett Slaybaugh	
Administrative Specialist Avrey Brooks	

**Absent:** None

**Invocation:** Commissioner Mere

**Pledge:** Commissioner Gatewood

**Public Input:** None

**Minutes:**

Commissioner Mere – In last meeting’s minutes I was marked absent. I was sick and my wife called in to the office.

**Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to accept the August 15th, 2022 minutes, as written. Seconded by Commissioner Ballard. 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 August Treasurer's Report was presented. At this time, we are 92% through the budget year, received 100% of revenues (including carryover) and spent 72% of expenditures (less reserves). There were no questions.  
(2)

Last year the board approved the use of ACH transactions for vendors. We have started utilizing this and you will now have three reports ACH, Payroll, and Accounts Payable.

### **Chief's Report:**

By Chief Beecroft –

- Commissioner Nottingham's memorial service.
- Union negotiations.
- Extensive work on the goals and objectives needed for the performance audit.
- Budget preparations.
- Working on getting appraisals for the Station 3 project.
- Received the First Responder Payments from the State of Florida today. Commissioner Hoke asked how much the payments came out to be? They were \$1,338, the payment was for \$1,000 with the additional money to cover the taxes.
- Five Year Plan.

By Chief Manson –

- Finishing projects for current fiscal year and working on budget requests for 2022/2023. Commissioner Hoke asked when the new fans for the bay will come in? After October 1<sup>st</sup> we will begin working on that.

**Prevention:** Report attached. Commissioner Hoke asked how the new inspector was working out? He is still learning. There were no other questions or comments.

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

**Training:** Report attached. Wanted to thank Commissioner Gatewood for his contact on buses to train with. Commissioner Hoke asked if the EMT refreshers were done online? Yes, through Vector Solutions. There were no other questions or comments.

**Union:** Article 39 was added to the Union Contract. The contract was voted on and was a 29 to 4 vote and has been signed by administration.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- **Nottingham Family Presentation – Postponed until next month**
- **Approval of Agreement with BJM CPA, Inc. for Performance Audit**

Commissioner Mere – I believe this contract is written poorly. With my experience in insurance, I think the insurance in this contract is poor. Monique stated that they did provide a certificate of insurance and unfortunately there are limited companies in the state who are approved to do these audits.

Commissioner Mere – I want to send a letter to the State showing our displeasure.

**Commissioner Mere made a motion to send a letter to the state stating our disagreement and displeasure with the performance audit requirement. Seconded by Commissioner Hoke. The motion was put to a vote, and approved by the Board. The vote was 4-0.**

Commissioner Ballard – We don't have a choice in the matter, we have to do it.

Commissioner Mere – In our position we represent the people, and can't allow for the government to takeover. I am representing the people.

Commissioner Hoke – I am okay with sending a letter.

Office Manager Brooks – Do you want me to prepare this and bring it back to the next meeting to approve? Yes.

Commissioner Ballard – Under the compensation section, it states the cost as \$55,000 and any adjustments will be between the company and the Chief. I think any adjustments over the \$55,000 should be brought back to the board. Chief Beecroft replied he will.

Commissioner Ballard – Is this fee in the budget? Yes.

**Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept the agreement with the stipulation if the cost exceeds \$55,000, it will be brought back to the board. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to a vote, and approved by the Board. The vote was 3-1. (3)**

- **Five Year Plan**

Commissioner Mere – You all did a very fine job.

Commissioner Ballard – The copy we received is still in draft format, does it need to be finalized? No, we didn't want to give it out without the draft designation until it was approved.

**Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to accept the Five Year Plan as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mere. The motion was put to a vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0. (4)**

- **2022/2023 Union Contract Ratification**

Chief Beecroft stated The Union and Administration came to an agreement on the contract, which results in an 11% raise for all personnel and the establishment of a VEBA.

Commissioner Ballard – I thought there was 50% dependent coverage? Chief Beecroft replied that is not a negotiable item as it is not in the Union contract however the District will contribute 50% towards dependent health insurance premiums this fiscal year.

Commissioner Mere – What is the cost to the District of the dependent coverage? We do not have that exact number in front of us however it was included in the budget.

**Commissioner Ballard made a motion to approve the 2022/2023 Union Contract. Seconded by Commissioner Mere. The motion was put to a vote, and approved by the Board. The vote was 3-1. (5)**

**Commissioner Items:** None

**Public Input:** None

**Community Goodwill & Thank You:** None

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

**Meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.**

Supportive Documents:

1. August 15, 2022 Minutes
2. August 2022 Treasurer's Report
3. Agreement with BJM CPA, Inc
4. Five Year Plan
5. 2022/2023 Union Contract