

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE  
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 15, 2023

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

**Absent:** None

**Invocation:** Commissioner Mere

**Pledge:** Commissioner Gatewood

**Public Input:** None

**Minutes:**

**Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to accept the April 17, 2023 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 April Treasurer's Report was presented. At this time, we are 59% through the budget year, received 98% of revenues (including carryover) and spent 53% of expenditures (less reserves). (2)

## **Chief's Report:**

By Chief Beecroft –

- Welcome back Commissioner Ballard.
- Want to congratulate Cody Smallwood on his promotion to Engineer. Commissioner Hoke asked how many firefighters tested? 14.
- Congratulated Fire Marshal Jones on his recognition award from the Lee County Fire Marshals Association for his effort towards the annual golf tournament. Also, for his awarded scholarship that he applied for to attend the NFPA conference.
- Recognize Inspector Adams and Brooks for completing the Post Blast Investigations course at the Fire College.
- Recognize Public Education Officer Kulwicki for attending the Public Information Officer conference.
- Our FEMA claim is under review.
- Researching properties for a new station.
- Annual physicals for employees have been completed.
- Beginning to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season.

By Chief Manson –

- Run report attached.
- Completed Station 1 drainfield installation.
- New A/C system in Prevention office.
- Soft tones are being installed in Station 2 by Motorola.
- The new shed for Station 3 has arrived.
- Rescue trucks have received PMI.
- New Rescue trucks have arrived without bed and SKID unit.
- Moving along with Engine project, went to see units at the City and Pierce. Meeting with Sutphen next.

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

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

**Training:** Report attached. Spent time training for the Engineers Exam. Also, held an in-house Pump Ops class with Bayshore Fire Chief Underwood for new hires. Commissioner Ballard asked who the class was certified through? The class is certified by the District through the State. All new hires are required to have Hydraulics and Pump Ops in their first year.

Commissioner Gatewood asked if there was an update on obtaining buses for training? Yes, it will be kept at Bayshore Fire District and the cost will be split with them. There were no other questions or comments.

**Union:** We have received a ruling from one grievance who has received their job back. Waiting to hear back on the second grievance. Negotiations will be starting soon.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

- **2021/2022 Audit Presentation by Tuscan & Company**

The 2021/2022 Audit and supplemental graphs were presented by Jeff Tuscan.

**Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept the 2021/2022 Audit as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to a vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. (3)**

**Commissioner Items:**

Commissioner Ballard –

1. Chief Beecroft terminated two employees. Before he did, I asked if there was any other recourse and he said no. We let it go to arbitration and the employee has been reinstated. I would like to know how much money was spent on Overtime, Alternate pay for personnel acting up, Back pay, Attorney fees, Auditor? The reason I would like these numbers is because we fired Chief Rice for high attorney's fees. I would like to make a motion to go to recess so Office Manager Brooks can provide these numbers tonight. Office Manager Brooks stated that she would need more time than tonight to get these numbers due to the complexity of the calculations because there are so many different agencies involved (State, FRS, Unemployment, etc.) as well as calculating overtime and alternate pay. These calculations are going to be tedious, time-consuming and require manual calculations. Commissioner Ballard asked if she could have these numbers by the June meeting? She replied, no.

Commissioner Hoke- I agreed with Chief Beecroft's actions and decisions.

Commissioner Mere – I agree as well, whatever the cost, the employee put the public in harm's way. The Chief runs the department, and we support him. I disagree with the arbitration ruling. What is wrong is wrong. If you want to be mad at someone, be mad at the arbitrator.

Commissioner Gatewood – It was a violation of policy and procedures, and it is the Chiefs job to implement them. I do not agree with the arbitration ruling. Our lawyer advised us to move forward and that is why we pay them. There should have been consequences. The Chief checked with all 5 of the commissioners. Why would we pay for an attorney if we aren't going to follow their direction?

Commissioner Schaible – I was not here when the event happened, but support the Chief and his actions.

Chief Beecroft stated “for the record I never said there would be no recourse or they would not fight it.”

Chief Beecroft asked the board if they wanted to put Monique through all of the work that Commissioner Ballard is asking her to do? All of the other members replied no. Commissioner Ballard said okay this is a dead issue.

2. There are a lot of multi-story structures being proposed in North Fort Myers. We need to get a Ladder Truck or Aerial Device ordered. How long will it take to get one? After lengthy discussion, Chief Manson said he will look into timeline, prices, and payment options.

Commissioner Mere – If Chief thinks we need a ladder truck he will tell us and then we will talk money.

**Public Input:** None.

### **Community Goodwill & Thank You:**

Bonita Springs Fire District

Littleton Elementary School

**Commissioner Ballard 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 5-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.**

Supportive Documents:

1. April 17, 2023, Minutes
2. April Treasurer's Report
3. 2021/2022 Audit