

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE  
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 21, 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	Assistant Chief John Manson
Assistant Chief of Training Eric Klos	Fire Marshal Rick Jones
Office Manager Monique Brooks	Admin Specialist Emily Grgurich
Public Education Officer Christi Fulton	
Union Representative Joshua Ballard	
Attorneys Remotely: Dirk Smits and Janette Smith	

**Absent:** Commissioner Tom Mere

**Invocation:** Commissioner Ballard

**Pledge:** Commissioner Gatewood

**CERT Coordinator Recognition** – Chief Beecroft presented CERT Coordinator Beth Helmick with an appreciation gift and words of thanks from the District.

**Public Input:** None

**Minutes:**

**Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to accept the July 17, 2023 minutes, as written. Seconded by Commissioner Schaible. 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 July Treasurer's Report was presented. At this time, we are 84% through the budget year, received 100% of revenues (including carryover) and spent 75% of expenditures (less reserves). (2)

Monique reminded everyone of the September Budget Hearing Dates: Tentative Budget Hearing is on Monday, September 18, 2023 and the Final Budget Hearing will be on Monday, September 25, 2023.

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

By Chief Beecroft –

- Finished Union Negotiations today.
- Established a Real Estate Selection Committee.
- Working on the Budget for the Upcoming Fiscal year 2023/2024.
- Governor DeSantis has authorized another First Responder Payment in the amount of \$1,000.
- FDLE recently announced a grant which we are eligible for and we would receive the amount of money we spent on the original Drone, and we are required to turn it in to FDLE.
- Received the \$5,000 Matching Incentive from our Workers Comp insurance carrier, PGIT.
- Our FEMA claim has been paid in full.
- New Cyber Security laws were passed recently by the Legislature which has several elements to it: required annual training, an Annual Audit of our network, enhanced upgrades to the security of our network and the prohibition of some “apps” and websites that are not allowed by Agency issued devices.
- The District is celebrating 75 years, and we are going to hold an Anniversary Luncheon with the Retirees, current Personnel and Commissioners on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>.

By Chief Manson –

- Run report attached.
- Annual Hydrant Maintenance is complete. We have a total of 1,699 hydrants in our District. 1,557 of those are public and 142 are private. Commissioner Ballard asked: (1) do we only service the public ones? Yes (2) how do we know if the private systems are functional? They are required to be serviced annually by a contractor and must have a “tag” on them to show their service date.

- New Rescues are currently being worked on to be put in service. Commissioner Hoke asked which truck is sitting in the parking lot? That is our Old Rescue 3 which is waiting to have the bed put on it.

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

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

**Training:** Report attached. Also forgot to note in his report that we attended Trench Training with Cape Coral Fire. Commissioner Ballard asked if we got to do any training at the old Hancock Square? Yes. There were no other questions or comments.

**Union:** Completed Union Negotiations and now the changes will be sent to the union members to be voted on.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- **Engine Fund Placement** – Chief Beecroft compared Treasury note rates among Approved Financial Institutions, and found that First Horizon has the best rate at over 5%, and would like to take the \$1,000,000 set aside for the new Engine that was just ordered and put it in a Treasury Note with First Horizon Bank. **Commissioner Schaible made a motion to place \$1,000,000.00 in a Treasury Note with First Horizon Bank, to be used for payment of the New Engine when it arrives. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0.** Commissioners Schaible, Hoke and Gatewood will be signors on the note. Commissioner Hoke asked how many years is the term of the CD for? One year
- **Discussion and Possible Action on New Fire Stations-** Chief Beecroft has put together a Selection Committee for Properties for a new Fire Station, but we can not enter into a contract nor negotiate without coming to the Board with every change and decision which is costly in time and possibly would cause us to lose out on a piece of land. We would like the Board to grant permission for Chief Beecroft to negotiate and have the ability to bring an accepted offer for land acquisition to the Board for final approval, subject to legal review. **Commissioner Ballard made a motion to authorize Chief Beecroft to negotiate and bring an accepted offer for land acquisition to the Board for final approval, subject to legal review. Seconded by**

**Commissioner Gatewood.** Commissioner Ballard asked: (1) can we lose a property? Attorney Smits replied - No, not if bound by contract. (2) Can we have a special meeting by e-mail to discuss the land? Attorney Smits replied no, but we can have a special meeting if needed. (3) Is the money in reserves? Yes. **The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. The vote was 4-0.**

**Commissioner Items: None**

**Public Input:** Debby Ballard thanked the Firefighters for the spray down of the NFMHS Band.

**Community Goodwill & Thank You: None**

**Commissioner Gatewood 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. July 17, 2023 Minutes
2. July Treasurer's Report