

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE  
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 26, 2024

Chairman Michael Gatewood 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 Danny Ballard  
Commissioner Robert Hoke  
Chief Ronald Beecroft  
Assistant Chief of Training Eric Klos  
Office Manager Monique Brooks  
Public Education Officer Christi Fulton  
Attorney Remotely: Dirk Smits, Esq.

Commissioner Tom Mere  
Commissioner Bill Schaible  
  
Assistant Chief John Manson  
Fire Marshal Rick Jones  
Admin Specialist Emily Grgurich  
Union Representative Josh Ballard

**Absent:** Public Education Officer Christi Fulton

**Invocation:** Commissioner Mere

**Pledge:** Commissioner Schaible

**Public Input:** Debby Ballard thanked the department for allowing the Honor Guard to attend the Funeral Service for Trammell.

**Minutes:**

**Commissioner Hoke made a motion to accept the January 22, 2024 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 5-0. (1)**

**Treasurer's Report:** The January Treasurer's Report was presented. At this time, we are 34% through the budget year, received 94% of revenues (including carryover) and spent 35% of expenditures (less reserves). Monique noted that we are fully using our new Bank Accounts, we have upgraded our Quickbooks Accounting Software and we are beginning our annual Financial Audit. There were no questions or comments. (2)

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

By Chief Beecroft–

- Trammell passed away
- Cancelled the property contract for the piece on N. Tamiami Trail due to encroachment issue being unresolved. Commissioner Ballard would like the Real Estate Selection Committee to go look at a piece of vacant property at N. Evalena and Bayshore.
- We are currently working on updating our Policies and Procedures Employee Manual, as this has not been updated since 2009, which will result in attorney invoices.
- We are currently working on three different programs that we would like to move forward with: (1) Emotional Support/Therapy Dog Program. Firefighter French brought the program to Administration after seeing the benefit after Hurricane Ian, and also doing research into Mental Health. Mental Health is a major concern in the Fire Service. Firefighter French would like to be responsible for the Program. Commissioner Mere asked who would benefit from the program? All employees and even the Community and Citizens. He also asked if we had a Chaplain? We do, but we have no interaction with him. Commissioner Ballard made a motion that we get a new Chaplain. After some discussion, he withdrew the motion. **Commissioner Ballard made a motion that we allow administration to move forward with the Emotional Support/Therapy Dog Program. Seconded by Commissioner Hoke. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.** (2) Special Operations Team. Lt. Cabral and Engineer Ballard would like to be in charge of the Special Operations Team. It is compatible with USAR. Engineer Ballard stated that he would like to get all the required classes completed first, before we begin to talk about finances and purchasing equipment.

(3) Rapid Response Dive Team – Battalion Chief Westra identified the need for a rapid response dive team after we have had several drowning incidents in the last several months. The goal of the rapid response team would be to get in the water as soon as possible. We would also work alongside Cape Coral Fire and Iona McGregor Fire, in regards to response and training. **Commissioner Ballard made a motion to move money to cover the necessary expenses to get the Rapid Response Dive Team trained, started and necessary equipment purchased. Seconded by Commissioner Mere. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.**

- The Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Cape Coral is in effect and so far is working great.
- The Required Ethics Training is now available on-line and needs to be completed by the end of the year. Suggested each Commissioner get with the office staff to get registered.

By Asst. Chief Manson-

- Monthly run report attached
- New Key Secure boxes have been installed
- Hydrant Maintenance is ready to begin
- The New Secondary Rescue is in service and has run 51 calls so far. Commissioner Ballard asked how many personnel at Station 2? If we are fully staffed, there are 7 people. If we are at minimum manning, then there are 5 personnel there and we shut down Rescue 4.

**Prevention:** Report attached. Commissioner Ballard noted that 12 new fire hydrants have been placed on Littleton Road. There were no other questions or comments.

**Public Education:** Report attached. Monique announced the CERT picnic was going to be held on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> here at Station 1. There were no questions or comments.

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

**Union:** Everything is going well. The Union held their first meeting in preparation for Union Negotiations. Softball Tournament has been re-scheduled to this weekend.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Commissioner Items:** None

**Public Input:** None

**Community Goodwill & Thank You:** None

**Commissioner Ballard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Schaible. The motion was put to a vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.**

Supportive Documents:

1. January 22, 2024 Minutes
2. January Treasurer's Report