

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE  
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 18, 2023

Chairman Robert Hoke called the North Fort Myers Fire Control and Rescue Service District Board of Commissioners to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Roll Call**

**Present:**

Commissioner Robert Hoke  
Commissioner Danny Ballard  
Chief Ronald Beecroft  
Fire Marshal Rick Jones

Office Manager Monique Brooks  
Public Education Officer Christi Fulton  
Union Representative Joshua Ballard  
Attorney Remotely: Dirk Smits

Commissioner Michael Gatewood  
Commissioner Tom Mere  
Assistant Chief of Training Eric Klos

Admin Specialist Emily Grgurich

**Absent:** Commissioner Bill Schaible

Assistant Chief John Manson

**Invocation:** Commissioner Mere

**Pledge:** Commissioner Gatewood

**Public Input:** None

**Motion to approve Amended Agenda for Cause – Commissioner Mere made a motion to approve amended agenda for cause on September 18, 2023.**

**Seconded by Commissioner Hoke. The motion was put to vote and approved unanimously. The vote was 4-0.**

Chairman Hoke moved the For Cause item – Approval of Purchase Contract for 1526 N. Tamiami Trail, N. Ft. Myers, FL to be discussed now.

Commissioner Gatewood asked what the plans were for a traffic control device? We would have one installed. Do we have an idea of what that would cost? No.

Commissioner Mere noted there is talk of a barrier going down N. Tamiami Trail which would prohibit traffic from crossing N. Tamiami Trail. Realtor Erin Harrell noted that would be a part of the due diligence that would occur. Commissioner Mere asked if the contract was approved and something were to come up during the due diligence could we get out of the contract? Yes. Commissioner Hoke noted that there is a Lee Tran bus stop there, would that be a problem? Erin noted that there are currently no easements on the property.

**Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to allow Chief Beecroft to move forward with the contract to purchase the property at 1526 N. Tamiami Trail, N. Ft. Myers, FL. Seconded by Commissioner Mere. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0. (1)**

Commissioner Ballard asked the Attorney if all the Commissioners names should be on the contract and they should all sign it? No, they are giving the Chief and the Chairman the authority to sign on the Boards behalf.

#### **Minutes:**

**Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to accept the August 21, 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 4-0. (2)**

**Treasurer's Report:** The August Treasurer's Report was presented. At this time, we are 92% through the budget year, received 101% of revenues (including carryover) and spent 82% of expenditures (less reserves). (3)

Monique added that the Disaster Petty Cash Line item has been established. Also, the Treasury Note in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 has been opened. This money is to be used to pay for the New Engine that has been ordered. Commissioner Mere asked if we could open similar accounts for other monies in reserves because of the higher interest rates. Monique stated she would want to talk to Jeff Tuscan in regards to this.

## **Chief's Report:**

By Chief Beecroft –

- Working on the Budget for the Upcoming Fiscal year 2023/2024.
- Insurance Renewals – we have switched our Health Insurance from United Healthcare to Blue Cross Blue Shield.
- Stimulus payment for First Responders from Governor DeSantis was approved and has been received and Chief Beecroft will be handing those out. Commissioner Ballard noted that he approved something today for new hires.
- Applied to the State of Florida for reimbursement for the monies lost in Ad Valorem Revenue this past year due to Hurricane Ian.
- Property Appraiser Caldwell has changed the calculation of Ad Valorem Proceeds and the distribution methods for Fire Districts. He did not tell the Fire Districts he actually did it, and it has already occurred. The Lee County Fire Chiefs Association is working on it.
- Retired Captain C.W. Shaddock from Tice Fire Department passed away unexpectedly.
- This Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> will be our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon here at the station.
- City of Cape Coral has contacted us regarding an automatic aid agreement which has been forwarded to the Attorney. This is the same agreement they entered into with Pine Island Fire.
- Run report attached.
- Fuel tanks installed at all stations. Commissioner Gatewood asked what plans were for fuel after hurricane season? Fuel rescues with it to keep it rotated.
- Bay Fans have arrived for Barrett Road and are ready to be installed.
- New Rescue truck has been placed in service – Rescue 3.
- New Brush truck had an aluminum flatbed installed and skid tank. We will finish building it out next fiscal year.

**Prevention:** Report attached. Provided update on Paradise Isle – it is at a stand still with no further movement anticipated. Commissioner Mere asked status of Merchants Crossing? Still moving forward. There were no other questions or comments.

**Public Education:** Report attached. Recently sent two Firefighters to CERT Train the Trainer so we will have two new Instructors. Commissioner Hoke asked if they received incentive pay for CERT? No, but they do receive Instructor incentive and Comp time if they teach on a day they are not on duty. There were no other questions or comments.

**Training:** Report attached. Four Personnel did attend a Vehicle Machinery Class which will go towards their Special Operations Classes. There were no questions or comments.

**Union:** Union voted on the contract and the vote was unanimous in favor of the contract.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

- **2023/2024 Union Contract Ratification –**

**Commissioner Mere made a motion to ratify the 2023/2024 Union Contract. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0. (4)**

Chief Beecroft asked the Board for administration to receive the same raise that the Union Contract provided to suppression, a 4.5% raise. **Commissioner Mere made a motion to approve a 4.5% raise for Administration. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. Amended by Commissioner Ballard that Chief put that in writing to the Board before next weeks Final Budget Hearing. The motion was put to a vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 4-0.**

**Commissioner Items:**

Ballard – Now that we are building a new station, suggested we order an Aerial Device now and that be considered in the design of the new station. Also, suggested we go look at the City of Fort Myers most recent station design.

**Public Input:** Debby Ballard hopes that we took into account that Powell Creek is in the back yard of the new station property we are looking at and that it floods.

**Community Goodwill & Thank You:** From Battalion Chief Westra with copies of the letter to be placed in all the personnel's files.

**Commissioner Gatewood made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 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.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.**

Supportive Documents:

1. Real Estate Contract
2. August 21, 2023 Minutes
3. August Treasurer's Report
4. 2023/2024 Union Contract