

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 20, 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: Janette Smith, Esq.

Commissioner Tom Mere
Commissioner Bill Schaible

Assistant Chief John Manson
Fire Marshal Rick Jones
Admin Specialist Emily Grgurich
Union Representative Josh Ballard
Jeff Tuscan, Auditor

Absent: None

Invocation: Commissioner Mere

Pledge: Commissioner Schaible

Swearing in of New Firefighter: Chief Beecroft performed the swearing in of Firefighter Vilardi

Public Input: None

Minutes:

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept the April 15, 2024 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 99% of revenues (including carryover) and spent 57% of expenditures (less reserves). Commissioner Ballard several questions about individual line items and how and why were the variances in some so high? Monique answered his questions. Monique also mentioned that the Annual Financial Disclosure forms required by the Commission of Ethics, are due by July 1st and must be completed on line this year. Commissioner Mere asked how many seats were up for re-election this year? Two. Commissioner Hoke announced that he will not be running for re-election, and said that Mark McMugh will be running for his seat for election. There were no other questions or comments. (2)

Chief's Report:

By Chief Beecroft–

- Discussed the property located at 150 Pondella Road and explained the things that were being done during the Due Diligence period. Commissioner Ballard asked if the location is in a flood zone? Yes. What has to be done to bring it up to code? Waterproofing via flood panels. He also asked what about the apparatus bay? It will have to be built up about 3 feet.
- Thanked Christi for her idea of the Flag Retirement box and for the unveiling ceremony that she put together.
- Union Negotiations begin this week
- Retired Battalion Chief from Lehigh Fire passed away recently. Before going to Lehigh, he used to work at North Fort Myers Fire.
- The Special Operations and Water Rescue Operations teams are now certified and ready to get organized and become operational.
- The Emotional Support Therapy Dog will be ready to be picked up within the next couple weeks.
- Annual Physicals are finishing this week.
- Reminded everyone about the requirement for Ethics Training.

By Asst. Chief Manson-

- Monthly run report attached.
- The rear parking area at Station 2 (Barrett Road) has been expanded, along with millings placed on the side access road. We are waiting on the fence to be installed.
- PMI's on Engines is underway.
- Brush fire season is upon us.
- Hydrant Maintenance is complete.

Commissioner Ballard asked about the recent tragic water rescue call in another district, and that we did not respond because we had no way to fill our breathing tanks. He suggested that we order 6 more tanks as back ups. Commissioner Mere stated that the Chief was in charge of daily operations. Commissioner Ballard asked if we had to notify the county and tell them we have a team, so they will activate us? Yes, we will do that once the teams are ready to respond.

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

Public Education: Report attached. Two of the biggest events that occurred during the last month were a Car Seat Event at Island Vista Community and the Retirement Flag Box Unveiling ceremony. There were no questions or comments.

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

Union: Negotiations begin this week.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- **150 Pondella Road** – Chief has signed a contract for the purchase of 150 Pondella Road, North Fort Myers, FL. We are currently in the due diligence period. **Commissioner Mere made a motion to approve the contract, subject to due diligence, as written. Seconded by Commissioner Schaible.** Commissioner Ballard had some questions and stated he had not seen the contract. Monique stated that she just realized the contract did not get included in their packets and that she could get it immediately and they could look over it. **Motion was withdrawn by both Commissioner Mere and Schaible till they could review the contract. The item was tabled till after the Audit Presentation.**

- **2022/2023 Audit Presentation** – 2022/2023 Audit was presented by Jeff Tuscan, of Tuscan & Company. He recommended that we specifically assign and detail the fund balances. It locks in the money and designates which projects and can be unlocked and transferred by the Board in a Board meeting at any time.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept the 2022/2023 Audit as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Mere. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. (3)

- At 6:22 p.m. the Board received the contract and took a few minutes to review it. The agenda item of **150 Pondella Road** was brought back to the table. Commissioner Ballard asked how long the due diligence period was? 45 days. **Commissioner Ballard made a motion to approve the contract and purchase of 150 Pondella Road, North Fort Myers, FL, as long as the due diligence has no problems. Seconded by Commissioner Mere. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. A Roll call vote was done and the vote was 5-0. (4 & 5)**

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner Ballard	Yes
Commissioner Mere	Yes
Commissioner Schaible	Yes
Commissioner Hoke	Yes
Commissioner Gatewood	Yes

Commissioner Items:

Ballard –

Special Operations needs a vehicle to operate out of, all of our vehicles are maxed out of space and now is the time to do it. Chief Beecroft replied that we have the Chevy truck that can pull a trailer, and that is what they can use for now. Commissioner Ballard said he does not think the truck will be able to handle the load and pull the trailer once all the equipment is on it. He feels we should work towards a bigger truck. Commissioner Hoke interjected that Administration is responsible for the day to day operations and let them do their job.

Mere – Thanked Administration for all their work.

Gatewood – We are here to support the Chief and his team.

Public Input: None

Community Goodwill & Thank You:

- Letter of commendation for Avrey Brooks

Commissioner Hoke 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 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. April 15, 2024 Minutes
2. April Treasurer's Report
3. 2022/2023 Audit Presentation
4. Real Estate Contract for 150 Pondella Road
5. Roll Call Vote on Real Estate Contract approval