

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE  
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 23, 2026

Commissioner Gatewood called the North Fort Myers Fire Control and Rescue Service District Board of Commissioners to order at 2:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

**Present:**

Commissioner Michael Gatewood  
Commissioner James Land  
Chief Jeremy Dunn  
Office Manager Monique Brooks  
Admin Specialist Emily Grgurich  
Attorneys Remotely: Jimmie Hicks

Commissioner Tom Mere  
Commissioner Danny Ballard

**Absent:** None

**Invocation:** Commissioner Mere

**Pledge:** Commissioner Schaible

**Public Input:** None

- **Open Discussion of Commission Parameters for Payment of Salary to District Commissioners (Resolution 2018-05, Section 3)**

Discussion of Commissioner Attendance, honorarium Payment and Commissioner Conduct ensued. Commissioner Ballard suggested removing the verbiage unexcused and unexcused absences from the Policy.

Commissioner Land – I disagree, there should be accountability held.

Commissioner Schaible – things are going to happen, and people are going to miss meetings. Commissioner Ballard stated that the word “salary” in the policy should be changed to honorarium. Further discussion regarding the current attendance policy and potential changes followed.

Monique – are you all looking for accountability or a penalty in the attendance policy? Commissioner Land – accountability. Monique presented the Board with the current parameters for the honorarium. Monique – currently Commissioners receive payment at the beginning of the month, so if a Commissioner misses a meeting at the end of the month, they have already been paid for the entire month and I would like for this to be clarified.

Workshop Commission Meeting Break 2:50 – 3:00

Commissioner Gatewood – when should the Commissioners receive their honorarium? Discussion amongst the Board and Monique proceeded regarding this matter. All Commissioners agreed for the honorarium to take place at the last pay period of the month.

Commissioner Gatewood asked the Board – how many absences do we want to allow in the calendar year? Commissioner Mere – if you are absent excused or unexcused, you don't get paid for that meeting. All Commissioners agreed that if you are not in attendance in person, excused or unexcused, you do not get an honorarium.

Attorney Hicks – I want to clarify, no absences? Yes. Are we going to allow remote voting going forward? Discussion between the Board and Attorney Hicks took place based on what circumstances the Board would allow a Commissioner to vote if they are attending remotely. The Board agreed that under Board approval, on a case-by-case basis allowing remote voting will be determined at the time of the meeting. Attorney Hicks suggested that this matter be put into a resolution at the next meeting.

Commissioner Mere – If you are more than 30 minutes late then you are considered absent. Monique asked Attorney Hicks if that is allowed. Attorney Hicks – for purposes of the Honorarium the Board has full discretion. The Board agreed if you are more than 30 minutes late, you are considered absent and do not receive the honorarium.

Monique asked for a recap –

- Change the word salary to honorarium
- No excused or unexcused absences and no honorarium for the month missed
- If you arrive later than 30 minutes you are considered absent and will receive no honorarium
- Change timing of the honorarium to last pay period of the month

The Board agreed that those are all the changes at this time.

Commissioner Schaible – stated that verbiage should be added to state that a Commissioner will lose their honorarium if they make themselves excessively unavailable to sign checks. Commissioner Gatewood – I think that we need to keep an open line of communication with the Chief and stick to the agenda for this meeting.

Monique – for clarification on the verbiage for the attendance policy, we hold 12 meetings a year however in September we have multiple meetings, would it be ok to say, “regular meetings”? Yes.

No further questions or comments on this topic

- **Review New Fire Station Plans**

Chief Dunn – I have removed myself from the Station Committee now that I am the Chief and someone else has filled that spot. The Committee has reviewed the plans and they have minor tweaks, but they are pleased with the plans.

Stevens Construction presented us with an option 2 and option 2a. Option 2 is \$6,879,346.00 and option 2a is \$6,962,968.00. Commissioner Mere – is that turn key? Yes. There are a few small things for the inside that are not included and due to that, I would like to ask for a slightly higher cap just to be sure. We also received news from the County Attorney’s Office that we can use Impact Fees for the New Station. Commission Ballard - I would like to suggest we would allow the

Chief to spend up to \$7,500,000.00 not including Impact Fees on the New Station. Discussion took place regarding the parameters of Impact Fees and the possibility of paying for the New Station up front. Chief Dunn informed the Board that we met with Jeff Tuscan, and he recommended that the District finance the majority of the project. Commissioner Ballard – does the \$7,500,000.00 include the Architect and Engineer? Yes.

**Public Input:** None

**Meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.**