

Minutes for the Meeting of
the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Board of Commissioners

January 28, 2026 5:00pm
Diamondhead Beach Resort
2000 Estero Boulevard

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Jim Knickle, Secretary/Treasurer Ronald Fleming, Commissioner Keran Farrell, Fire Chief Scott Wirth, and District members.

Attending remotely: Dr. Margaret Banyan and Attorney Andrew Salzman.

Commissioner Liszak arrived at 5:27pm

1. Meeting Called to Order – 5:02pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adoption of Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the agenda; Commissioner Farrell seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

4. Restate Agenda Items [Information]
5. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items - *none*
6. Consent Agenda [Approval]

Items listed are considered routine and action will be taken by one motion; if a Commissioner desires discussion, the specific item will be removed during the Adoption of the Agenda and considered separately.

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2025
- B. Approval of December General Fund Checks 49732-49792 total \$208,919.16
- C. Approval of December Capital Improvement Fund Checks 1100-1106 total \$840,967.26

Commissioner Farrell motioned to approve the agenda; Commissioner Knickle seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

7. Pinning Ceremony followed by a brief recess

New district members took the oath of office.

Firefighter Dolan

Firefighter Flores

There was a brief recess from 5:12pm to 5:27pm

8. Chief's Report [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth presented highlights and information summarizing the 4th quarter of the year.

A temporary fire station opened and construction for the new station continues. Chief

Wirth gave a brief summary of calls run from October-December 2025.

The District had two successful training classes and several training opportunities for development.

The District is developing a mental health program.

Chief Sullivan and members are working on designing a new engine, and the District obtained a small inflatable rescue boat for high water emergencies.

Chief Wirth presented inspection and Life Safety statistics for the end of 2025.

Chief Wirth recognized the below January anniversaries:

Lieutenant Todd Williamson 20 years

Firefighter/Paramedic Jeff Lundy 13 years

Engineer Joel Martinez 9 years

Life Safety Specialist Michael Kolias 2 years

9. Unfinished Business

A. Strategic Plan 2025-2029 [Presentation/Discussion/Action]

Dr. Banyan joined the meeting remotely and presented the Strategic Plan she developed with feedback from District and community members.

Board members shared comments and briefly asked questions after the presentation. There was no public input.

Commissioner Liszak motioned to adopt the Strategic Plan; Commissioner Farrell seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

B. FMBFD/Iona McGregor Merger Feasibility Study Follow-up

[Information/Discussion/Action]

Commissioner Bennett asked if Board members had any questions after taking time to review the study. Commissioner Bennet noted he could not find anything in the study to suggest a merger would be ideal or beneficial.

Commissioner Fleming motioned to adopt the study as presented and to draft a letter requesting the withdrawal of the merger bill; Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion.

The Board briefly discussed the study and then voted; the motion carried 5-0.

10. New Business – *none*

11. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth shared brief remarks and thanked staff for all their hard work.

12. Commissioner Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Fleming remarked that the District is in a good place and thanked everyone for a good meeting.

Commissioner Knickle stated this is a remarkable time, and he is excited for the future of the District.

Commissioner Liszak is happy with the report and is encouraged by the training the District has been doing.

Commissioner Farrell congratulated new District members and commented on the completion of the Strategic Plan.

Commissioner Bennett commented on the swearing in ceremony and noted that the District is doing a phenomenal job with training.

13. Adjournment 6:32 pm