

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

August 27, 2025 10:00am
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.

Absent: Commissioner Jacki Liszak

1. Meeting Called to Order 10:01am
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adoption of Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Farrell moved to adopt the agenda, Commissioner Fleming seconded the motion 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 July 23, 2025
- B. Approval of July General Fund Checks 49450-49509 total \$195,563.97
- C. Approval of July Capital Improvement Fund Checks 1053-1062 total \$235,125.93

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

7. Unfinished Business- *none*
8. New Business

- A. Strategic Plan 2026-2029 [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Jane Thompson introduced Dr. Banyan, who gave a presentation on the development of a Strategic Plan. The Board asked Dr. Banyan various questions about the process and what would be involved.

- B. Updated Life Safety Fee Schedule [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth explained the new fee schedule and thanked Fire Marshal Campbell for her work on the new schedule. Chief Wirth provided a summary of the rate changes. Fire Marshal Campbell answered brief questions about how fees were

calculated.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve Resolution 2025-03, Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion.

This was a roll call vote and votes were as follows:

Fleming: Yes

Knickle: Yes

Bennett: Yes

Farrell: Yes

The motion carried 4-0.

C. Updates to the Board Policies [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented changes to the Board Policy. Commissioner Bennett commented on his recommended changes to remove the Board work sessions.

Most changes are small changes to terminology such as department to district and Skype to Teams. The Board briefly discussed the contents of the policy and changes. Jane Thompson explained a change to how the Board saves for capital assets and apparatus.

Commissioner Bennett requested a hard copy for each board member and to defer approval to the next meeting in September.

D. 2025/26 Budget Review [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth gave a presentation of a summary of the proposed General Fund budget of \$41,428,494.

The Board asked questions and had a brief discussion on the proposed budget.

E. Fire Chief Annual Evaluation [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Commissioners shared their thoughts and scores for each category. Chief Wirth received a total score of 104 of a possible total of 105. A copy of the evaluation can be provided upon request.

9. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth shared that Life Safety Specialist Chris Cox celebrated being cancer free this past weekend and has completed treatment.

The firefighter position and logistics coordinator position are open for applications.

Chief Wirth welcomed Assistant Chief Sears and Assistant Chief Sullivan and thanked everyone on the floor for being so welcoming.

The second review of the merger study should be available soon and the process is moving along.

The boat and trailer are ready and will be picked up in the coming weeks.

August anniversaries:

Captain Brown 24 years

Chief Kraus 21 years

Life Safety Executive Assistant Christina Ensor 4 years

Plan Reviewer Brad Henson 4 years

10. Attorney Report [Information/Discussion] - *none*

11. Commissioner Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Fleming thinks the District is in a great place and shared his appreciation for the floor personnel and staff. He is enthusiastic about the new equipment for storm preparedness.

Commissioner Knickle noted how busy it has been in the past few weeks and shared he is proud of this organization and the District staff. He thanked everyone for doing such a great job for the community.

Commissioner Farrell is looking forward to participating in the Strategic Plan. He thanked Fire Marshal Campbell for organizing the fee schedule and is happy the millage rate is coming down.

Commissioner Bennett is looking forward to another year. He shared the District is busy and delivering the best service possible to our community. He thanked Jane for her work on the budget plan.

12. Adjournment 11:41am