

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

January 25, 2023 5:00pm  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard  
[location change due to Hurricane Ian]

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett (virtually), Vice-Chairman Larry Wood, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Knickle, Commissioner Jacki Lyszak, Commissioner Ron Fleming, Fire Chief Ronald Martin, Fire Official Jennifer Campbell, District Chief Scott Wirth, Finance Director Jane Thompson and District members.

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 5:06pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Wood moved to adopt the agenda, Commissioner Lyszak seconded the motion and the agenda was approved 5-0.

4. **Restate Agenda Items** [Information]
5. **Public Input on Non-Agenda Items**

Mayor Dan Allers was in attendance and shared there is a \$5 million loan available through the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM).

6. **Consent Agenda** [Approval]

Items listed on the Consent Agenda 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 December 14, 2022 Minutes
- B. Approval of December CheckNos. 47819 through 47911 (Consecutive or Non-Consecutive?).In the amount of approximately \$866,844.05.

Commissioner Fleming moved to adopt the consent agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion and the consent agenda was approved 5-0.

7. **Fire Chief/District Manager Report**

Chief Martin shares that the District is adjusting to the new normal, reminding everyone that while we do want a quick recovery it also needs to be safe. Fire Official Campbell and her team are working diligently to make sure fire statues are taken into consideration.

The Chief shared fiscal updates regarding recovery and thanked Jane and the team from the City of Miami for their hard work.

Temporary Station 31 is anticipated to be complete in March or April. The temporary emergency room has been removed from the Island but there is a Beach Health Center located at 2545 Estero Blvd, on the Fire District's vacant lot, to provide medical services for citizens.

Chief Martin recognized multiple anniversaries in October and December, including Battalion Chief Grow with 30 years, Battalion Chief Brunson with 22 years, Lieutenant Hartman with 14 years and Firefighters DeClercq, Miranda and Pujol with 1 year.

The Community Relations Manager position received over 100 applications, with a number of talented applicants, Chief Martin contributed this to the salary range.

Applicants have been narrowed down to the final five and interviews take place February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chief Martin welcomed District Chief Wirth back from leave. The District has seen an increase in first unit response times and travel times with the loss of Station 31.

There have been approximately 921 less calls within the seasonal time period post Hurricane Ian.

Chief Martin recognized Trevor Mercure for working independently post storm to restore the District facilities and Craig Kauffman for his work and efficiency getting internet and phones up throughout storm recovery.

Fire Official Campbell is expediting reviews and Life Safety Specialist are out in the community as the Town rebuilds. Life Safety has seen a drop in fees and revenue.

There were no questions from the Board of Commissioners.

8. **Unfinished Business** - *none*

9. **New Business**

A. Legal Defense Resolution [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Martin presented a proposed Resolution 2023-01. This resolution would provide legal defense of District officers, staff and employees while lawfully performing duties. Administration recommended that the Board consider approval. Commissioner Wood read the resolution into record and opened the meeting to discussion. There were no public comments. Commissioner Liszak agreed with the proposed resolution. Commissioner Knickle was also in agreement and glad that

the assistance is available to District employees. Commissioner Fleming was in support of the proposed resolution. Commissioner Wood moved to approve Resolution 2023-01, Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion and the Resolution was approved 5-0 with a roll call vote. (I think you need to list out the names w/ the vote disposition)

Name : Aye or Nay

**B. RFP: Disaster Recovery and Mitigation Consulting Services Contract Approval**  
[Information/Discussion]

Chief Martin opened the floor for Jane to describe the RFP evaluation. Jane spoke about RFP committee and evaluation process and thanked Anita Kressell, Finance Manager from Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District and Mark Winzenread, CFO from the Iona-McGregor Fire District. Terry Bellamy, a consultant from FDEM served on the selection committee as well, along with Fire Official Campbell and Colleen Brooks. Three qualified applications were received and reviewed, and AC Disaster Consulting received the highest marks.

Commissioner Fleming asked about the Mexico Beach recovery timeline and it was clarified that there was a different firm in place initially and AC Disaster Consulting replaced them. Chief Martin emphasized that this is a prudent move and he recommends approval. AC Disaster Consulting representative Ms. Vanessa Gatto gave a summary of ACDC and their services. There were no further questions from board.

Commissioner Wood moved to approve Chief Martin and Attorney Salzman to complete the contract with AC Disaster Consulting, Commissioner Liszak seconded the motion was approved 5-0.

**10. Attorney Report - none**

**11. Closing Fire Chief Remarks** [Information/Discussion]

Chief Martin thanked everyone for a great meeting.

**12. Attorney Report -none**

**13. Commissioner's Remarks** [Information]

Commissioner Liszak thanked everyone for their hard work and shared that she sees improvements on the Island every day.

Commissioner Knickle shared that when he speaks to community members he hears high praise for the Fire District's commitment to the community.

Commissioner Fleming shared that he sees progression of the demolition of structures and things moving along.

Commissioner Bennett mirrored the rest of the Board's comments and welcomed back District Chief Wirth. Commissioner Bennett offered condolences to the community and the Myers and Semmer family. He thanked Commissioner Wood for running the meeting in his absence.

Commissioner Wood welcomed District Chief Wirth back and thanked Mayor Allers and Mrs. Allers for sharing the FDEM loan opportunity. He thanked the District members for all of their efforts and hard work.

**14. Adjournment 5:50pm**