



# 2024 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting Minutes

*Please use the below links to navigate to specific meeting dates.*

January 17, 2024

February 28, 2024

April 24, 2024

May 22, 2024

June 19, 2024

July 24, 2024

August 28, 2024

September 30, 2024

October 28, 2024

November 20, 2024

December 18, 2024

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

January 17, 2024 10:00am  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Larry Wood, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Knickle, Commissioner Ron Fleming, Commissioner Jacki Lyszak, Fire Chief Scott Wirth, Finance Director Jane Thompson, Attorney Andrew Salzman and District members.

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 10:00am
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

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 13, 2023
- B. Approval of December checks 48522-48563 total \$216,232.39

Commissioner Lyszak motioned to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

7. **Chief's Report**

Chief Wirth gave a brief report on recent events, highlighting the recent New Year's Eve fireworks show.

The Town recently held a Q&A event with condominium board associations and the Fire District received some suggestions on how to improve service and compliments on the Life Safety Team's efforts.

Chief Wirth welcomed new Life Safety Specialist Michael Kolias.

Auditors completed on site testing before the Christmas holiday and they will likely share their findings at the February meeting.

The District is continuing to work through FEMA projects and look to close many before the summer.

December run numbers show that calls are distributed 50/50 between medical and fire calls. The District has averaged 130-140 calls for the month of December the past two years due to less people on the island.

Firefighter gear with PFAS free materials became available recently. The District will be purchasing six sets to properly outfit some of the newer firefighters currently wearing used gear that is not ideal for them. The District plans for a full replacement once the gear has been tested and will continue its five year replacement plan.

Chief Wirth advised the District will be purchasing new air packs to replace those in need of repair or lost during hurricane Ian, bringing the quantity up to twenty.

Promotional exams will be posted for Lieutenant and Battalion Chief. The list will be good for two years.

Chief Wirth recognized December District anniversaries.

Commissioner Fleming expressed he would like to see the District purchase ten sets of firefighter gear instead of six. Chief Wirth and the Board discussed the purchase of new gear and current policies to prepare for an increase in calls as the island recovers.

Commissioner Fleming expressed that he would like to see the District hire a HR director and a 40-hour training chief.

## **8. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Progress on Station 31 [Information/Discussion]**

Chief Wirth shared the status on the rebuilding of station 31. The architect is currently working out the elevation of the building. Chief Wirth has a scheduled meeting for follow-up with the architects.

Commissioner Fleming shared that he would like to see the 9-11 memorial moved to the new Station 31.

### **B. Update on FMB / Iona Merger Study [Information/Discussion]**

The attorney's office and the Districts have been working on drafting an agreement. More discussion on the topic will take place under item 9B.

## **9. New Business**

### **A. Consider Purchase of Stock Sutphen Fire Engine [Information/Discussion/Approval]**

Chief Wirth presented information on a Sutphen engine that is available for purchase

at a discounted price. Chief Wirth and the Board discussed the features on the engine and what features were wanted by the committee of line personnel.

Commissioners asked questions and shared their thoughts. DVP Gordon shared information and thoughts from the committee and line personnel. A representative from Sutphen answered the Board's questions about the options on the engine. Chief Wirth shared his recommendation that the District wait to find an engine that better fits the needs and wants of the District.

Commissioner Fleming motioned to purchase the Sutphen engine. There was no second and the motion did not move forward to a vote.

B. Resolution 2024-01 for Merger Study [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented a resolution for a merger study. The resolution authorizes the District to move forward with an RFQ to get proposals on a study. Fort Myers Beach Fire and Iona McGregor Fire will split the cost of the study.

Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-01, Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Knickle- yes

Commissioner Fleming – no

Commissioner Lyszak – yes

Commissioner Wood- yes

Commissioner Bennet – yes

The motion passed 4-1.

C. Purchase of Property at 1101 Shrimp Boat Ln [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth and Mr. Salzman presented the contract for the property at 110 Shrimp Boat Lane. The Board asked questions regarding existing buildings on the property.

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve the purchase of the property at 1101 Shrimp Boat Lane for the cost of \$3.4 million plus the cost of closing. Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion.

Mr. Erickson, the neighbor of the property, expressed his need of use of the waterfront on the property. The Board advised that the District is not in a place to extend any form of agreement as the District does not own the property yet.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Knickle- yes

Commissioner Fleming – yes

Commissioner Liszak – yes

Commissioner Wood- yes

Commissioner Bennett – yes

The motion passed 5-0.

**10. Fire Chief Remarks** [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth thanked everyone for their hard work and he is looking forward to 2024.

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

**12. Commissioners Remarks** [Information]

Commissioner Fleming thanked everyone for a good meeting and appreciates Mr. Erickson coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Liszak expressed she hopes the teams in the stations understand the board's decisions on equipment and that she is hopeful the District can secure the new property and work with the shrimping industry.

Commissioner Wood thanked everyone for their participation and dialogue to help the Board come to a decision.

Commissioner Knickle expressed that the decision to not buy the engine was difficult and he appreciated the staff's input.

Commissioner Bennett shared that the hardest part of his position is spending taxpayer money and the Board puts a lot of thought and consideration into their decisions.

**13. Adjournment** 12:16pm

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

February 28, 2024 10:00am  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Larry Wood, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Knickle, Commissioner Jacki Lyszak, Fire Chief Scott Wirth, Finance Director Jane Thompson, and District members.

Remotely in attendance via phone: Commissioner Ron Fleming

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 10:02 am
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Fleming requested that item 8D be moved to 8A- Procurement – Stock Pierce Fire Engine [Information/Discussion/Approval].

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve the agenda with the proposed changes, Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

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 January 17, 2024
- B. Approval of Retreat Minutes from January 17, 2024
- C. Approval of January Checks 48564-48626 total \$155,208.22

Commissioner Lyszak motioned to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Update on State Grants

Chief Wirth gave an update on the state grants. Designs are currently being presented to the state.

- B. Update on Progress of Facility Projects [Information/Discussion]

Station 31 should be listed for sale sometime in March. Plans for the new 31 are underway and Chief Wirth has met with the architect recently.

Purchase of the Shrimp Boat Lane property is moving forward and the building will be demolished by the current owners. Chief Wirth anticipates closing on the property in May or June this year.

C. Update on RFQ for Merger Study [Information/Discussion]

The RFQ was posted this week. Fort Myers Beach Fire and Iona McGregor Fire staff and lawyers will work together on the ranking of applicants. Ranking and selection of firms will be ready for the May Board meeting.

8. **New Business**

A. Procurement – Stock Pierce Fire Engine [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Pierce is making modifications to a stock truck to accommodate the necessary ladders. This truck is approximately the same price as the Sutphen truck presented in the January meeting. The truck will come out the factory around January 2025 and is anticipated to be available to the District around March or April 2025 after outfitting. Commissioner Knickle asked if this aligns with the timeline for the new station, Chief Wirth advised it does.

Commissioner Fleming shared that he thinks the Sutphen engine would have been better but the District needs to buy an engine.

Commissioner Bennett asked about the amount of the insurance payout for the engine lost during the hurricane. Chief Wirth gave information on the insurance payout as well as reserves that have been saved for a new engine.

Commissioner Lyszak asked for clarification on the storage of a new engine and the price difference between the Pierce and Sutphen engine.

Commissioner Knickle moved to purchase the Pierce engine for \$891,371 with, up to an additional 5%, for related expenses, Commissioner Wood seconded. Commissioner Lyszak asked if Commissioner Fleming was ok with this truck, he went over some concerns regarding the ladders and tank. There was no public input. The motion passed 5-0.

B. Present Appreciation Plaque to Diamondhead [Presentation]

The board presented Neil Hopgood and Heather Everhart with an appreciation plaque, thanking them for the support of Diamondhead Beach Resort.

C. Annual Financial Audit Adoption [Presentation/Review/Adoption]

Jane Thompson introduced Mr. Brown to present the audit report. He briefly reviewed the financial report and audit findings.

The Board had no questions but thanked Mr. Brown for his assistance.

Chief Wirth thanked Jane for all her hard work since the hurricane and another good audit.

Commissioner Liszak motioned to adopt the audit, Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

D. Procurement – St 33 Overhead Doors [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth shared the details and status on the three rear doors for Station 33. There was no public input.

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve the purchase, Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

E. Updated Contract with GMA Architects [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented the updated contract with GMA Architects in the amount of \$435,000 due to changes in the scope of the project.

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the updated contract, Commissioner Liszak seconded. There was no public input and the motion passed 5-0.

F. Updated Contract with Quattrone and Assoc. [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented the updated contract with Quattrone and Associates in the amount of \$148,400 for civil engineering, site design and zoning of the new station site.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the updated contract and Commissioner Liszak seconded the motion. There was no public input and the motion passed 5-0.

G. Updated Contract with Wright Construction [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented the updated contract with Wright Construction for \$66,304 plus 6% of construction costs.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the contract and Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion. There was no further discussion or public input and the motion carried 5-0.

9. **Fire Chief Remarks** [Information/Discussion]

Chief With extended congratulations to Assistant Chief Armiger for his recent completion of his Master's Degree.

The Battalion Chief position was posted in January and closes on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Promotional testing will take place in May.

FF Pujol resigned to move to Sanibel Fire Department, the District thanks him for his service and wishes him the best.

This week the District posted the Firefighter position and is hiring for three open positions.

The District participated in a company officer development program in Pensacola in January. Engineer Gonzalez, Engineer Martinez, Firefighter Montenegro, Firefighter Rojo and Firefighter Miranda attended.

The District hosted the Blue Card program training that was funded with the AFG grant. The District now has seven certified trainers and the District is a Blue Card training center.

Chief Wirth recognized the following District anniversaries:

Lieutenant Williamson 18 years

Firefighter Lundy 11 years

Driver Engineer Martinez 7 years

10. **Commissioners Remarks** [Information]

Commissioner Fleming thanked Jane and everyone who had a hand in the audit. He is looking forward to coming back to the beach and will see everyone this week.

Commissioner Liszak thanked Jane for all she does. She enjoyed seeing the firefighters training with the new equipment on vehicles at the Topps site. She thanked the committee for their work on the fire engine.

Commissioner Wood thanked Jane for her amazing work and all she does. He is interested in learning more about the Blue Card training and he appreciates District members for being involved.

Commissioner Knickle thanked Jane for all she does. He noted that there is a lot of longevity within the District and expressed his appreciation for District members' loyalty

and integrity. He thanked the crew at Station 33 for their work with recent elevator entrapments in his building. He congratulated Commissioner Fleming's son for his recent promotion to Captain for Dayton Fire Department in Ohio.

Commissioner Bennett thanked Jane for a job well done. He thanked Diamondhead again for all of their support. He noted that he got to watch crews training with the new extrication equipment granted to the District by Firehouse Subs and appreciated the emphasis on safety during the training.

Chief Wirth thanked Alligator Towing for providing cars for the recent extrication equipment training.

**11. Adjournment 10:53am**

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

April 24, 2024 10:00am  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard

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

Remotely in attendance via phone: Commissioner Jacki Liszak

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 10:00 am
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Knickle motioned to adopt the agenda, Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

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 February 28, 2024
- B. Approval of February Checks 48652-48673 total \$170,705.26
- C. Approval of March Checks 48674-48712 total \$123,927.98
- D. Approval of Capital Improvement Projects Fund check 1001 total \$6,525.00

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve and Commissioner Bennett seconded, the motion passed 5-0.

7. **Chief's Report**

Chief Wirth gave a report on the first quarter of the year. Several members participated in professional development in the past few months. Station 31 is coming together and the replacement engine has been ordered. The District opened up applications and is currently evaluating applicants. The property for the new administrative building is moving along. The District will be meeting with representatives from Iona-McGregor Fire District for a feasibility study on the proposed merger.

In March, the District participated in the Shrimp Festival Parade and was present for the

opening of the new Coast Guard building.

The District has been participating in Town safety meetings.

The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and ground breaking event is in the planning stages and will take place in October.

Applications for the firefighter paramedic position closed and applicants were moved through for interviews. Chief Wirth thanked those who participated in interviews.

The District has received reimbursement from FEMA and insurance deductibles. All together the District has recovered almost \$214,000 in the last few months. The District is earning 5.5% interest on invested reserve and surplus funds. All branches participated in budget meetings the past few months and the capital asset inventory was recently completed.

District Operations reports crews have responded to approximately 365 calls from January to March, with two thirds of those calls being run by Station 32. In February, District members received extrication training with the equipment received from the Firehouse Subs grant. Also in February, some members started training for the Blue Card certifications. March began a six month development program with Dr. Pereira. Six District members received new PFAS (carcinogens) free turnout gear and additional members have been fitted to receive new gear. Air pack inventory is being brought up to twenty.

1 minute 25 seconds was the average turnout time for March and call volume for the month of March was 164 indicating a spring break influx.

Chief Armiger went to Tallahassee in January to participate in the Florida Association of Special Districts program.

Life Safety has been busy with new projects and regular inspections. There are a few smaller special events set up and preliminary info for July 4<sup>th</sup> events are anticipated. Chief Wirth gave a brief overview of the life safety revenue numbers. Development Orders have been received for various sites.

Chief Wirth recognized District anniversaries for the following:

Engineer Andy Villa 18 years

Engineer Tate Sturtevant 18 years

Firefighter Hermes Llaser 8 years

Firefighter Paul Montenegro 7 years

Fire Official Jennifer Campbell 5 years

Life Safety Specialist Chris Cox 4 years

Technology & Security Administrator Craig Kaufman 2 years

Commissioner Fleming asked about the total value of contracts and residential values on the Beach. Chief Wirth answered that the information is not data we have readily on hand but estimates are likely available through the Town. The District should have rough numbers in June and firm numbers in July from Lee County.

## 8. **Unfinished Business**

### A. Update on New Station and Administration Projects [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth gave an update on Station 31 including a presentation of the most recent drawings and building plans. Groundbreaking is anticipated in October of this year and opening date toward the end of 2025.

### B. Update on Facility Repairs [Information/Discussion]

Overhead doors are being installed at Station 33 and should be complete within the week. Elevators at Headquarters and Station 32 have been pushed into June. The roof replacement and reinforcement at Station 32 is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup>. Transfer switches at all three buildings have been replaced. The generator for headquarters will ship in July and be replaced once it is received.

Commissioner Fleming asked about what mitigation company the District uses. Chief Wirth replied that he is currently organizing repairs and Jane advised we will likely put a contract out to bid.

### C. Update on Hiring and Promotions [Information/Discussion]

There were 12 applicants that went through to interviews and four conditional offers were made, three positions will be filled at this time. There were two applicants for the Lieutenant position but both withdrew. Three applications were received for the Battalion Chief position and one withdrew, the remaining two will start testing soon. Commissioner Knickle asked how long the list is good for, Chief Wirth answered it is good for two years.

Commissioner Fleming asked who performs the testing. Chief Wirth replied that the District uses a firm called Fire Act.

The District is looking to promote four Lieutenants and one Driver Engineer as well as hire four new firefighters per shift by June of next year in preparation for the new Station 31.

Commissioner Bennett shared that he would like to see seniority picking station positions.

Commissioner Fleming asked about hiring an HR Director. Chief Wirth shared that after June and July the District will have more budget information and plan for hiring positions.

D. Update on Outstanding Equipment Purchases

Six sets of new PFAS free gear arrived and more will be ordered. The new air packs are ordered, bringing the total to 20. The District applied for an Assistant to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for personal protective equipment to purchase air packs, bottles and masks.

9. **New Business** [Information/Discussion]

A. Biennial Department of Health Review [Information/Discussion]

The District recently underwent review. The representative reviewed personnel records and spot checked service records. The District had an almost perfect inspection and Chief Wirth thanked personnel and Chief Kraus for their hard work and diligence keeping everything up to date.

10. **Fire Chief Remarks** [Information]

The District is slowly seeing progress. New buildings and the hiring process are moving along. The Fire District will be honored by the Chamber of Commerce on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> for outstanding service.

11. **Commissioners Remarks** [Information]

Commissioner Liszak thanked everyone for a great meeting and shared her excitement to see elevations when she is back. She is looking forward to the anniversary celebration and is honored to award the fire department through the Chamber of Commerce.

Commissioner Fleming shared Commissioner Liszak's sentiments and said the district has

come a long way and it is good to see where funds are going. He thanked staff and crews for all they do. He reviewed a few personal anniversaries.

Commissioner Knickle thanked everyone for a great meeting and noted that he is excited to see future plans unfolding.

Commissioner Wood shared that he appreciates all the information provided by Chief Wirth on the new station and ongoing repairs.

Chairman Bennett thanked Chief Wirth and noted crews are doing a great job. He is looking forward to seeing individuals promote.

**12. Adjournment** 10:58am

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

May 22, 2024 10:00am  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard

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

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 10:02 am
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Lyszak motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

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 April 24, 2024
- B. Approval of Checks General Fund 48713-48749 total \$115,183.59
- C. Approval of Checks Capital Improvement Projects Fund 1002-1003 total \$6,525.00

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

7. Unfinished Business

- A. Update on New Station and Administration Projects [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth gave an update on Station 31 and the design. Planning is still on track to have ground breaking in October.

The existing building on the Main Street property has been demolished and Lee County is working on clearing permits and fines so that the District can close on the property with a clear title. The closing will be delayed a few weeks.

8. **New Business**

- A. SAVE Awards [Presentation/Discussion]

Chief Wirth presented B Shift with the SAVE award for their efforts in resuscitating a patient via CPR on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Firefighter DeClercq gave a brief synopsis of the call. Firefighter Marin reiterated the importance of CPR training and Chief Wirth reminded the community of the AED purchasing program.

The Board of Commissioners commented on their appreciation for the crew and thanked them for their efforts.

**B. Present Firm for Merger Feasibility Study [Information/Discussion/Approval]**

Chief Seth Comer with Iona McGregor Fire District shared that their board had met the prior week and had an hour long conversation regarding the merger feasibility study. Iona McGregor's Board did pass the agreement to use J. Angle Group for a voluntary study.

The Fort Myers Beach Fire District Board of Commissioners briefly discussed the merger feasibility study and shared their thoughts.

Chairman Bennett motioned to move forward with the top ranked firm, J. Angle Group, for a voluntary merger study. Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

**C. Mid-year Budget Presentation [Information/Discussion]**

Finance Director Jane Thompson gave a brief presentation on the status of budget to actual revenues and expenses as of March 31, 2024.

The Board thanked Jane for all her hard work.

**9. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]**

Chief Wirth thanked the Chamber of Commerce for recognizing the Fire District for outstanding service.

Since March the rear doors at Station 33 have been replaced, the roof at Station 32 is almost completed and the generators and transfer switches at all District sites should be completed soon.

Some District members recently completed USAR training for structural collapse.

Driver Engineer Joel Martinez recently won the day before Mother's Day Race on the beach; the Chief congratulated him on his win.

Chief Wirth recognized the following anniversaries:

Captain Chilson 17 year

Assistant Chief Armiger 9 year

Firefighter Dieppa 4 years

Firefighter Marin 4 years

Firefighter Manitto 4 years

The Whale and 7-Eleven have recently had groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings and Chief Wirth represented the District. The Beach is slowly rebuilding and multiple development orders have been received.

#### 10. **Commissioners Remarks** [Information]

Commissioner Knickle commented on his excitement in the progress of rebuilding the beach. He thanked Jane for her presentation and all her hard work and thanked the Iona McGregor Fire District for their input on the merger feasibility study.

Commissioner Wood thanked Iona McGregor as well. He shared that he has decided not to run for re-election and his term will end in November. He thanked the community and District for all of the support over the years.

Commissioner Fleming thanked Iona McGregor. He thanked Jane for all her hard work on the budget. He shared a recent experience when crews responded to help him after he was bitten by a snake. He thanked responding crews for their assistance.

Commissioner Liszak thanked the District and shared that the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors held a lot of discussion about the award. They noted the care, dedication and compassion of Fire District members after Hurricane Ian. She also shared her experience with administering CPR and reiterated the importance of community training.

Chairman Bennett thanked everyone for a great meeting. He thanked Iona McGregor for their partnership on the merger feasibility study. He thanked Jane for all she does and for presenting the budget information. Chairman Bennett closed in recognizing Commissioner Wood for his leadership and his contributions to the community.

#### 11. **Adjournment** 11:15pm

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

June 19, 2024 5:00 PM  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard

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

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

Commissioner Lyszak motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

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 May 22, 2024
  - B. Approval of Checks General Fund 48750-48804 total \$228,180.24
  - C. Approval of Checks Capital Improvement Projects Fund 1004-1006 total \$11,287.50
- Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

7. **Chief's Report**

Chief Wirth gave a report on the status of each division. FEMA projects are wrapping up with only two left open in the District. Chief Kraus has been working on new class A uniforms and transitioning the District asset tracking system. District members have been participating in training throughout April and May. Chief Wirth thanked South Trail and the City of Fort Myers Fire Districts for hosting recent multi agency training. FPL and TECO were also recently in District providing training to the crews. Doctor Pereira provided training on BLS and ALS level support. Inspections and plan review have increased significantly in the past year. The District will be taking on Lehigh Acres plan review starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**8. Unfinished Business**

A. Present Contract for Feasibility Study [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented the contract for J. Angle Group, LLC to complete a feasibility study. This study will take 8 to 9 months to complete.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the contract, Commissioner Wood seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

B. Update on New Station and Administrative Projects [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth gave an update on the status of the new station. A public information meeting was held prior to the Board meeting. The District will close on the purchase of the Main Street property in a few weeks.

**9. New Business**

A. Review of Preliminary Ad Valorem revenue for 2024/25 Budget  
[Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth gave an update on the current outlook for the Ad Valorem revenue.

B. Purchase of Firefighter Turnout Gear [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented information on the purchase of on new turnout gear for \$133,610.

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the purchase of 37 sets of new turnout gear for \$133,610. Commissioner Liszak seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

C. Resolution – Authorization to Execute Purchase of Real Property  
[Information/Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve resolution 2024-02 – Purchase Real Property at 1101 Shrimp Boat Lane. The results of the roll call vote are as follows:

Wood- Yes

Knickle- Yes

Fleming- Yes

Liszak- Yes

Bennett- Yes

**10. Fire Chief Remarks** [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth thanked staff for all of their hard work. He advised that Union negotiations

have started and are going well. Chief Wirth recognized DVP Jen Gordon as she is retiring in July. Commissioner elect Ferrell ran unopposed for Commissioner Wood's vacant seat.

**11. Commissioners Remarks [Information]**

Commissioner Wood shared that he is amazed by the amount of training through the District. He thanked Fire Official Campbell for all she does with plan review and fire inspections. He commented that he likes the design of the new Station 31.

Commissioner Knickle commented he is glad crews participated in recent FPL and TECO training. He thanked Chief and staff for navigating the District through challenging times.

Commissioner Liszak echoed the sentiments of the other commissioners and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Commissioner Fleming shared everyone's sentiments. He shared that he is continually impressed with the District staff and all they accomplish. He thanked Jane Thompson for all her hard work and the many roles she handles. He noted the beach is coming back a lot faster than anticipated he is glad for it.

Chairman Bennett thanked everyone for a good meeting and congratulated District members with recent anniversaries. He echoed Commissioner Fleming's sentiments about the new construction on the Beach and how quickly the Beach is coming back. He thanked Representative Botana for attending the meeting and thanked Chief Wirth for all the information he provided.

**12. Adjournment 5:49PM**

Minutes for the Meeting of  
the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Board of Commissioners  
July 24, 2024 10:00 AM  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard

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

Via phone: Attorney Andrew Salzmann

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 10:05am
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Liszak motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Wood seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

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 June 19, 2024
  - B. Approval of Checks General Fund 48805-48845 total \$120,746.12
  - C. Approval of Checks Capital Improvement Projects Fund 1007-1008 total \$75,302.50
- Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

7. **Unfinished Business**

- A. Contract for Sale of Real Property 3043 Estero Blvd  
[Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief With presented information on two bids for the property at 3043 Estero Blvd and opened discussion to the Board on how they would like to proceed.

Commissioner Bennett asked what the original appraisal was, Chief Wirth advised it was originally \$1.4 million.

Commissioner Wood inquired where the potential swap property was located for one of the bids, Chief Wirth answered it is located on San Carlos Blvd close to Station 32.

Per Attorney Salzman we can counter the two respondents or list the property on the market again.

The Commissioners expressed their opinions on counter offering and re-listing. The District's realtor Dan Barrile advised on the appraisal amount and the real estate market on the beach with the current appraisal estimated at \$1.2 million.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve Chief Wirth to counter offer both parties for the current appraisal value with a time frame of 14 days and if a counter offer is not accepted within that time frame the property will be re-listed. There was no public comment and the motion passed 5-0. Was there a second?

B. Update on Land and Facilities Projects [Information/Discussion]

The District closed on the Shrimp Boat Lane property Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup> and Chief Wirth is working on getting a surveyor for the property.

The new Station 31 rebuild is moving along and permit review is currently underway.

The District is on track for an October 2024 ground breaking.

Station 32's elevator is currently being replaced and the generator at Headquarters will begin replacement next week.

The Board had no questions.

C. Approval of Revised Merger Contract [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented changes to the merger feasibility study contract following Iona-McGregor Fire District's Board Meeting.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the revised contract, Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion. There was no public input and the motion passed 5-0.

8. **New Business**

A. Resolution 2024-03 Amend the Budget for Fiscal Year

2023/2024[Information/Discussion/Approval]

Jane Thompson presented updated fiscal budget numbers per the audit to adjust the estimated balance carried forward. She proposed that the difference between the budgeted number and the actual number be put toward the Station 31 construction project.

The Commissioners had no questions.

Commissioner Knickle motioned to approve Resolution 2024-03. Commissioner Fleming seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public input. The result of roll call vote was as follows:

Wood - Yes

Knickle - Yes

Fleming - Yes

Liszak - Yes

Bennett – Yes

The motion passed 5-0.

B. Presentation of 2024/2025 Capital Replacement Plan

[Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented his capital replacement plan for the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Fleming asked about the replacement of the beach front ambulance.

Chief Wirth advised the District is waiting on the construction of Station 31 to make sure we have storage room for that equipment.

C. Approval to Replace Overhead Doors at Station 32 [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented information on the overhead door replacement at Station 32.

Commissioner Liszak motioned to approve replacement of the overhead doors at Station 32 for a total of \$51,904 and an additional 5% as quoted. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

D. Set 2024/2025 TRIM Rate [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth was pleased to share that he is proposing lowering the TRIM rate from the current 2.9851 millage rate to 2.8. The Board briefly shared their opinions and Commissioner Bennett reiterated to the community that if passed today 2.8 mills would be the maximum millage rate for the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Trim rate of 2.80 mills, Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion.

John King provided public comment, thanking the board for their approval of the new TRIM rate on behalf of the tax payers.

The motion passed 5-0.

E. Set Date for Tentative Budget Hearing – September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm

[Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented the suggested date of September 12<sup>th</sup> for the tentative budget hearing at 5:15pm.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the date and time and Commissioner Liszak seconded, the motion passed 5-0.

F. Fire Chief Annual Performance Appraisal [Information/Discussion/Approval]

The Board went through the evaluation form and shared their scores and comments for each performance section. Chief Wirth received a total score of 105 of a total maximum score of 105.

The Board discussed wage adjustments in accordance with surrounding areas.

Commissioner Fleming believes Chief Wirth is deserving of an increase and is open to the Board's suggestions.

Commissioner Liszak asked what the Chief wants. Chief Wirth advised he is comfortable where he is currently and asked that the Board table pay and benefits until negotiations are done with Districts 3 and 15 so changes can be across the board.

Commissioner Wood appreciates Chief Wirth's input and is open to waiting on negotiations.

Commissioner Knickle thinks it is wise to wait on negotiations but also agrees Chief Wirth should get a raise.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to postpone the conversation of a pay increase pending completion of negotiations and to apply any changes retroactively to the date of this meeting, Commissioner Wood seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

9. **Fire Chief Remarks** [Information/Discussion]

The District received another reimbursement from FEMA and to date has received approximately \$2.5 million in reimbursements. Chief Wirth thanked Jane for all her hard work.

Chief Wirth introduced two new employees Alex Krause and Diego Castillo. Alex Krause will be in fire school for the next four months but is already a credentialed paramedic with Lee County.

Chief Wirth has been sharing the Urban Search and Rescue training journey of three District employees over the past few years. All three district members did well in their interviews and will be moving forward with USAR. He thanked Chief Brunson for his leadership in training and guidance and he extended his congratulations to Firefighter Gaudet, Firefighter Llaser and Firefighter Miranda on being the newest USAR team members.

The District had two negotiations with DVP Jennifer Gordon for the upcoming contract. DVP Gordon recently retired and the role has been assumed by Lt Williamson.

Chief Wirth shared the following June anniversaries:

Director of Finance Jane Thompson 18 years

Firefighter Adames 10 years

**10. Commissioners Remarks [Information]**

Commissioner Lyszak thanked everyone for a great meeting. Appreciates the team and everyone in the field.

Commissioner Fleming has shared all he has to share.

Commissioner Wood had nothing further to share.

Commissioner Knickle thanked Chief Wirth again for all his work.

Chairman Bennett reiterated the previous sentiments and indicated how impressed he is with the District as a whole.

**11. Adjournment 11:36am**

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

August 28, 2024 10:00 AM  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard

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

1. Meeting Called to Order 10:00am

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chairman called for a moment of silence for two members of the Fort Myers Beach community that tragically lost their life last week.

3. Adoption of Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Lyszak motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

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 24, 2024

B. Approval of General Funds Checks 48846 – 48907 totaling \$287,662.63

C. Approval of Capital Improvement Projects Fund Checks 1009 – 1011 totaling \$69,651.20

Commissioner Knickle motioned to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Wood seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Present offer for Purchase of 3043 Estero Blvd [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth outlined the bid process and bids received. Only one bid, which was the highest bid, is brought before the Board for consideration. Discussion regarding the remaining building structure and that it is sold as-is. The Chief has been working with the Zimmer family heirs to ensure they are agreeable to the sale as it relates to their portion of the property. The current sale contract is listed at \$875,000, property as-is. Commissioner Fleming motioned to sell the property as-is pursuant to the sale contract presented to the Board. Commissioner Lyszak seconded and the motion passed 5-0. Additional discussion

regarding the next step in the process. Chief Wirth indicated Attorney Salzman will facilitate closing of the property. The closing should be fairly quick given this is a cash offer. The proceeds will be split 60% to the District and 40% to the Zimmer family heirs; which represents the percentage of ownership of total property sold.

8. New Business

A. Present the 2024/25 Budget [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth presented a total budget of \$37,187,314 based on a 2.8 millage rate. This millage rate is a decrease from the current millage rate of 2.9851 and will raise \$12,350,314 in AdValorem taxes. The budget includes the addition of the Capital Improvement Fund for the expressed purpose of administering the \$9,000,000 State Grant to rebuild Station 31. Anticipated capital purchases include a stock fire engine, a high-water response vehicle and a seawall for the new property on Shrimp Boat Lane. Proposed designated reserves are approximately 20.6 million, which include approximately 13.3 million for building(s) replacement. Chief Wirth discussed the details of each component of the proposed budget. There was discussion regarding the high-water response vehicle, the need for such a vehicle and the District's response in high water and flooding conditions during Hurricane Debby.

9. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth extended his sympathy to the families of the two residents last were lost last week due to carbon monoxide poisoning. He discussed the District's carbon monoxide safety program and that we provide carbon monoxide detectors at no cost. He indicated that additional information is available on our website. Chief Wirth mentioned three of our members were deployed with the USAR team in the aftermath of Hurricane Debby. The USAR team rescued 110 people in the Sarasota area.

Chief Wirth mentioned that members attended free training provided by TECO, FPL and other vendors relative to response conditions involving gas, compressed gas and electric. Chief thanked Jane Thompson for her work on the budget and Jennifer Campbell for the excellent and timely work that she and her life safety team provide to our community.

10. Commissioners Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Knickle offered his condolences to the families of the residents that died last week. He appreciated the quick and professional response by our firefighters to this tragedy.

Commissioner Wood thanked Chief Wirth and Jane Thompson for their work on the budget and bringing the millage rate down. He recognized the higher millage rate was for the purpose of raising funds for the building project, but happy we could now lower the rate. Commissioner Lyszak echoed Commissioner Wood's remarks and believes the tax payers will appreciate the reduction to their tax bill as well. She also offered to help get the message out to local businesses and residents regarding the District's program to provide free carbon monoxide detectors to members of our community. Commissioner Lyszak also thanked Fort Myers Beach Council member King for attending our meeting, as well as future Fire Commissioner Keran Farrell.

Commissioner Fleming wished to remember the deceased. He thanked Chief Wirth, Jane Thompson, Jennifer Campbell and Christina Ensor for their work. Commissioner Fleming also recognized the members of our USAR team that responded to Hurricane Debby and is looking forward to beginning our construction projects. He would like to add that we are a small but efficient government entity.

Chairman Bennett reiterated what everyone else has voiced and offered that anytime you lose members of the community tragically to an accident, we hope to learn from it and educate people about the problems that can be caused by things like this and help create an environment of awareness. Chairman Bennett indicated he has seen countless stories over the last two days about people changing their design plans and the use of, and types of, heaters for their pool systems. He would like the community to know if there are questions, please reach out to our life safety folks, they are experts and happy to help. The District not only offers free CO detectors, but we have an abundance of knowledge and expertise that the community can leverage. Chairman Bennett thanked Chief Wirth and Jane Thompson for their work on the budget and lowering the millage rate. He also thanked Mr. King for attending our meeting.

11. Adjournment 10:35am

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

September 30, 2024 5:15 pm  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard

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

1. **Meeting Called to Order 5:15pm**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Lyszak seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

4. **Restate Agenda Items** [Information]

5. **Highlights of Proposed Budget & Millage Rate** [Information]

Chief Wirth gave a brief presentation of the budget and went over changes made to sections of the budget. The bottom line number for the budget did not change.

6. **Adoption of Final Millage Rate – Resolution 2024-06** [Introduction/Public Input/Discussion/Adoption]

Commissioner Knickle motioned to approve Resolution 2024-06, adopting a final millage rate of 2.80, Commissioner Wood seconded the motion. There were no questions, discussion or public input. The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Wood: Yes

Commissioner Knickle: Yes

Commissioner Fleming: Yes

Commissioner Lyszak: Yes

Commissioner Bennett: Yes

7. **Adoption of Final Budget– Resolution 2024-07** [Introduction/Public Input/Discussion/Adoption]

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve Resolution 2024-07, adopting a final budget of \$45,785,314, Commissioner Lyszak seconded the motion. There were no questions or discussion. Commissioner Bennett shared public input received via email. The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Lyszak: Yes

Commissioner Fleming: Yes

Commissioner Knickle: Yes

Commissioner Wood: Yes

Commissioner Bennett: Yes

8. **Fire Chief Remarks** [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth thanked Jane for her hard work on the budget and thanked everyone for their contributions. He shared that the District's thoughts are with all affected by Hurricane Helene.

9. **Commissioners Remarks** [Information]

Commissioner Fleming thanked Jane for her hard work on the budget. He commented on those affected by Hurricane Helene.

Commissioner Liszak thanked everyone for their hard work. She thanked crews and members of the District who helped out with Hurricane Helene response and extended condolences to communities affected.

Commissioner Wood thanked everyone and remarked on his remaining time on the Board. He shared that he is continually impressed by the skills of District and Board members.

Commissioner Knickle shared his thoughts on Hurricane Helene and thanked Chief Wirth and District members for their preparation for the storm. He shared his appreciation for Commissioner Wood and all of his help while on the Board.

Commissioner Bennett thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget and commented on the Beach community's resiliency through the recent storms. He thanked the members of the USAR teams as they are deployed and remarked on their work. He thanked Commissioner Wood for all of his support and work on the Board over the past few years.

10. **Adjournment** 5:32pm



Minutes for the Meeting of  
the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Board of Commissioners  
October 23, 2024 10:00 AM  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Larry Wood, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Knickle, Commissioner Ron Fleming , Fire Chief Scott Wirth, Finance Director Jane Thompson, and District members.

Absent: Commissioner Jacki Liszak

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 10:00am
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]
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 September 30, 2024
- B. Approval of Checks General Fund Checks 48908-48953 Total \$249,678.03
- C. Approval of Capital Improvement Project Fund Check 1012 Total \$48,184.48
- D. Approval of General Fund Checks 48954-49004 Total \$110,458.53
- E. Approval of Capital Improvement Checks 1013-1014 Total \$140,632.81  
Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

7. **Unfinished Business** - *none*

8. **New Business**

- A. Update on Facilities [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth presented a brief update on the progress of the new Station 31 and current District facility projects.

- B. Update on the Sale of Fire Station 31 [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth provided an update on the pending closing of the sale of existing Station 31.

- C. Post Storm Update [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth thanked the beach residents for evacuating for Hurricane Milton. The evacuation and collaboration with the Town enabled a smooth opening of the beach once the storm had passed. The District fielded over 1,200 calls and emails to compile an evacuation list in the event search and rescue was required after the storm.

Commissioner Fleming shared that he recently purchased a Knox box to prevent the need to break down a door or window. Chief Wirth shared information for the public on how to get a residential Knox box or lock box.

Chief Wirth noted that collaboration with LCSO and the Town of Fort Myers Beach worked well and thanked both agencies for their work. He also thanked District firefighters and employees for how they performed during Hurricane Milton.

Commissioner Bennett shared his appreciation for front line crews and their response.

Commissioner Wood shared that the beach's response to Hurricane Milton felt safer and more prepared compared to Hurricane Ian. Commissioner Knickle agreed that this response was much more organized and calmer and that he is proud to be part of the organization. Commissioner Fleming shared that the District did well in response.

Chief Wirth explained geo-divisions, the response of the fellow island fire districts, and his hopes for future organizational structure discussion for storm response.

Commissioner Knickle shared that he liked the Town leadership and District leadership being evacuated to the same facility allowing for better communication.

**D. High Water Vehicle Purchase [Information/Discussion/Approval]**

Chief Wirth shared information regarding high water vehicles. He noted that the District currently relies on mutual aid but he believes this is a tool that the District needs.

Commissioner Wood motioned to allow Chief Wirth to source a high water vehicle to present to the Board for approval. Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**9. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]**

Chief Wirth recognized the District members of USAR who were deployed by the state for search and rescue following Hurricane Milton. He thanked them for their dedication and congratulated them on a job well done.

Chief Wirth shared information on the ground breaking of the new Station 31 scheduled

for 10:00 am on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration originally scheduled for Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> has been postponed for a future date to be determined.

Chief Wirth recognized District anniversaries for September and October.

**10. Commissioners Remarks** [Information]

Commissioner Fleming thanked everyone for their work during the storm.

Commissioner Knickle thanked Chief Wirth for his leadership through the recent storms and thanked staff for their work through Hurricane Milton.

Commissioner Wood remarked that Chief Wirth shows great leadership and instills confidence in staff response. He thinks that planning and purchase of a high water vehicle are necessary to improve response.

Commissioner Bennett thanked staff for their response during Hurricane Milton. He shared his thoughts on a recent house fire on his street and expressed his appreciation for those who responded.

**11. Adjournment** 10:39am

**Minutes for the Meeting of  
the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Board of Commissioners**  
November 20, 2024 10:00 AM  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Larry Wood, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Knickle, Commissioner Ron Fleming, Commissioner Jacki Liszak, Fire Chief Scott Wirth, Finance Director Jane Thompson, and District members.

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 10:00AM
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner motioned to adopt the agenda. Commissioner seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

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 Amended Meeting Minutes from September 30, 2024
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 30, 2024
- C. Approval of Checks General Fund Checks 449005-49060 total \$374,867.81
- D. Approval of Capital Improvement Project Fund Check 1015 total \$24,565.00

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

7. **Swearing in of Board Members**

- A. Swearing in of Newly Elected Fire Commissioner Keran Farrell

Commissioner Bennett swore in Commissioner Farrell to his newly elected position.

- B. Swearing in of Re-elected Fire Commissioner Ronald Fleming

Commissioner Bennett swore in Commissioner Fleming to his re-elected position.

- C. Recognition of Fire Commissioner Larry Wood

Chief Wirth and the Board of Fire Commissioners shared their appreciation and sentiments for Commissioner Wood as he retires from his board position. He was

presented with an award of appreciation. Commissioner Wood thanked everyone for their support and expressed his appreciation for the District firefighters and members. The board took a brief break before moving to the next item and reconvened at 10:31AM.

## 8. **Unfinished Business**

### A. Update on Progress of High Water Vehicle [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth shared information on high water vehicles and other options for the District to purchase. He advised he will have additional information and updates at the next regular board meeting.

## 9. **New Business**

### A. Election of Board Positions

Commissioner Fleming nominated Commissioner Bennett for the role of Chairman. Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Bennett nominated Commissioner Knickle for the role of Vice-Chair. Commissioner Lyszak seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Knickle nominated Commissioner Fleming for the role of Secretary/Treasurer. Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

### B. Approval of District 3 Bargaining Agreement [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth shared information regarding the tentative contract agreement details for negotiations that started in May of this year.

Commissioner Bennett asked if the agreement fell within the approved budget, Chief Wirth verified it does and asked that the contract be retroactive to October 1, 2024. Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the contract and Commissioner Knickle seconded. There was no public input and the motion carried 5-0.

### C. Continuation of Fire Chief Performance Review {Information/Discussion/Approval}

The Board discussed Chief Wirth's review and agreed with Chief Wirth's request to be compensated for a year of health coverage for each year served as Chief. The Board added that a cost of living raise (COLA) would be necessary as well so that the standard of Chief Executive pay does not fall behind. Attorney Salzman

added that a COLA is separate from the Chief's request of the health benefit and recommended one be added. Commissioner Liszak shared that she appreciates Chief Wirth intending to not take a COLA but feels it is necessary. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the health benefit and a COLA, Commissioner Farrell seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

D. Approval of 2025 Meeting Calendar [ Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented the tentative meeting dates for 2025, and the Board reported had no conflicts.

**10. Fire Chief Remarks**

**11. Attorney Report**

**12. Commissioner Remarks**

**13. Adjournment 11:17AM**

Minutes for the Meeting of  
the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Board of Commissioners  
December 18, 2024 5:00 PM  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Jim Knickle, Secretary/Treasurer Ron Fleming, Commissioner Keran Farrell, Commissioner Jacki Lyszak (arrived at 5:18PM), Fire Chief Scott Wirth, and District members.

1. Meeting Called to Order 5:05 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adoption of Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner motioned to adopt the agenda. Commissioner 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 November 20, 2024
- B. Approval of Checks General Fund Checks 49061-49119 total \$204,336.65
- C. Approval of Capital Improvement Project Fund Check 1016 - 1018 total \$72,674.81

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

7. Fire Chief's Report

Chief Wirth indicated his happiness that hurricane season is over and while we did not escape unscathed, it could have much worse had we taken a direct hit from Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton. Some lessons learned; having shared temporary EOC space with the Town of Fort Myers Beach was successful and learning the clarity of the type of high water vehicle needed for response. Members of our team are working toward rank advancement and members of USAR continue to obtain targeted training for specialty responses. Life Safety Specialist Chris Cox has expressed an interest in plans review and is currently training with Fire Officer Campbell. There are mixed emotions with the sale of the Station 31 property. This was the original fire station that has served us well for

over 75 years. A special thank you to DVP Williamson and his team for their professionalism and commitment to promote a positive labor/management relationship that contributed to successful negotiations. Technology and Security Administrator Craig Kaufman has been instrumental in implementing the sign board project that initially began prior to Hurricane Ian. Craig has also replaced all our apparatus Mobile Data Computers that interface with Lee County. Assistant Chief Randy Kraus has been working diligently to build out the enhanced features of the Operative IQ program. These features include job tickets for repairing facilities, bunker gear, radios, etc., and will track the repairs associated with each asset, allowing for easy access to historical repair information associated with each asset. Assistance Chief Armiger and Lt. Jensen completed the Blue Zone Hazzard Conference in Ohio; they will in turn relay what they learned to our crews. Chief Wirth also highlighted several operation staff for progressing in their careers. Chief Wirth also reviewed current and historical call volume. Prior to Hurricane Ian, 70% of our calls were EMS related and 30% fire related. Post Hurricane Ian, the calls are primarily fire related verses EMS. Total call volume is approximately sixty percent of what it was before Hurricane Ian. Chief Wirth also reviewed member anniversaries.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Update on Progress of High Water Vehicle [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth provided information regarding high water vehicles research and vehicles that have been test driven and will be test driven. He also discussed each of the vehicles researched and the pros and cons of each. Chief Wirth indicated that additional research is needed and will provide and updated information at the next meeting.

B. Update on the Sale of 3043 Estero Blvd [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth indicated that after a few minor delays, the closing occurred on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

9. New Business

A. Construction Contract and Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for New Fire Station 31 [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth gave some background information and indicated that Wright Construction provided a GMP contract for \$11,940,849. The fire station is 13,450 square feet, representing a \$892 square foot price. We anticipate 14 months to substantially complete.

The agreement with the State of Florida provides for a March 2026 final date to complete this grant project. The higher cost is largely due to constructing a Level E building. Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the contract. Chairman Bennett seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

#### 10. Fire Chief Remarks

Congratulation to Christina Ensor on the birth of her son. Our crews are working with the Beach Kids Foundation to provide Christmas toys to the youth in our community. Chief Wirth expressed his appreciation for the Board's leadership. He's also looking forward to the coming year, construction of the new fire station, promoting members and hiring to staff the new station. Chief Wirth wished everyone a merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

#### 11. Commissioner Remarks

Commissioner Farrell thanked Chief Wirth and is excited to see the construction of our new station. He commended members of the operation staff for taking on the additional work toward professional development and obtaining certifications. Commissioner Farrell wished everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Commissioner Liszak mentioned a Fort Myers Beach Council member whose family member required our services and mentioned that the crew was very professional and wanted to thank them for the care that was provided. She also thanked her fellow Board members and is happy to be part of this amazing Board and wished everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Commissioner Knickle recognized that 2024 has been challenging. He is also excited about the new station construction. Commissioner Knickle would like to thank all the members for their incredible work this year, understanding the unique challenges to each individual and their families and how difficult it can be working shifts in dangerous situations. The holidays are a good time to reflect on how fortunate we are and looking forward to good year. He wished everyone happy holidays.

Commissioner Fleming is also pleased to see we are moving forward with the construction of Station 31. He mentioned his pleasure at members taking advantage of training and that the District is hiring to fill open positions. Commissioner Fleming reflected that Hurricane

Ian changed the mindset of many residents and was hoping Hurricane Milton did not impact the mental resiliency of the community. He believes that we are turning the corner.

Chairman Bennett thanked the Board and indicated he has enjoyed working with them.

He's looking forward to the New Year and the Board's annual retreat. Chairman Bennett is excited to begin construction of the fire house and the sale of the old station property and thanked everyone for their work and dedication. He also wished everyone a great holiday.

Chief Wirth added a special thank you to FPL for decorating our Station 33, it is beautiful and is truly appreciated.

12. Adjournment 5:48 PM