

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

September 23, 2026, 5:05 pm
Diamondhead Beach Resort
2000 Estero Boulevard

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

1. Meeting Called to Order 5:05pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Adoption of Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Liszak motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Fleming 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 overview of the budget and indicated there were no changes from the proposed budget as presented at the first Public Hearing. The final budget is based on a millage rate of 2.65.

6. Adoption of Final Millage Rate – Resolution 2026-04 [Introduction/Public

Input/Discussion/Adoption]

Commissioner Liszak motioned to approve Resolution 2026-04, adopting a final millage rate, Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. There were no questions, discussion, or public input. The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Bennett: Yes

Commissioner Knickle: Yes

Commissioner Fleming: Yes

Commissioner Liszak: Yes

Commissioner Farrell: Yes

7. Adoption of Final Budget– Resolution 2026-05 [Introduction/Public

Input/Discussion/Adoption]

Commissioner Knickle motioned to approve Resolution 2026-04, adopting a final budget of \$39,980,253, Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion. There were no questions, discussion, or public input. The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Bennett: Yes

Commissioner Fleming: Yes

Commissioner Knickle: Yes

Commissioner Liszak: Yes

Commissioner Farrell: Yes

8. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth thanked Jane and all the administrative team for their work on the budget. It is a heavy lift and I am confident this budget will get us through next year on schedule and on budget. He thanked the Board of Commissioners for their leadership.

9. Commissioners Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Farrell thanked Chief and Jane; budget looks good and we are in good shape.

Commissioner Liszak is glad we were able to lower the budget and give the taxpayers a little more relief based on everything that is coming up; this should be helpful.

Commissioner Knickle echoed everyone's comments and pleased we can move forward and lower our millage rate; it is important to the folks that live here.

Commissioner Fleming agreed with everyone's comments and is proud and pleased that we could project that we can safely reduce our tax rate for the citizens and meet all our obligations.

Commissioner Bennett thanked Chief, Jane and the entire team for an outstanding job. To be able to lower our millage rate. The overall picture is strong, and we continue to work that back that is our plan for the future. He foresees us staying on track and looks forward to many more years of the same type of meetings to do good work as this [setting the budget] is one of our primary functions.

Commissioner Knickle mentioned that it may appear funny to people that we do not have a lot of questions about the budget as we're going through and approving the budget items. However we have been asking those questions for several weeks, maybe even months, as we have been going through the budget preparation process. By the time we actually approve the budget we are very familiar with it and do not have a lot of questions. We understand the budget and the team have done a great job.

10. Adjournment 5:16pm