

MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
FORT MYERS BEACH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TIME: 5:00 PM  
DATE: January 26, 2022  
Fort Myers Beach Public Library

IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Larry Wood, Vice-Chairman Ron Fleming, Secretary/Treasurer John Bennett, Commissioner Jacki Lyszak, Commissioner Jim Knickle, Fire Chief Ronald Martin, District Chief of Operations Scott Wirth, Dr. Margaret Banyan (via zoom) and District Members.

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Lyszak made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Fleming seconded.  
Motion approved unanimously 5-0.

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

**5. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items**

*No public input provided.*

**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. December 15, 2021 BOFC Work Session and Meeting Minutes

B. October 31, 2021 District Checks 46363 - 46449 total of \$425,119.77

C. November 30, 2021 District Checks 46450 - 46504 total \$216,034.34

D. December 31, 2021 District Checks 46505 - 46588 total \$253,051.19

Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Knickle made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Lyszak seconded.  
Motion approved unanimously 5-0.

**7. Fire Chief Report [Information]**

Chief Martin acknowledged service milestones of various members of the District totaling 77 years of service. Chief Martin also acknowledged the promotions of Lieutenant Christopher Armiger, Division Chief Randy Kraus and Colleen Brooks. Chief Martin also recognized and thanked the following employees who have recently moved

on in their careers: Firefighter Natalie Wichmann, Firefighter Andrew Dominguez and Division Chief Vincent DiCristofalo.

Chief Martin shared the progress of three new hires and welcomed them to the District. Chief Martin advised that the District is actively recruiting, for multiple open positions. Chief Martin briefly discussed the shift executive concept which was implemented in October.

Chief Martin shared that the new COVID variant through holidays lead to continued precautions and measures and thanked local health care teams as it has put a strain on them.

Fire Official Campbell is currently in Tallahassee, so the Chief briefly shared that Life Safety has been busy the past three months, averaging 348 inspections and 40 permits per month with a good revenue. There are multiple large projects happening on the Beach as well as some upcoming special events.

#### **8. District Operations Report- Scott Wirth [Information/Discussion]**

Chief Wirth gave a synopsis of the last quarter of the year, stating the department ran 910 calls with 1,500 vehicle responses. This included two accidents with fatalities, a boat fire, a minor fire on the north end and two structure fires via automatic aid to Sanibel and Iona-McGregor Fire Districts.

The department was able to participate in training, including vehicle extrication/jaws of life training and live fire training in Bonita, EMS training in congestive heart failure, traumatic injuries and pediatric emergencies.

Stations are being changed to LED lighting and working on the garage doors.

#### **9. Unfinished Business**

A. None

#### **10. New Business**

A. Proposed Board Policy P2004: Whistle Blower  
[Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Martin introduced the policy as global, allowing parties to report issues while being protected. The staff highly recommends the policy.

No public comments

Commissioner Bennett noted this policy looked good and asked if it had been cleared by the district's attorney. Chief Martin advised it had.

Chairman Wood applauded the Chief for stepping up and initiating policy.

Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve the policy. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve the policy. Commissioner Fleming seconded.

Motion approved unanimously 5-0.

B. 2022-2025 FMBFCD Strategic Plan Presentation- Dr. Margaret Banyan  
[Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Martin introduced Dr. Banyan who then gave a presentation on her recent surveys and findings regarding the performance of the District.

Chairman Wood deferred to Chief Martin for comment. Chief Martin shared it is encouraging to see that many goals he set when he became Chief were reinforced by this survey.

There was no one present to provide public comment.

Commissioner Knickle added he was impressed with the plan and thanked Dr. Banyan. Commissioner Knickle asked how community input was obtained. Dr. Banyan advised she performed an online survey, and focus groups with the community and collaborating agencies.

Commissioners Lyszak, Fleming and Bennett all thanked Dr. Banyan.

Chairman Wood reiterated the thoughts of Board and added he thinks data accurately portrayed the District. He also noted that Chief Martin has already implemented plans for a lot of the issues and that a three year plan makes sense.

Chairman Wood motioned to approve the strategic plan. Commissioner Bennett seconded.

Motion approved unanimously 5-0.

C. Approval to surplus two District Assets [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Martin would like to surplus the Polaris vehicle and a 2017 Ford Explorer that is no longer used.

Commissioner Bennett asked about why we need to surplus the Polaris. Chief Martin answered there are several mechanical issues and it is out of service.

There were no further questions/comments. Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve the surplus list 2022-01. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve.

Commissioner Knickle seconded.

Motion approved unanimously 5-0.

**11. Fire Chief Remarks**

Chief Martin thanked everyone for good meeting. Chief Martin noted that there is a lot of work to do educating the community of fire safety and extended his condolences to the Baltimore City Fire Department for their recent line of duty losses.

**12. Commissioner Remarks**

Commissioner Fleming noted he is happy with the strategic plan.

Commissioner Lyszak thanked everyone for a great meeting and thanked the District for all their hard work in the recent tornado response.

Commissioner Knickle thanked everyone for a great meeting and thanked staff for their work with Dr. Banyan. He extended appreciation for Chief Martin communicating on issues and situations.

Commissioner Bennett thanked the team for their work on the strategic plan.

Chairman Wood suggested the next survey be performed in February or March when more seasonal residents are present. The Chairman highlighted and thanked Captain Devito for his recent written article on fire safety.

**13. Adjournment**

6:12 PM