

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 Liszak 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 Liszak 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 1st. 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