

Minutes for the
Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Board of Commissioners
Annual Board Retreat
March 24, 2023 9:00am
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, District Chief Scott Wirth, Attorney Andrew Salzman, and District members.

1. Restate Agenda Items [Information]

Chairman Bennett moved to add item 8C to the agenda, approval of PPL payout for former Chief Martin. Commissioner Fleming seconded the motion, the motion passed 5-0.

2. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items- *none*

3. 09:00-10:00: Legal Update – Attorney Salzman

Attorney Salzman gave a presentation briefing the Board of Commissioners on the Sunshine law and state public records laws.

4. 10:00-10:15: Break

5. 10:15-11:15: Legal Update- Attorney Salzman (continued)

Attorney Salzman continued his presentation, discussing public records and ethics statutes.

6. 11:15-11:30: Lunch Break

7. 11:30-12:15: State of the District

Acting Chief Wirth updated the Board on the fiscal state of the District following Hurricane Ian, including loss of tax revenue, current open positions and District properties.

8. 12:15-13:00: Commissioner Hot Topics

A. Review Fire Chief's Qualification Requirements

Commissioners shared their suggestions for changes to the Fire Chief position requirements and performance measures. The Board will solidify changes with Attorney Salzman and the Finance Director and it will be added as an agenda item for the next meeting on April 26th.

B. Level of Authority for Acting Fire Chief

Chairman Bennett motioned that District Chief Wirth have all the duties and responsibilities of former Chief until the vacant position is filled. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion, the motion passed 5-0.

The Board discussed District Chief Wirth's pay as Acting Chief. Chairman Bennett motioned to increase District Chief Wirth to the base pay of the Fire Chief salary range with all the associated benefits and duties, and to revert to the highest level within the District Chief salary range should he not stay in the Fire Chief position. Commissioner Wood seconded the motion, the motion passed 5-0.

C. Approval of PPL payout to Ronald Martin

Attorney Salzman shared that he had drafted a settlement release with one condition being a payout of former Chief Martin's accrued paid personal leave.

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

9. Adjournment 1:46pm