

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

May 28, 2025 10:00am  
Diamondhead Beach Resort  
2000 Estero Boulevard

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Jim Knickle, Secretary/Treasurer Ronald Fleming, Fire Chief Scott Wirth, Attorney Andrew Salzman and District members.

Absent: Commissioner Jacki Lyszak and Commissioner Keran Farrell

1. Meeting Called to Order 10:00 AM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Board observed a moment of silence for Firefighter Michael McCarty

3. Adoption of Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Bennett recommended moving item 8A to the item 5 position and then commencing in order. Commissioner Fleming motioned to adopt the agenda.

Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

4. Restate Agenda Items [Information]

5. New Business (moved at the request of Commissioner Bennett)

A. Adopt Audited Financial Statement-year ended September 30, 2024

[Presentation/Public Comment/Discussion/Approval]

Jane Thompson introduced Jeff Brown with Ashley, Brown and Smith, CPAs to go over the audit results. Mr. Brown briefly presented the firm's findings for the audit of fiscal year 2023-2024. The Board had no questions.

Commissioner Knickle motioned to adopt the audit as presented. Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

B. Resolution 2025-02 Amend Budget for Year-end September 30, 2025

[Information/Public Comment/Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Fleming motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-02. Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion carried with the roll call vote as follows:

Commissioner Fleming: yes

Commissioner Knickle: yes

Commissioner Bennett: yes

6. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

Representatives from the Local 1826 and others shared their thoughts and opinions on proposed District reorganization.

Commissioner Bennett thanked everyone for providing input.

7. 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 March 26, 2025
- B. Approval of March General Fund Checks 49247 - 49309 total \$89,845.27
- C. Approval of March Capital Improvement Fund Checks 1025 - 1027 total \$376,105.85
- D. Approval of April General Fund Checks 49310-49348 total \$235,142.79
- E. Approval of April Capital Improvement Fund Checks 1028-1034 total \$116,645.16

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

8. Unfinished Business

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

Chief Wirth provided information on the status of purchasing a high-water vehicle. He presented the option of lifting an existing pickup truck and adding a lifted trailer and boat that can be used in high water. Forestry has some vehicles available as well as a new swamp buggy that Chief Wirth was able to inspect. The modification of the pickup truck to pull a trailer and boat would be the most readily available option and ready for hurricane season.

Commissioner Knickle asked for clarification on availability for each option. Chief Wirth advised USAR would have equipment readily available as well as the lifted truck with trailer for this season. The swamp buggy would not be available until next year.

Commissioner Fleming has been looking into other style vehicles that he will discuss with Chief Wirth at a later date.

9. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth did not have remarks at this time other than he looks forward to sitting down tomorrow, May 29<sup>th</sup> and have a discussion with all those involved in reorganization.

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

11. Commissioner Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Fleming shared his thoughts on reorganizing the District and the Battalion Chief position and that he looks forward to discussion.

Commissioner Bennett thanked everyone for attending and shared his confidence in Chief Wirth. He noted he is disappointed that this matter was a public discussion before the affected individuals could sit down one on one for a discussion. He advised that the District has a financial responsibility to the residents of the beach and he is confident the right decision will be made after discussions.

Commissioner Bennett also highlighted a recent recognition of a young man in the community and his love for the fire service. He thanked the staff at Station 33 for their support of this community member.

12. Adjournment 10:28 AM