

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

September 14, 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 presentation of the budget and went over changes made to specific sections of the budget. The tentative budget is based on a millage rate of 2.65, a 4% reduction from the TRIM rate of 2.76.

Commissioner Farrell asked, if the merger vote were to succeed in November, how much of our funds would transfer to Iona McGregor Fire District. Chief Wirth indicated the legislation indicates that all assets and liabilities would transfer; approximately twenty million dollars.

6. Adoption of Tentative Millage Rate – Resolution 2026-02 [Introduction/Public Input/Discussion/Adoption]

Commissioner Farrell motioned to approve Resolution 2026-02, adopting a tentative millage rate, Commissioner Knickle 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 Tentative Budget– Resolution 2026-03 [Introduction/Public Input/Discussion/Adoption]

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve Resolution 2026-03, adopting a final budget of \$39,980,253, Commissioner Liszak 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. **Final Budget Hearing Date** [Information/Discussion]

Commissioner Knickle motioned to hold the Final Budget Hearing at Diamond Head Resort on September 23, 2026, at 5:05pm. Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

9. **Fire Chief Remarks** [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth thanked Jane and all the administrative team for their hard work on the budget and thanked everyone for their contributions.

10. **Commissioners Remarks** [Information]

Commissioner Farrell thanked Chief and Jane for their work on the budget.

Commissioner Liszak is glad we were able to lower the millage rate and hopefully that helps, certainly going into November. She thanked Chief and Jane for their budget work.

Commissioner Knickle commented that he is also happy we were able to lower the millage rate for the citizens.

Commissioner Fleming concurred with all the prior comments. He is glad we are moving forward and that we have good organization and he is proud to serve.

Chairman Bennett concurred with everyone's remarks and remarked he was happy to see our financial state as a District is always impressive. He commented that long-term planning, savings where we can, saving the taxpayers, even if it is small points, every point matters and every point's a dollar. It means a lot to folks, and we will continue to do everything we can. He thanked Chief, Jane and the entire team.

11. **Adjournment** 5:22pm