

Minutes for the Meeting of
the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Board of Commissioners
September 24, 2025 5:00pm
Diamondhead Beach Resort
2000 Estero Boulevard

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Jim Knickle, Secretary/Treasurer Ronald Fleming, Commissioner Jacki Lyszak, Commissioner Keran Farrell, Fire Chief Scott Wirth, and District members.

1. Meeting Called to Order 5:13pm – Note: instead of pausing for the budget meeting, the final budget meeting was held and concluded prior to the start of the regular meeting.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adoption of Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Fleming moved to adopt the agenda, Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and the motion carried 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 August 27, 2025
- B. Approval of Tentative Budget Meeting Minutes from – Commissioner Bennett noted a correction to the minutes title.
- C. Approval of July General Fund Checks 49510-49559 total \$213,208.45
- D. Approval of July Capital Improvement Fund Checks 1063-1071 total \$603,951.75
Commissioner Farrell motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Lyszak seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

7. Chief's Report

Chief Wirth shared that Assistant Chief Sears and Assistant Chief Sullivan have been active in the District and the Chief has received positive feedback.

Chief Wirth gave information on the new drones and the status of Station 31 construction.

The Strategic Plan is underway and Dr. Banyan has been completing interviews.

Administration has been busy with interviews and hiring. Candidates are currently undergoing the background process.

Chief Wirth provided a brief report on the calls run from June-August. The Operations Division has been working on communication with the crews.

Human Resources and members have been working on a mental health program.

Chief Sullivan and five District members have been working on the design for a new engine.

A new probationary firefighter task book has been created in anticipation of the new hires.

Chief Wirth gave some statistics on Life Safety and Prevention for 2024 and 2025 and highlighted upcoming projects on the Beach.

District anniversaries:

Firefighter Cook 24 years

Chief Wirth 8 years

Executive Assistant Angela Vallarta 5 years

Firefighter Carrano 3 years

Firefighter Rodriguez 3 years

8. Unfinished Business

A. Updates to Board Policies

Commissioner Bennet motioned to approve Board Policy changes P2000-P2005 as presented, Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

9. New Business

A. Acceptance of FDLE Drone Grant

Chief Wirth gave information on the FDLE Drone Grant for up to \$25,000 per drone with a total cost to the District of \$3,842.94.

The Board watched a brief demo video and asked questions.

Commissioner Fleming motioned to accept the FDLE Drone Grant, Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

B. Purchase of Drone Dock for DFR Program

This item was pulled from the agenda and will be presented at a later date.

C. Commissioner Emeritus Status for Former Commissioner Wood

The Board discussed Former Commissioner Wood and all he has done for the District. The Commissioner Emeritus Status would include a commemorative

plaque for former Commissioner Wood at the new Station 31. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve Commissioner Emeritus Status for Former Commissioner Wood, Commissioner Liszak seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

D. Reschedule October Meeting

Chief Wirth requested the Board consider moving the October 22nd meeting to 5:00pm for ceremonial swearing-in of district members. Commissioner Bennett motioned to move the October 22nd meeting to 5:00pm, Commissioner Liszak seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

10. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief shared that the department has been going through a lot of changes.

He acknowledged Lee County EMS' recent loss of a crew member and extended the District's condolences. He also extended well wishes to the Battalion Chief with Bonita Springs Fire who was recently struck by a car during a call.

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

12. Commissioner Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Fleming shared his appreciation for the crews after observing recent training exercises.

Commissioner Knickle shared he admires all the hard work on the budget and feels the District is in a good place.

Commissioner Liszak noted the importance of training and appreciation for the drone grant. She recognized Betty Simpson who recently passed and noted all she has done for the island over the years.

Commissioner Farrell thanked Chief Wirth and Jane for a great budget meeting. He congratulated Firefighters Rillo and Prisco on their EMT tests. He shared he is impressed by the initiative he is seeing throughout the District.

Commissioner Bennett is happy that the District was able to lower the millage rate. He recognized the upcoming three year anniversary of Hurricane Ian.

13. Adjournment 5:59pm