

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

April 22, 2026 5:00 PM
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 5:00pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Adoption of Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the agenda; Commissioner Lyszak 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 March 25, 2026
- B. Approval of March General Fund Checks 49898-49964 total \$271,806.60
- C. Approval of March Capital Improvement Fund Checks 1129-1134 total \$1,771,912.09

Commissioner Knickle motioned to approve the agenda; Commissioner Farrell seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

7. Pinning Ceremony

Chief Wirth recognized the promotions of Lieutenant Martinez and Lieutenant Rojo. The District's newest firefighters took their oaths of office. Oaths were taken in the following order:

Firefighter Christopher Boveda

Firefighter David Cardentey

Firefighter Matthew Davis

Firefighter Charles Michel

Firefighter Gabe Palijan

Assistant Chief Sullivan presented SAVE Awards for the members below who took part in recent pre-hospital resuscitations:

Captain Joe DeVito

Lieutenant Joel Martinez

Firefighter Kevin Hernandez

Firefighter Fernando Manitto

Firefighter Chris Prisco

Firefighter Miguel Rodriguez

Lieutenant Todd Williamson

Driver Engineer Andres Vila

Firefighter Hermes Llaser

Firefighter Joshua Dieppa

The board took a brief recess at 5:23pm for photos and refreshments. The meeting resumed at 5:48pm.

8. Fire Chief Report

Chief Wirth gave a report on the events and statistics of January, February, and March 2026. The quarter was marked by strong training outputs, focus on mental health, and the opening of the new Station 31.

9. Unfinished Business

A. Merger Bill – Board Letter to Governor DeSantis

[Information/Discussion/Approval]

The Board discussed the status of House Bill 4013. The bill passed the House and the Senate and currently sits with Governor DeSantis for signature. The Board reviewed a drafted letter to the Governor requesting that he veto the bill. Iona McGregor's Board of Fire Commissioners is sending a letter as well.

Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve sending the letter to Governor DeSantis, Commissioner Liszak seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

10. New Business

A. Resolution 2026-01: Amend Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026

[Information/Discussion/Approval]

Jane Thompson presented budget information and explained the resolution. The budget would be amended from \$25,600,000 to \$26,436,075 due to additional funds carried forward from the prior fiscal year in the amount of \$836,075.

Bennett read the resolution, Commissioner Knickle seconded the resolution. The roll call vote was as follows:

Vice Chair Knickle- Yes

Secretary/Treasurer Fleming -Yes

Commissioner Liszak- Yes

Commissioner Farrell -Yes

Chair Bennett -Yes

B. Surplus Capital Assets [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth provided a list of items to be surplus.

Commissioner Farrell motioned to approve the surplus items, Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0.

11. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth thanked everyone for participating in the open house of Station 31. He thanked Chief Sullivan, Chief Sears, and HR Generalist Mellissa Lucas on their positive impact in the department. There will be four promotions at the next evening meeting in July as well as swearing in new hires.

The property appraiser gave flat revenue numbers, which will come into account during discussions with labor partners.

The District's drone is now live on Lee County's system and Chief Wirth is looking forward to training in May.

12. Commissioner Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Knickle congratulated everyone on a great job and noted that he is proud of the agency and its members. He shared his enthusiasm about the drone.

Commissioner Fleming noted that it is nice to see promotions and new hires. He was impressed by the lifesaving awards, and he is happy to see district members moving the District forwards. He is impressed with attention to employee mental health.

Commissioner Farrell extended congratulations to the new firefighters and those promoted. He shared that he is impressed by the SAVE awards. He noted that he hopes Governor DeSantis takes the letters from both Districts seriously.

Commissioner Liszak echoed everyone's sentiments and congratulated those sworn in and promoted. She is proud of the new Station 31. She shared that she has received community inquiries about the back half of the station property for a potential health facility.

Commissioner Bennett thanked everyone for an outstanding job and turnout on the station 31 opening. He shared that he is happy to see families at promotions and oaths.

13. Adjournment 6:25pm