

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

November 20, 2024 10:00 AM

Diamondhead Beach Resort
2000 Estero Boulevard

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Larry Wood, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Knickle, Commissioner Ron Fleming, Commissioner Jacki Liszak, Fire Chief Scott Wirth, Finance Director Jane Thompson, and District members.

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 10:00AM
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner motioned to adopt the agenda. Commissioner 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 Amended Meeting Minutes from September 30, 2024
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 30, 2024
- C. Approval of Checks General Fund Checks 449005-49060 total \$374,867.81
- D. Approval of Capital Improvement Project Fund Check 1015 total \$24,565.00

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

7. **Swearing in of Board Members**

- A. Swearing in of Newly Elected Keran Farrell

Commissioner Bennett swore in Commissioner Farrell to his newly elected position.

- B. Swearing in of Re-elected Ronald Fleming

Commissioner Bennett swore in Commissioner Fleming to his re-elected position.

- C. Recognition of Commissioner Larry Wood

Chief Wirth and Board shared their appreciation and sentiments for Commissioner Wood as he retires from his board position. He was presented with an award of

appreciation. Commissioner Wood thanked everyone for their support and expressed his appreciation for the District firefighters and members. The board took a brief break before moving to the next item and resumed at 10:31AM.

8. Unfinished Business

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

Chief Wirth shared information on high water vehicles and other options for the District to purchase. He advised he will have additional information and updates at the next meeting.

9. New Business

A. Election of Board Positions

Commissioner Fleming nominated Commissioner Bennett for the role of Chairman. Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Bennett nominated Commissioner Knickle for the role of Vice-Chair. Commissioner Lyszak seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Knickle nominated Commissioner Fleming for the role of Secretary/Treasurer. Commissioner Bennett seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

B. Approval of District 3 Bargaining Agreement [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth shared tentative contract agreement details for negotiations that started in May of this year.

Commissioner Bennett asked if the agreement fell within the approved budget, Chief Wirth verified it does and asked that the contract be retroactive to October 1, 2024. Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the contract and Commissioner Knickle seconded. There was no public input and the motion carried 5-0.

C. Continuation of Fire Chief Performance Review {Information/Discussion/Approval}

The Board discussed Chief Wirth's review and agreed with Chief Wirth's request to be compensated for a year of health coverage for each year served as Chief. The Board added that a cost of living raise (COLA) would be necessary as well so that the standard of Chief Executive pay does not fall behind. Attorney Salzman added that a COLA is separate from the Chief's request of the health benefit and

recommended on be added. Commissioner Lyszak shared that she appreciates Chief Wirth intending to not take a COLA but feels it is necessary. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approved the health benefit and a COLA, Commissioner Farrell seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

D. Approval of 2025 Meeting Calendar [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth presented the tentative meeting dates for 2025 and the Board had not conflicts.

10. Fire Chief Remarks

11. Attorney Report

12. Commissioner Remarks

13. Adjournment 11:17AM