

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

May 22, 2024 10:00am
Diamondhead Beach Resort
2000 Estero Boulevard

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

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 10:02 am
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]

Commissioner Lyszak motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion passed 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 April 24, 2024
- B. Approval of Checks General Fund 48713-48749 total \$115,183.59
- C. Approval of Checks Capital Improvement Projects Fund 1002-1003 total \$6,525.00

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

7. Unfinished Business
 - A. Update on New Station and Administration Projects [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth gave an update on Station 31 and the design. Planning is still on track to have ground breaking in October.

The existing building on the Main Street property has been demolished and Lee County is working on clearing permits and fines so that the District can close on the property with a clear title. The closing will be delayed a few weeks.

8. **New Business**
 - A. SAVE Awards [Presentation/Discussion]

Chief Wirth presented B Shift with the SAVE award for their efforts in resuscitating a patient via CPR on March 29th. Firefighter DeClercq gave a brief synopsis of the call. Firefighter Marin reiterated the importance of CPR training and Chief Wirth reminded the community of the AED purchasing program.

The Board of Commissioners commented on their appreciation for the crew and thanked them for their efforts.

B. Present Firm for Merger Feasibility Study [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Seth Comer with Iona McGregor Fire District shared that their board had met the prior week and had an hour long conversation regarding the merger feasibility study. Iona McGregor's Board did pass the agreement to use J. Angle Group for a voluntary study.

The Fort Myers Beach Fire District Board of Commissioners briefly discussed the merger feasibility study and shared their thoughts.

Chairman Bennett motioned to move forward with the top ranked firm, J. Angle Group, for a voluntary merger study. Commissioner Knickle seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

C. Mid-year Budget Presentation [Information/Discussion]

Finance Director Jane Thompson gave a brief presentation on the status of budget to actual revenues and expenses as of March 31, 2024.

The Board thanked Jane for all her hard work.

9. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth thanked the Chamber of Commerce for recognizing the Fire District for outstanding service.

Since March the rear doors at Station 33 have been replaced, the roof at Station 32 is almost completed and the generators and transfer switches at all District sites should be completed soon.

Some District members recently completed USAR training for structural collapse.

Driver Engineer Joel Martinez recently won the day before Mother's Day Race on the beach; the Chief congratulated him on his win.

Chief Wirth recognized the following anniversaries:

Captain Chilson 17 year

Assistant Chief Armiger 9 year

Firefighter Dieppa 4 years

Firefighter Marin 4 years

Firefighter Manitto 4 years

The Whale and 7-Eleven have recently had groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings and Chief Wirth represented the District. The Beach is slowly rebuilding and multiple development orders have been received.

10. Commissioners Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Knickle commented on his excitement in the progress of rebuilding the beach. He thanked Jane for her presentation and all her hard work and thanked the Iona McGregor Fire District for their input on the merger feasibility study.

Commissioner Wood thanked Iona McGregor as well. He shared that he has decided not to run for re-election and his term will end in November. He thanked the community and District for all of the support over the years.

Commissioner Fleming thanked Iona McGregor. He thanked Jane for all her hard work on the budget. He shared a recent experience when crews responded to help him after he was bitten by a snake. He thanked responding crews for their assistance.

Commissioner Lyszak thanked the District and shared that the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors held a lot of discussion about the award. They noted the care, dedication and compassion of Fire District members after Hurricane Ian. She also shared her experience with administering CPR and reiterated the importance of community training.

Chairman Bennett thanked everyone for a great meeting. He thanked Iona McGregor for their partnership on the merger feasibility study. He thanked Jane for all she does and for presenting the budget information. Chairman Bennett closed in recognizing Commissioner Wood for his leadership and his contributions to the community.

11. Adjournment 11:15pm