

APRIL 18, 2013
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013

Location: Administrative Offices, Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District, 2451 Trailmate Drive, Sarasota, Florida, 34243

Present: Charles A. Durant, Chairman; Daniel Center, Vice Chairman; Melanie Marken, Secretary; and Commissioner James Cena. Anthony Evans, Treasurer was absent. Also in attendance were Chief Brian Gorski, Deputy Chief Tim Berry, Fire Marshal Leslie Adent, and Administrative Assistant Debbie Tuckerman. Commission General Counsel Maggie Mooney-Portale attended. The attached guest list contains signatures of members of the public.

Call to Order

Chairman Durant called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Moment of Silence/Pledge

A moment of silence was observed. Chairman Durant asked that we keep the people of Boston in our prayers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Special Business

Chief Gorski along with Battalion Chief's Blanco and Gould assisted in the award to Firefighter Johnathan Maltby for his years of service. Firefighter Maltby recently resigned from Southern Manatee to work fulltime for Hillsborough County.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda was included in the Board packet. *Commissioner Center motioned to accept the consent agenda items as presented. Commissioner Marken seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Durant recognized Adam Chevalier as requesting public comment. Adam asked the commissioners if they would allow an additional public comment section at the end of the meeting so that members of the public could comment on any actions taken during the meeting. There was discussion. It was also mentioned that we should add the three minute limit per the policy to the Agenda. *Commissioner Cena motioned to add public comment to the Agenda after the Chief's Report. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.* These changes will be reflected on the next month's agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

* **Fund Balance Policy**

Chief Gorski spoke about moving forward on the Fund Balance Policy. He will have a final policy at May's meeting.

* **Vehicle Replacement Program**

Chief Gorski reported that there was more work done on the Vehicle Replacement Program. He demonstrated how the program works with the Commissioners.

* **Website**

Chief Gorski reported that work has continued on the new website as he demonstrated. There were some suggestions to add the website to the vehicles. All the Commissioners agreed that the new website looks fantastic.

* **Minimum Bid of Surplus A/C Unit**

Chief Gorski reported that we did list our surplus A/C unit on Govdeals.com but had no bids. He suggested that we use a minimum bid of \$100 so that we can generate some bids for this unit. *Commissioner Center motioned to list the surplus A/C unit at a minimum bid of \$100. Commissioner Cena seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*

NEW BUSINESS

1. **House Bill 885**

Chief Gorski reported to the Board that House Bill 885 addressed Local Fire Control Districts and ad valorem/non-ad valorem taxes. This bill has been changed slightly due to a conference call with legislatures, union representatives and attorneys that Chief Gorski held on April 15. There was a change in the wording that addressed taxes added after July 1, 2013. It is still thought that the Bill will die.

2. **Florida Personal Income Growth**

Chief Gorski reported that he has been working with Chief Johnson and the other Manatee County Fire Chief's on the calculation of Florida Personal Income Growth for the increase in non-ad valorem taxation. This percentage is the maximum that we can increase our Non-Ad Valorem taxes. The resolution and public hearing for the proposed Non-Ad Valorem tax is in May.

3. **Resolution 2013-02 Excused and Unexcused Absences for Commissioners**

Chief Gorski reported that Resolution 99-01 was very broad on the excused and unexcused absences for Commissioners. This resolution has been updated by Counsel Maggie Mooney-Portale and the Chief. There was discussion on the changes in the resolution. *Commissioner Center motioned to approve Resolution 2013-02 Excused and Unexcused Absences for Commissioners. Commissioner Cena seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*

Chief Gorski also spoke about a policy on Security of Facilities and Access. There was some discussion on this policy. District employees need to be further trained on our current security system. The last sentence will be deleted from the policy and staff will see if commissioner's access hours can be set within the security system.

Attorney Update

Attorney Maggie Mooney-Portale reported on the update for former Commissioner Ruben. The Governor's office has been contacted to advise them of Mr. Ruben's release. Commissioners asked of Ms. Mooney-Portale if Commissioner Marken was still an active commissioner. She replied that Commissioner Marken will stay a current commissioner until we hear anything from the Governor's office as he appointed her.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

*** Pension Committee**

No Report.

*** Union Report**

Adam Chevalier reported that negotiations have started. The first one was held April 15th and it went well. Two more negotiation dates have been set, April 24 and May 2nd. Congratulations to Johnathan Maltby for securing a job with Hillsborough, he will be missed.

VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

*** No Meeting in April**

CHIEF'S REPORT

4. Chief Gorski noted that his report shows some of the meetings he has held this past month. Also, he has a meeting on April 19th with Congressman Buchanan regarding the Breathing Apparatus Grant. This grant will be for Longboat Key, City of North Port and Sarasota County. Chief Gorski distributed copies of Customer Service Satisfaction Survey's received since the March meeting. All responses were outstanding or excellent. There were some great comments on these surveys.

Chief Gorski attached a copy of a news article regarding the structure fire in Desoto Village. There will be a Citizen Recognition on April 23 at 9 am. The department will be recognizing Mr. Lawrence Smith for his heroic action at a structure fire on Friday, April 5, 2013. The media has been notified of this ceremony.

Chief Gorski noted that a Draft Strategic Plan has been completed. This is crucial to the budget process. Also, there will be major road work in front of Station 4 in July. They will be working on the reclaimed water lines. We will be taking pictures before and after the work to make sure there is no damage to the grounds at Station 4. Both air conditioners are 13 years old. We have ordered new units. Also, we will be working on a plan to identify a/c units, carpet, painting etc. We have also set up with the State Contract pricing for office

supplies through Office Depot. On our first order we save approximately \$200. The mobile data terminals have been received. We will need to upgrade these before we can install the software and install them in the vehicles. The Battalion Chief's and their shifts will be updating the Standard Operating Procedures. Our goal is to end up with just one book, where we have at least three now.

COMMISSIONER'S/ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Chairman Durant inquired if Deputy Chief Berry had any report. He will be attending FDIC in Indianapolis next week. Fire Marshal Adent reported that she was awarded a \$1,000 grant from Walmart for the T-Shirt program. We also received a grant for 201 smoke alarms worth \$30 each. We will be moving forward on getting them installed as soon as we receive them.

Commissioner Cena gave a brief report on the April 1, 2013 meeting of the Manatee County Fire Commissioners Association at West Manatee Fire. It was discovered that that some commissioners had a long drive to the meeting. They talked about using webinar/Skype to attend. He was asked how our new chief is doing and he reported "excellent." The next meeting is July 1 at East Manatee Fire Administration.

Chairman Durant asked for Commissioner's and Administration's comments.

Commissioner Center asked that staff meet with Ten 8 and discuss the issues we have with them before we move to any other service. Commissioner Center also reported that Attorney Maggie Mooney-Portale was recognized at the FASD meeting last month in Tallahassee for her work with the Special Fire Control Districts. Commissioner Center also noted that he saw the recognition of our personnel for the Interstate 75 accident. Great press! It is nice to be recognized outside the department. He would like to see some recognition in the department also. It is nice to be a part of this organization. To see the turnaround in just a few months is great.

Commissioner Cena commends the entire Board for making the fantastic decision to hire the Chief.

Commissioner Marken asked that the Chief pass along her thanks to the crew of the I-75 accident also.

Chairman Durant noted that he was not aware of the article, perhaps if there are articles the chief could pass them along to the commissioners. Chief Gorski would also like to recognize our employees at the Commission meetings.

The next regular meeting includes a Public Hearing and is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Charles A. Durant, Chairman

Attest:



Melanie A. Marken, Secretary