

JUNE 20, 2013
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT

Date: Thursday, June 20, 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; Anthony Evans, Treasurer; and Commissioner James Cena. Also in attendance were Chief Brian Gorski, Fire Marshal Leslie Adent, and Administrative Assistant Debbie Tuckerman. The attached guest list contains signatures of members of the public.

Call to Order

Chairman Durant called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Moment of Silence/Pledge

A moment of silence was observed. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Special Business

Commissioner Center reported that at the Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD) Conference last week, Southern Manatee was presented the 2013 Safety Award of the Year. Chief Gorski noted that the District personnel have worked hard to lower our loss ratio from 353% in 2008 to 1% currently.

Consent Agenda

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Durant called for Public Comment and there was none.

OLD BUSINESS

* None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Engagement Letters from Christopher, Smith & Leonard

Chief Gorski noted that in the packet was a copy of two Engagement Letters from Christopher, Smith & Leonard. This year we have split the cost of the Pension Plan audit to the Pension Plan. Therefore there are two agreements. The commissioners will approve only the Districts agreement. Chief Gorski did note that he will be going out for bid for audit services next year. Commissioner Center suggested that he get a three year agreement. *Commissioner Center motioned to approve the Engagement Letter for the District. Commissioner Cena seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*

* **Employment Contract**

Chairman Durant asked that this item be added to the agenda at May's meeting. There was some discussion on the renewal of Chief Gorski's employment contract. All commissioners were in accordance that they had made the right decision to employ Chief Gorski. Chief Gorski will get with the Chairman if he wishes to make any modifications on his contract, which expires September 30, 2013.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

* **Pension Committee**

Commissioner Center reported that it was good to see that we are still making money.

* **Union Report**

Adam Chevalier reported that they just finished their seventh negotiation. They are winding down with the wages articles being worked on now. Adam noted that the next negotiation is set, tentatively, for July 10th.

VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

* **No Meeting in June.**

CHIEF'S REPORT

2. Chief Gorski noted that his report shows some of the meetings he has held this past month.

There will be a Vehicle Specifications Committee Meeting in July. A Sutphen truck will be brought by for the committee to view.

We had a new product from Zoll Medical demonstrated by Ten 8 Fire Equipment. This is a blue box, similar to the "black box" that airlines use. Chief gave the Board a brief overview of this equipment.

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 also gave the Commissioners the Thank You letters received from a Public Education Program that was done at Manatee Charter School.

Chief Gorski reported that Leslie and Fire Prevention have been busy putting up smoke alarms and alarms for the hearing/vision impaired over the last month. Commissioner Center congratulated on the great job being done.

Chief Gorski reported that the easement issue he brought to the Board in January has been resolved. The owners asked that he pass on their "thank you" to the Board.

Chief Gorski also reported that Impact Fees have increased over the last several months. We received over \$22,000 last month.

Also, Larry Sarver's maintenance vehicle is in the shop for transmission repairs. This is a high maintenance vehicle and should be a good candidate for early replacement. We will go to the State Contract to get pricing for replacement. E343 had a tangle with a low lying tree limb that damaged the rail on the ladder. This ladder was scheduled, a little later in the year, for ladder testing so we will get it tested as soon as the repairs are made.

Chief Gorski distributed a copy of the pension newsletter he received from Florida League of Cities. It has some good articles on changes to pension plans.

We had Holmotro in demonstrating extrication gear. We also had a drill at Tropicana. And, we have instituted a Car Seat Safety program headed up by Firefighter Matt Garcia. He did his first install instruction recently.

Chief Gorski reported that he will be on vacation next week, the week of June 24 returning on July 1st. He is available via phone if anyone needs him.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Durant called for Public Comment and there was none.

COMMISSIONER'S/ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Chairman Durant asked for commissioners comments. Commissioner Cena reported that the next Manatee County Fire Commissioners Association meeting is July 1st at East Manatee. He will be attending.

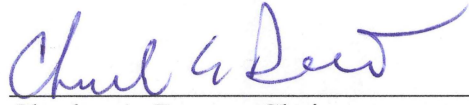
Commissioner Center noted "great idea on Zoll Medical"; this can be a good time to get the costs offset before we purchase new trucks. Commissioner Center spoke regarding the HazMat team; he supports the Chief's position on getting this team up and going. He also spoke on the Chief's contract and salary increases for employees. He suggested that if employees' salaries are increased by October; consider a one-time payout no later than the end of this fiscal year. Commissioner Center inquired on when the labor attorney would be attending negotiations. Chief Gorski replied that she will be getting the TA'd articles before they are approved to make sure there are no conflicts. Chief Gorski will have our labor attorney at the next Shade Meeting.

Commissioner Evans agrees with the one-time payment.

Commissioner Marken agreed with Commissioner Centers points. She thinks that Chief and Adam are doing a good job with the contract and she agrees that the labor attorney should review the final document.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.



Charles A. Durant, Chairman

Attest:



Melanie A. Marken, Secretary