

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT**

**Date:** Thursday, May 16,2024

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

**Present:** Melanie Marken, Chairperson  
Jim Grote, Secretary/Vice-Chair/Treasurer  
James Cena, Commissioner  
Daniel Center, Commissioner  
Robert Bounds, Chief  
Dan Anderson, Training Chief  
Adam Perry, Battalion Chief  
There were other staff also in attendance.

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Marken called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**Invocation/Pledge**

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

**SPECIAL BUSINESS**

- Promotion recognition was presented to Derek Foss for his promotion to BC. Promotion recognition was presented to Brittan Williams for his promotion to LT.
- New hires Vicens, Banks, Flores, and Mash were sworn in and pinned by family members.
- FF R. Smith was presented with his 25-year service award.
- Chief Bounds gave a brief history of SMFR and how the fire district began. FF Lucas and LT. Tumolo presented a chiefs' plaque displaying all the Chiefs of SMFR.

**Public Hearing – Proposed 2025 Fire Non-Ad Valorem Rates**

- **Verification of Public Notices**  
Chairperson Marken called for verification of the Public Notice. EMA Ferguson stated that the public hearing was advertised as required. The affidavit has been received.
  - **Presentation**  
Chief Bounds gave an overview of Resolution 2024-02 FY 2024-2025 Initial Rate Resolution. He is recommending approval of the resolution containing a 7.48% increase.
  - **Open Public Hearing for Comments**  
Chairperson Marken opened the Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. There was no public comment.
  - **Close the Public Hearing for Comments**  
*Commissioner Grote moved to close the public hearing for FY2024-2025 Initial Rate Resolution at 5:31 p.m. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*
  - **Board Deliberation of Resolution 2024-02**  
*Commissioner Grote made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-02 with a 7.48% increase. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*
  - **Adjournment of Public Hearing**  
Chairperson Marken adjourned the Public Hearing for the Initial Rate Hearing at 5:33 p.m.
-

## **Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda was included in the Board packet.

*Commissioner Center motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Grote seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson Marken called for Public Comment and there was none.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

\* Station 4 remodel

Chief Bounds received a timeline from Magnum Builders. Station 4 crew have been moved into the trailer for renovations to start.

## **New Business**

None

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

\* **Pension Committee**

Trustee Chairperson Chevalier updated the board on the pension plan status.

\* **Union Report**

FF. Keusch: HB 989 cancer bill passed. All of the new hires joined the union.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Bounds: Rough draft of FY 25 budget will be given to all commissioner before next Board meeting.

Training Chief Anderson: Fire Prevention did a walkthrough of the UNFI building. FP received site plans for a 600-unit apartment building that will be behind UNFI.

BC Perry: E23, the new fire engine, has been put into service. Manatee County hired contractors to paint fire hydrants.

EMS Officer Wernet: We have 2 new charge medics.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson Marken called for Public Comment and there was none.

## **COMMISSIONER'S/ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS**

Commissioners congratulated the staff.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.**

---

Melanie A. Marken, Chairperson

Attest:

---

James Grote, Vice Chairperson/Secretary/Treasurer