

**April 18,2024**  
**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT**

**Date:** Thursday, April 18,2024

**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  
Anthony Evans  
Robert Bounds, Chief  
Rick Blanco, Assistant Chief  
Dan Anderson, Training Chief  
There were other staff also in attendance.

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Marken called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**Invocation/Pledge**

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

**SPECIAL BUSINESS**

- Presentation of 2023 general pension valuation – Chuck Carr

The 2023 general pension valuation was presented by Chuck Carr.  
*Commissioner Center motioned to approve the 2023 general pension valuation with an anticipated annual rate of return of 7%. Commissioner Grote seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*

**Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda was included in the Board packet.  
*Commissioner Center motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Cena 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 – Magnum Builders presentation

Magnum Builders presented the Board with a detailed GMP. Adjustments were made to the GMP by removing and replacing items with better alternatives. The Board agreed with the suggested changes made by administration. The Board approved Magnum Builders to proceed with renovating station 4 with the revised GMP and price increase.

*Commissioner Grote motioned to approve proposed GMP with changes as of April 18,2024. Commissioner Cena seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*

**New Business**

**1. Personal Income Growth (PIG) FY 25**

Training Chief Dan Anderson presented the personal income growth at 7.48% to be used for the non-ad-valorem tax rate. The Board approved the rate at 7.48%. The Board will make a final motion to approve at next month's meeting.

**\* Succession planning – Fire training officer job description**

Chief Bounds gave a copy of the fire training officer job description to the Board. The Board will review the job description and approve at a later date.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**\* Pension Committee**

Trustee Chairperson Chevalier updated the board on the pension plan status. The Firefighter Pension Board approved the actuarial evaluation.

**\* Union Report**

FF. Keusch: Lt. Foss was promoted to Battalion Chief and stepped down as the union rep. FF Keusch was voted as the new union rep. A few of SMFR staff participated in the Fight for Air climb charity event.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Bounds: Made four job offers to potential new employees. SMFR and other fire districts will be meeting to discuss consolidation of the fire districts, presented by Manatee County Board of Commissioners.

Deputy Fire Marshall Meola: Applied for a grant for smoke detectors.

Cpt. Bloski: The Governor is looking at funding special teams (Hazmat, TRT, Marine) throughout the state.

EMS Officer Wernet: We passed our ALS inspection.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson Marken called for Public Comment and there was none.

**COMMISSIONER'S/ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS**

Commissioner center congratulated Blanco on his community service award. The Board commented on the merging of the districts and does not support the merging of fire districts.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.**

  
Melanie A. Marken, Chairperson

Attest:

  
James Grote, Vice Chairperson/Secretary/Treasurer