

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE
SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 24, 2017

Chairman Michael Gatewood called the North Fort Myers Fire Control and Rescue Service District Board of Commissioners to order at 5:05 p.m.

Present:

Commissioners: Danny Ballard Suzanne Daggett
 Michael Gatewood Leroy Nottingham

Chief David Rice Assistant Chief John
Meredith
Office Manager Monique Brooks Fire Inspector Christi Kulwicki
Union Representative Slaybaugh

Absent:

Commissioner Tom Mere
Fire Marshal Rick Jones

Invocation: Chief Rice

Pledge: Commissioner Ballard

Minutes: Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept the June 19, 2017, minutes, as written. Seconded by Commissioner Nottingham. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was unanimous. (1)

Treasurer's Report: The June treasurers report was presented. At this time, we are 75% through the budget year, received 108% of revenues (including cash brought forward) and spent 78% of expenditures (less reserves). There were no questions. (2)

Chief's Report:

By Chief Rice-

- Rescue 2 is back and in service
- EMS construction project – Construction activity should begin here soon
- We have received our final property taxable value number, and it was slightly increased over the preliminary number. Commissioner Ballard asked what it was, he never received it? The current year adjusted taxable value of properties located within our Fire District is \$2,627,354,481.
- East Lee County High School needs a Fire Engine for their fire academy program, and would the Board be willing to donate our Old Engine 2 to them? Commissioner Ballard stated that if they would put this request in writing, he would make a motion.
- The Rescue tools that the Board approved the purchase of last month, have been ordered, and he would like to thank Assistant Chief Meredith and Monique for the Impact Fee letter.
- Commissioner Ballard asked how his NFA class was? It was great, and he is glad to be done.

By Assistant Chief Meredith-

- Monthly runs attached
- The New Fire Engine is here in Fort Myers, and is being outfitted with all the items necessary to get it in service.
- Has received numbers for the purchase of a new Fire Engine. The price of the same Engine as we just received is \$3,000 more. We could also choose to have a 1,500 gallon water tank on the new one, and the price will remain the same. The

financing option would be a purchase price of \$475,000, with a \$214,000 down payment at 2.4% interest, which would allow our payment to remain at \$55,000 annually. The interest equates to \$13,000 over the life of the loan of five years.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to allow Administration the latitude to spend up to \$480,000 for the purchase of a new Fire Engine. Seconded by Commissioner Daggett.

Commissioner Nottingham asked if we were wanting to purchase the same Engine? Yes. He then asked if we had the money for the down payment? Yes.

Commissioner Daggett asked what was in the vehicle reserve account? Approximately \$300,000.

The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was unanimous.

- We are looking at replacing Rescue 4, it needs to go away because it is becoming cost prohibitive for maintenance. Would like to replace it with a Reserve/Service truck, which is currently being researched by Battalion Chiefs Alvarez and Manson.

Commissioner Daggett asked several questions:

- why the expenses were so high for Rescue 2?
Because it was involved in a wreck.
- Why were there two Engines at Station 2? Because the reserve rescue was broke down
- Is it time to get new trucks at all the stations?
Commissioner Ballard replied that in August, we would have an idea of a number to replace them.
- How often does the water in an Engine get emptied?
Every fire
- How much water does a Rescue truck carry? 250 gallons.
- Why do we need water on the Rescue trucks? Wash down the roadways after an event, protect the Firefighters, vehicle fires.
- What are the preliminary numbers on a Rescue truck verses a Rescue SUV? Number on a Rescue truck is

approximately \$55,000

Fire Prevention: Report is attached.

Inspector Christi Kulwicki presented the Prevention report.

Of interest was another Dialysis center being built, however, this one is for children. There were no questions.

Public Education: Report is attached. There were no questions.

Union: Upcoming union meeting and getting ready for union negotiations. Mentioned the upcoming event for Backing up Carter.

Commissioner Daggett asked if they put in for new wages? Sometimes.

Commissioner Nottingham stated that "Fire trucks do not put out fires, Firefighters do".

Old Business:

- EMS Project – Covered under Chiefs Notes

New Business:

- 2017/2018 Millage Rate – Presentation of how the millage rate process works and the timeline of events. We just want to make sure the Board agrees with our decision to assess a millage rate of 3.5000 for the upcoming fiscal year 2017/2018. The taxpayers and citizens of our Fire District voted last year with their approval.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to assess a 3.5000 millage rate, that the taxpayers agreed to last fall. Seconded by Commissioner Nottingham. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was unanimous.

The dates for the September meetings were given.

Tentative Budget Hearing will be on Thursday, September 7

th at 5:05 p.m.

Regular Monthly Commission Meeting will be on Monday, September 18th at 5:05 p.m.

Final Budget Hearing will be on Monday, September 25th at 5:05 p.m.

Commissioner Items:

Commissioner Daggett –

- The money needs to go where it is important, because the market goes up and down, look at all the businesses we have lost, the empty plazas, housing in Moody River Estates being sold for nothing. Chief Rice responded that is why it is important to put money in reserves, but we have to be able to pay our personnel and have the proper equipment and trucks.
- We need to put at least \$1 million in reserves. Chief Rice responded to give us time to get our budget together.
- We keep saying we need more employees, but we need to cut costs and do more with less, meaning more people are going to have to do more. Chief Rice responded that is what we have been doing for the last 8 years, and now we need more staffing on the fire ground. We need to add firefighters, a Public Information/Education Officer and a Training Chief.
- What about raises for personnel? Hopefully down the road, we will be able to give a substantial raise.
- Do we need a tanker truck? No, because we have mutual aid and our hydrant situation is improving.

Commissioner Gatewood –

Thanked personnel for staying with us and hanging in there.

Commissioner Ballard –

- what is the status of the Brooks Road property? We still own it, and for now we would like to hang on to it.
- What did we find out about the hydrant on the South corner of Del Prado? Chief Rice responded that he does not feel the need for it.

Public Input:

Firefighter Bryant stated that we are running calls with nothing, and still working hard and getting the job done.

Community Goodwill & Thank You:

Note of appreciation for Firefighters McHugh and Sorenson.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Nottingham. All were in favor and it was approved by the Board, unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. June 19, 2017 minutes
2. June treasurers report