

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

December 15, 2014

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

Present were:

Commissioners: Leroy Nottingham (arrived 5:10 p.m.)
 Danny Ballard
 Robert Hoke Michael Gatewood
 Tom Mere (arrived 5:15 p.m.)
Chief Chris Noble Asst. Chief John Meredith
Asst. Chief David Rice
Office Manager Monique Brooks
Union Representative Jarrett Slaybaugh
EMS Director Rob Farmer

Absent: Fire Marshal Rick Jones

Invocation: Chief Noble

Pledge of Allegiance: Assistant Chief David Rice

Minutes: **Commissioner Hoke made a motion to accept November 17, 2014, minutes, as written. Seconded by Commissioner Gatewood. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was unanimous. (1)**

Treasurer's Report: The November treasurers report was presented. At this time, we are 17% through the budget year, have received 47% of revenues (including cash brought forward) and have

spent 19% of expenditures (less reserves). There were no questions.
(2)

Chief's Report:

By Chief Noble-

- Weekly reports and monthly run sheet is attached
- The past month has been a transition month with Chief Rice
- Thanked the Board for all the years of working together so well

By Asst. Chief Meredith –

We are approaching the 10,000 annual call mark

Training:

Report is attached. Submitted another Grant for an Aerial Truck. Commissioner Ballard asked what kind of truck did we use for a spec? Chief Rice responded that we used a 78' Quint Ladder truck, by E-One, and that we asked for \$595,000.00
There were no other questions.

Fire Prevention: Report is attached. There were no questions.

Public Education: Report is attached. Chief Noble made special mention about the Pink Heals Tour visit to Angela Harris' home.
There were no questions.

Union: Congratulated Chief Noble on his retirement, and are looking forward to working with Chief Rice

Old Business:

- **EMS discussions** – Chief Noble introduced EMS Director Rob Farmer. Chief Noble feels our call volume in our area shows the need for EMS and would like to see if the Board will be willingly to

work and listen to Mr. Farmer, in the hopes that we can work on a mutual agreement.

Director Farmer discussed the history on this issue from his standpoint, and stated that he intended on negotiating, and feels there has been major miscommunication between all parties involved, and he is here to clear the air, and get a better understanding, and work on a resolution. He needs some type of solid information (basis) on how we came up with our proposed amount to charge EMS? If he can get some answers on that, he can take this back to his boss' and they can make a decision. Commissioner Nottingham stated that our Budget needed that amount.

Chief Noble added that he would like everyone to wash the slate clean, and go forward. We still have to work with EMS on a daily basis, for the good of the people of North Fort Myers. He would like the Board to consider letting Chief Rice work with EMS on negotiating an agreement. Director Farmer stated that he is here to negotiate in good faith. He would either like to begin negotiations or leave here with a letter from our Board stating that EMS needs to vacate our premises.

Commissioner Ballard asked why it is December and we are just now discussing this with him, when our Board started this process in June? Director Farmer responded that they were in their budget process, and the county did not place this in their overall budget. Commissioner Mere stated that they are elected by the people to run the Fire Department, not EMS. He added that our personnel are #1 priority; our revenues are at an all time low, and we need help to carry their (EMS) burden.

Commissioner Ballard asked if the county would enter in to a month to month contract with us, in the amount of \$1,500.00 per month? Director Farmer asked where he got this number from? Ballard responded it was an arbitrary number.

Director Farmer noted that the discussion of using All Hazards Funds for this location had been discussed; however, this does not meet the criteria for that type of use.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion that we extend the deadline for EMS to make a decision, until the end of January 2015, and also offered them the option of entering in to a month to month lease agreement in the amount of \$1,500.00 per month, with the first payment due February 1. Seconded by Commissioner Mere. Director Farmer feels he can come back next month with an intent or no-intent next month. The motion was put to vote, and the vote was 4 yes and 1 no.

New Business:

Swearing in of New Fire Chief –

David Rice took the Oath of Office of Fire Chief of the North Fort Myers Fire District.

Commissioner Items:

Mere- He has concerns about the use of e-mail as a means of communication with EMS, because he feels information is not transmitted thoroughly and properly, and he would like to challenge David Rice to pick up the phone in discussions with EMS. He asked if there is anything that could be moved around to make more room for EMS? Chief Meredith replied that we have looked at some different options, i.e. locker room, prevention office.

He also wished Chief Chris Noble an enjoyable and healthy retirement.

Nottingham – Congratulations David Rice

Public Input:

Family of David Rice spoke and said they are very proud of him.

Community Goodwill & Thank You:

Nickerson Family

Thank you card, pictures and poster from Littleton Elementary

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. November Minutes
2. November Treasurers Report