

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

September 15, 2014

Chairman Leroy Nottingham called the North Fort Myers Fire Control and Rescue Service District Board of Commissioners to order at 5:20 p.m.

Present were:

Commissioners: Leroy Nottingham Danny Ballard
 Robert Hoke Michael Gatewood
 Tom Mere

Chief Chris Noble Asst. Chief David Rice
Office Manager Monique Brooks Fire Marshal Rick Jones
Union Representative Jarrett Slaybaugh

Absent:

Assistant Chief John Meredith

Minutes: Commissioner Ballard made a motion to accept August 18, 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 August treasurers report was presented. At this time, we are 92% through the budget year, have received 106% of revenues (including cash brought forward) and have spent 89% of expenditures (less reserves). There were no questions. (2)

Chief's Report:

By Chief Noble-

- Weekly reports and monthly run sheet is attached
- Busy with Insurance and Budget issues
- Bayshore Fire began their layoffs today. Commissioner Ballard asked if Engine 3 will be toned out to calls at the same time as Bayshore? Chief Noble responded yes, to fire calls. Commissioner Nottingham asked what the interns were allowed to do on scenes? Chief Noble responded everything, because they are fully certified. Commissioner Nottingham asked if they were paid. Chief Noble responded No.
- Held Union Negotiations this morning, and will meet again this Friday. Negotiations were late this year, because we were focusing on the fire fee referendum.
- Annual Maintenance on trucks is complete.

Commissioner Mere asked about the property on Pine Island Road, where the RaceTrac is going, because that property was annexed by the City of Cape Coral, and they paid us for the fire protection of it. However, now that there is going to be a structure there, shouldn't they be paying us more for that? Chief Noble said that we will be asking them (City of Cape Coral) about it. Chief Noble also noted they backed away from our Automatic Aid agreement.

Training:

Report is attached. Working on driver training and hazardous materials. There were no questions.

Fire Prevention: Report is attached. We have received all the bids for the system at Trail Dairy, and have chosen the contractors. Commissioner Ballard asked if these systems were causing extra annual fees, and were we budgeting for them? Chief Noble responded yes. He also asked if we had considered the expansion of this building in the design of the systems? Chief Noble responded yes.

Commissioner Nottingham asked about the Race Trac on Pine Island Road. He wanted to know if that meant we were going to have two? Rick responded No, not at this time. There were no other questions.

Public Education: Report is attached. The personnel are doing a great job at filling in on the public education events, however, we are trying to reduce the amount of comp time that is accrued, however, we are required by Statute to provide a certain level of public education. There were no questions.

Union: Union Negotiations began this morning, and we have another meeting scheduled Friday, and hopefully be able to hold a vote next week. Commissioner Nottingham asked if any of the items being negotiated were going to cause an increase in the budget? Chief Noble responded No.

Old Business:

- **Brooks Road Property** – tabled till October
- **EMS discussions** – waiting until December
- **Fire Fee Referendum** –

Commissioner Ballard said he wrote a plan the day after the election, and would provide copies to each of the Board members, the Chief and office personnel, but would read it first. His plan included:

- Elimination of Retiree Insurance
- Elimination of the Fire Prevention Division
- Elimination of the Training Officer Position
- Elimination of responding to lifting help calls

Commissioner Nottingham said that this is not the Board's job, their job is to oversee the finances of the district.

Chief Noble responded that he would address most of these issues in his State of the District.

- **State of the District by Chief Noble-**

Chief Noble stated that Ad-Valorem revenue is slowly increasing, and combined with the attrition of personnel retiring, he feels that the District will start to stabilize. He feels during fiscal year 2015/2016, we will see some relief.

- When he leaves, the Training Officer position will be eliminated, and there will only be a Chief and an Assistant Chief.
- We cannot eliminate the Fire Prevention Division, and move Rick Jones to suppression, as previously planned. We are too far behind in inspections as it is. Therefore, Rick will not be moving to suppression.
- We are looking at the possibility of re-instating the Holiday bonus, as well as, a few days of holiday pay.
- The Retiree Insurance policy has been in effect since 1989, and he has a DRAFT proposal on the policy attached. Commissioner Nottingham asked how many retirees we have on our insurance policy? Chief Noble responded 22. Commissioner Nottingham asked how much that costs us per year? Chief Noble said approximately \$120,000. Commissioner Mere asked how many people were currently in the DROP? Chief Noble responded 8.
- Feels we should keep educating the public about the fire fee assessment, because the current ad-valorem system is broken. Commissioner Ballard asked if we keep going as is, how are we going to prove our point to the people? He feels we need to take some things away. Chief Noble says he feels terrible about not serving the public the proper way. Commissioner Ballard asked about special events? Chief Noble responded that we are currently working on a policy for special events. Chief Noble added that we could charge for false alarms and alarm activations.

Commissioner Ballard made a motion to place the Retiree Insurance DRAFT Policy on the agenda for the October meeting. Commissioner Gatewood seconded. The motion was put to vote, and all were in favor. The decision was unanimous.

New Business:

Special Event Policy-

Chief Noble stated that we are working on a special event policy, and will present it at the next meeting.

Commissioner Items: NONE

Public Input: NONE

Community Goodwill & Thank You: NONE

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 6:28 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. August minutes
2. August Treasurers Report