



**ST. LUCIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

January 20, 2010

I. Meeting called to order by Chairman Coward at 3:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Commissioner Alexander	Present
Commissioner Becht	Present
Commissioner Cooper	Present
Commissioner Coward	Present
Commissioner Dzadovsky	Arrived @ 3:06
Commissioner Hutchinson	Present
Commissioner Kelly	Present

Also present:

Fire Chief Parrish, Clerk Treasurer Perdew, District Attorney Crooks, members of staff, and public.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Commendations

A. Citizen Hero Awards

Chief Parrish presented plaques to Anthony Scott and Randy Young (Mr. Young was not available so Ms. Diana Lewis, Director, St. Lucie County International Airport, accepted on his behalf) for their heroic efforts concerning an airplane crash that recently occurred at the Airport.

B. Retirees

Chief Parrish presented plaques to Powell Edgar DeFriest and Lt. Mike Randall and thanked them both for their many years of dedicated service. The plaques were read into the official record. Both spoke briefly.

C. Employee Commendations

Commissioner Alexander requested that Mr. Perdew read Chief Parrish's CFO Designation Certificate into the official record.

Commendations(cont.)

Presented By:

Commission on
Professional Credentialing

SLCFD

Robyn Smith
Recreation Director
Spanish Lakes Country Club Village

Joyce Sarchilla

June Moore

Paul Michael Wood

Patsy Koch

Vicky Church
Staff & Residents
Cove Apartments

Staci Cantaline & Family

The Londono Family

Shirley Wilmoth

Pat & Kathy Adams

Steve Devlin

Garrett Grabowski

Commending:

Fire Chief Ron Parrish

Big Heart Brigade Volunteers

Big Heart Brigade Volunteers

Big Heart Brigade Volunteers

Big Heart Brigade Volunteers

Big Heart Brigade Volunteers

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St. Lucie County Fire Fighter Elves

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Kelly Machado

Dorian Jackson
Jacob Morris

Catherine Chaney

Chief Ron Parrish and
Fire District

Commendations(cont.)

Judy Roberts

Chief Parrish
Chief Duran
Chief Blizzard
Chief Emerson
Chief Bushman
Gary Perdew
Ken Crooks
Jackie Hobales
Catherine Chaney

V. Additions and Deletions to Agenda

Commissioner Coward suggested that Item 8Ci be moved up so that the new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson could be sworn in.

Commissioner Becht motioned to appoint Rufus Alexander to the position of Chairperson. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion and the vote by voice for approval was unanimous.

Commissioner Cooper motioned to appoint Jack Kelly to the position of Vice-Chairperson. Commissioner Becht seconded the motion and the vote by voice for approval was unanimous.

After the passing of the gavel, Mr. Perdew read Resolution No. 507-10 into the record.

Commissioner Kelly motioned to approve Resolution No. 507-10, commending Commissioner Coward for his service as Chairman. Commissioner Hutchinson seconded the motion and the vote by voice for approval was unanimous.

Commissioner Becht suggested that legislation proposed by Senator Negrón be discussed at some point during the meeting. Mr. Crooks stated that he will address this issue during the Attorney comments.

VI. Public Comment

Tim Munson of the Local 1377 spoke briefly.

VII. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes - December 2009 Fire Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Disbursements – December 2009
- C. Expenditure Report thru December 31, 2009
- D. Year to Date Revenue Report thru December 31, 2009

- E. Investment Report as of November 2009
- F. Statement of Interest – November 2009
- G. Financial Report - As of October 31, 2009
- H. Ambulance Billing/Accounts Receivable

Commissioner Kelly moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Coward seconded the motion and the vote by voice for approval was unanimous.

VIII. Regular Agenda

- A. Board Resolutions
 - i. Resolution No. 507-10 (addressed earlier in meeting)
 - ii. Resolution No. 508-10 MDA Boot Drive

Mr. Perdew read Resolution 508-10 into the official record.

Commissioner Hutchinson moved approval of Resolution No. 508-10, Commissioner Dzadovsky seconded the motion and the vote by voice was unanimous.

- B. Unfinished Business
 - Listing Agreement re: Lease for Fire Station No. 1 Site

Mr. Crooks explained that at the Board's request, an RFQ was sent out to insure that all realtors had an opportunity to submit a response for listing for lease of the eastern portion of Fire Station No. 1 site. The only response was from Hoyt C. Murphy Realtors. The agreement submitted by Hoyt C. Murphy states that Hoyt C. Murphy would agree to market the eastern portion of the Fire Station No.1 site for lease as a commercial office space, contingent upon approval of the pending rezoning of the property by the City of Fort Pierce, for a 6 month period, at a minimum lease period of 5 years and minimum rental payments of \$10,000 per month. In return the District would agree to pay a commission of 6% of annual rental amounts, payable on an annual basis commencing on the start of the lease and on the anniversary date for the next 4 years. Staff recommends approval of the listing with Hoyt C. Murphy.

Commissioner Coward moved approval of Lease Listing Agreement with Hoyt C. Murphy, Commissioner Kelly seconded the motion and the vote by voice was unanimous.

- C. New Business
 - i. Vote for Chair & Vice-Chairperson (accomplished earlier in meeting)
 - ii. Strategic Planning Presentation

Goal #1 – To Improve SLCFD’s Insurance Service Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification Rating from 3/9 to 2/8b.

Deputy Chief Emerson discussed the ISO and the many objectives that are involved in achieving a superior rating. The District’s strategy and timetable were also reviewed.

Commissioner Coward inquired if there is an estimate of savings that the ISO would provide to the community. Chief Emerson and Commissioner Becht stated that it was too soon to give such an estimate.

Goal # 2 – Achieve CFAI (Commission for Fire Accreditation International) Accreditation for the Fire District

Deputy Chief Blizzard discussed the benefits of CFAI Accreditation and the processes involved in image awareness and promoting excellence both locally and nationally. This goal will help identify our strengths and weaknesses as well as create a system to address deficiencies and build organizational success thru self assessment.

Commissioner Alexander commended Chief Blizzard on his hard work.

Goal # 3 – Promote Sustainable Growth Management Strategies

Deputy Chief Herndon reviewed the key components and priorities of the Growth Management Goal such as integration of the District’s position into St. Lucie County local government’s growth management systems, the costs involved, as well as developing a comprehensive capital, infrastructure and personnel improvement plans.

Commissioner Becht inquired about the signal light controllers and what the dollar figures involved are. Chief Herndon stated that there are currently three different systems available with different costs, but a decision has not been made at this time.

Commissioner Hutchinson inquired about the locations of the signal light controls because many of the streets may fall under state or federal jurisdictions.

Commissioner Alexander inquired if this would be a multi-agency project. Chief Parrish confirmed that it would be.

Commissioner Cooper recalled a similar project startup a few years ago with the District and the City of PSL regarding the signal light controllers. Chief Parrish

explained some of the snags that held that project back. Chief Parrish stated that we are closer now than ever before.

Commissioner Coward inquired about the costs involved in the new hangar construction and where the funds were coming from. Chief Parrish explained that there is no cost involved for the District. Omni-Flight is leasing the building from a County FBO for at least 5 years.

Goal # 4 – Enhance Financial Viability and Efficiency

Mr. Perdew reviewed the ten strategies established during the planning process that should enable the District to Enhance Financial Viability and Efficiency. The goals include reducing reliance on ad valorem taxes, increasing alternate revenue sources, reducing discretionary spending and increasing the overall efficiency of District operations.

Commissioner Coward asked Mr. Perdew where he got the operational budget numbers for the 2014 Fiscal Year. Mr. Perdew stated that he used the current numbers going forward with a 4% per year increase. Commissioner Kelly reminded Commissioner Coward that the call volume has gone up every year.

Commissioner Kelly again raised the question as to why the District sends a Fire Truck on every rescue call. Chief Parrish explained that Fire Trucks are only sent out with the Rescue Truck on specific calls. He further explained that this is the most efficient and effective use of EMS personnel because everyone is cross trained for these events. Commissioner Cooper believes that the public needs to be better educated on this subject. Commissioner Alexander suggested that a PSA be broadcasted on the Public Access Channels.

Commissioner Kelly stated for the record that he would like to be invited to any of the Strategic Planning Meetings for his group and he would like to attend all meetings in the future. Commissioner Kelly also wants the Shop Evaluation Report reviewed.

Goal # 5 – Public Image

PIO Catherine Chaney described the methods used to improve public image, involvement and awareness. Those methods include the Community Survey, Public Information Education Relations (PIER) Program, Outreach through PSA's, Increasing Community Presentations & Awareness of Public Education Programs, Spotlight Ads, and increasing Outreach Programs. Ms. Chaney gave updates on the District Blog, Twitter and Facebook accounts and reported that the first Citizens' Fire Academy started mid-January.

Commissioner Dzadoovsky was disappointed that the press was not present at the Fire Board Meetings.

Goal # 6 – Enhance Comprehensive Succession Planning and Leadership Program

Assistant Fire Chief Carlos Duran reviewed the District's objectives which include evaluating organizational career tracks, establishing Officer Leadership Development programs, identifying future Fire District personnel needs and developing a comprehensive succession plan.

Commissioner Becht questioned whether the District has considered marine operations. Chief Duran explained that although the District is trained in the basics of marine operations, it is not yet capable of doing advanced training in that area. Commissioner Becht would like this deficiency to be identified now so that in the future this subject can be added to our training curriculum.

Goal # 7 – Enhance Labor Relations and Improve Communication and Interaction between Fire District Staff and Fire Board Members

Chief Parrish expressed the importance of communication, cooperation and collaboration between staff, labor management and the Board. Other items of importance are fostering long-term planning with the Fire Board, establishing additional committees for fire fighters and administration, regular visits to fire stations, employee award programs, period staff presentations at Fire Board Meetings, encourage district personnel to attend Fire Board meetings. Chief Parrish also introduced the enhanced employee award programs the District has started, which includes "Employees of the Quarter" and "Employees of the Year" for both firefighters and civilians.

Chief Parrish asked for input from the Board regarding the March Strategic Planning Retreat and Fire Board meeting date preference.

Quarterly Report

Mr. Perdew reviewed the 1st Quarter Budget status, showing what was allocated verses what has been spent in each of the different funds.

Commissioner Coward asked for an account of the monies available in each of the reserve accounts as well as the anticipated costs that will need to be drawn from them. Mr. Perdew stated that he has put some of Commissioner Coward's requested information in the 5 year projection report.

Commissioner Coward also requested a report on the District's energy use and utilities. Commissioner Coward requested that the District make an attempt to cut energy costs by 10%.

5 Year Projection Report

Mr. Perdew gave an overview of the multi-year budget projections.

Commissioner Becht suggested that a projected 2-3% increase in costs be used not the 4-5%.

Commissioner Coward questioned how the District plans to go forward with a zero based budget but is still projecting a 4-5% increase. Chief Parrish explained that the District is doing everything possible to cut costs.

Commissioner Becht challenged the District to come back with a budget with only a 2-3% increase.

Commissioner Kelly reminded everyone that the normal standard which was referenced in the report is by no means normal! The construction levels achieved in 2004 will probably never be achieved again. Commissioner Kelly suggested using the 2001-2002 levels instead.

Commissioners Coward and Becht would like to see the per capita costs today vs. 10 years ago, as opposed to only showing numbers from the boom years.

Commissioner Alexander explained that he would need to excuse himself due to a previously scheduled engagement. The gavel was passed to Vice-Chair Kelly.

Mr. Perdew reviewed the reserve account totals and the estimated expenses that will be drawn from them. Commissioner Becht questioned whether or not impact fees were figured into these accounts. Mr. Perdew confirmed that they were not.

Commissioner Hutchinson would like for additional clarification on items that are being cut from the future budget and how they will impact the District.

Commissioner Coward thinks that a 2-3% budget increase is high. He would like to see a zero based budget, Commissioner Becht agreed with him. Mr. Perdew intended to bring back a budget presentation with the zero based budget at the Strategic Planning Retreat in March.

Commissioner Kelly rescinded the motion to send Commissioner Becht to the meeting and Commissioner Coward rescinded his second to the motion.

Commissioner Becht motioned to adopt a Resolution against the proposed Senate Joint Resolution and authorize the Chairman to sign it. Commissioner Cooper seconded the motion and the vote by voice was unanimous.

Commissioners Dzadovsky and Kelly indicated that they are comfortable with the Chairman signing the Resolution and each Commissioner's name appear on the top of the document.

X. Comments by Clerk/Treasurer

Mr. Perdew requested Board approval for the transfer of \$31,000 from the general fund reserve account to cover unanticipated Unemployment Compensation expenses. The funds to be transferred should be sufficient to cover expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Commissioner Hutchinson motioned to approve the transfer of funds from the Reserve account to Unemployment Compensation account. Commissioner Dzadovsky seconded the motion, and the vote by voice was unanimous.

XI. Comments by District Attorney

None

XII. Comments by Fire Board Members

Commissioner Dzadovsky spoke briefly about the Haiti Relief effort that he is involved with. Tim Munson stated that the Union did a collection and sent over blankets, clothing, and supplies earlier in the week. Chief Parrish stated that the District has sent 3 pallets of MRE's; and later in the week, he will be networking with other Florida Fire Chiefs to coordinate additional efforts.

Commissioner Becht commended everyone who worked and is working on the Strategic Planning Project.

XIII. Determination of Excused Absences

None

Commissioner Dzadovsky reminded everyone that although he would like to see the zero based budget, the equipment and personnel costs for the District are considered life saving costs and should not be jeopardized by cutting the budget too deeply.

Commissioner Coward suggested that we all do a better job and be more efficient in how we operate than we can accomplish both provide quality service without having to raise taxes.

Commissioner Kelly brought up the need for a possible wage concession from the Union.

Mr. Perdew agreed to rework the multiyear budget projections with a zero based budget and a 2-3% increase for the following years. He also stated he would present the projections to Jeff Furst, the St. Lucie County Property Appraiser before the March Strategic Planning session.

Commissioner Coward commended Mr. Perdew and the team that worked so hard on this project.

Tim Munson addressed the Board with regard to the Union making concessions in order to keep the District's budget within reason. Mr. Munson reminded the members present of the 21 positions that have not been filled, the fact that we are now purchasing used trucks rather new ones and the reality that we are doing more each year with less, and will continue to do so. He does not see where anything else can be asked of the Union or the District.

Commissioner Cooper echoed Mr. Munson's comments. Commissioner Cooper stated that every station needs to be properly manned with 5 people all the time. Commission Hutchinson stressed the importance of having properly staffed stations.

Discussion ensued regarding a staffing situation at Station 13 which occurred when a bridge was compromised delaying response from that station.

IX. Comments by Fire Chief

A. Big Heart Brigade

A Powerpoint presentation was provided by "Brian Blizzard Productions" showing a glimpse into all the work that went into providing 1,800 Thanksgiving meals to the community in November 2009.

- B. Citizens Fire Academy
A short description of the first session occurred.
- C. Impact Fee Study Proposal
Chief Emerson reported that the County has approached the Fire District to possibly join the County in an update to the study on impact fees for possible cost savings. The study would run about \$12,900. At this time, staff is looking for a recommendation from the Board. Discussion ensued and it was decided that this item would be added to the February Board Meeting Agenda.
- D. The Girl Scouts of America successfully used the District's Milner Road pavilion to stage their annual cookie distribution.
- E. Fire Station 3 (Ravenswood) has fallen a little behind schedule, due to issues involving the communications tower. The new completion date is set for March 3.

SJR 1180, which has been filed with the Florida Legislature by Senator Joe Negron, was discussed at this time because of its time-sensitive nature. The Fire Board members indicated concerns over the potential impact on the governance of the Fire District; additional and currently unfunded costs resulting from such an action; and their potential inability to continue as Fire Board members if the SJR 1180 is adopted as proposed.

Commissioner Becht suggested that someone from the District attend the Townhall Meeting on January 28, 2010, which will be hosted by Senator Negron to convey the Fire Board's concerns regarding the proposed bill. Mr. Becht also proposed inviting Senator Negron to the next Fire Board Meeting to further explain the bill.

Commission Kelly motioned to send Commissioner Becht to the Townhall Meeting on behalf of the Board. Commissioner Coward seconded the motion.

Commissioner Cooper volunteered to attend the meeting personally.

Commissioner Hutchinson suggested bringing other alternatives or solutions to the meeting not just asking for exclusion. Further, she suggested that it might be better to not address the issue at the Townhall Meeting but rather to invite Senator Negron to address the Board at the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Becht offered to speak with Senator Negron in a setting more appropriate than the Townhall meeting as previously suggested.

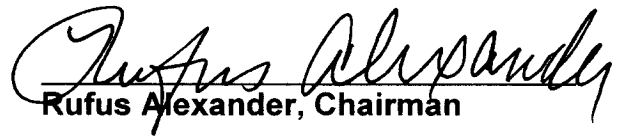
XIV. Adjournment

Commissioner Cooper motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:


Gary Perdue, Clerk/Treasurer

ST. LUCIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT


Rufus Alexander, Chairman