

# Bonita Springs Fire control & Rescue District Board Minutes

January 14, 2008

## **PRESENT:**

Chairman Frank Liles  
Commissioner Pat Buttino  
Commissioner Evans Conforti  
Commissioner Ed Fitzgerald  
Commissioner Bob Paterson

## **ADMINISTRATION:**

Chief, P.H. Kinsey, Jr.  
Assistant Chief Ken Craft  
Administrative Director Iris Roman  
Deputy Chief Joe Daigle  
Deputy Chief Dan Ryan  
Deputy Chief Shane Sibert  
Finance Director Tony Gambino  
Fire Marshal Tim Fernandez  
Union President Greg DeWitt

Chairman Liles called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Asking for public input on agenda items and having none, **Chairman Liles asked for a motion to approve the regular minutes of the December 10, 2007 meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Paterson; seconded by Commissioner Buttino. Motion carried. Motion made by Commissioner Conforti to accept the December 2007 financial report, acknowledgement of wire transfers and transfers between accounts; seconded by Commissioner Buttino. Motion carried.**

As a side note, Commissioner Paterson wanted it stated for the record that “the Department paid the Lee County Property Appraiser \$24,750.35 just for the services he renders and it is not worth it.”

## **Chiefs' Reports**

### ***Chief Kinsey***

Chief Kinsey reminded the board that on January 15<sup>th</sup>, the white paper on the merger of the three fire departments (Bonita, San Carlos & Estero) would be presented at the Three Oaks Banquet Center at 6:30 p.m.

The second item was the completion of the field audit on January 2, 3, and 4. Preliminary reports indicate there were no discrepancies.

An Acting Lieutenants assessment was conducted over two days this month. All the candidates were successful and after a brief in-house training program, the first three eligible will be able to assume the role.

The Department will be hosting the FASD Membership Meeting that will be held January 25, 2008. If the Commissioners are interested in attending, they must let Administrative Director Roman know by January 18<sup>th</sup>.

***Assistant Chief Craft***

During the month of December, we had 407 calls which was approximately a 3% increase from November; our fire calls increased by 45% with 13 calls; EMS calls increased by 4% or up to 292 calls; our hazardous condition calls decreased by 45% which approximated to only 5 calls; our service calls increased by 25% or 14; our good intent calls increased by 46% to 56; and, false alarm calls decreased to 20% or 27 calls.

Response times – 86.3% of the medical calls were responded to within the 8 minute timeframe established by the board last year. On fire related calls for the first due engine, were within 6 minutes or 58.6% of the time, and 77.7% of the balance were in less than 8 minutes.

Over 20 classes were offered by the Training Division which equates to 464 man hours of training.

Work continued on the pre-plan program in house and out of house with the dispatch center.

We released 11 suppression and special operations protocols and are currently working on 10 more draft protocols.

All the new extrication replacement and up-grade equipment arrived and was placed into service. Within 30 minutes of the equipment's arrival, the equipment was used without any problems.

Ladder Truck Responses – Last month there were 191 responses from 2007. Commissioner Fitzgerald inquired how many days the ladder truck was out of service. Assistant Chief Craft stated he will have to get back to him with that information.

An extra \$5,000 had to be spent for the new light rescue trucks. This brought the price from \$75,000.00 to \$77,500.00. The add-ons were for scene lighting in the back of the trucks and more emergency warning lights for the side and rear of the trucks.

Commissioner Fitzgerald inquired how often the new boat has been put into service as well as B-500 (Squad-21). Assistant Chief Craft will obtain that information for the next months meeting. Commissioner Liles requested that statistics on usage of the boat as well as Squad 21 be kept so data is readily available.

***Deputy Chief Joe Daigle***

The Training Division provided training in EMS report writing, EMS documentation pitfalls, and an in-service on the new EVIOS. Approximately 90% of the shifts were trained in these areas and each participant received approximately 3 hours of continuing education.

The EMS Division has been making progress on the inventory process.

The department also has 4 employees attending paramedic school and all shift personnel are presently receiving training in respiratory emergencies.

The permitting paperwork for the State has been made and it should only be a matter of a couple of weeks until the light rescue trucks are in service.

***Deputy Chief Dan Ryan***

The two new light rescue trucks are 90% equipped with light suppression equipment.

Ladder 21 is up and running again and is in the process of being re-certified.

We are in the process of reviewing all of the equipment lists for all of our pumpers to make sure we are compliant with NFPA regulations and ISO.

Hose testing for 2007 has been completed and all pumps will be tested.

Inspector Eric Scholz has been re-assigned fulltime to preplanning and is in the process of converting the preplans into computer formatting to go onto the MDC's on the trucks.

During the month of December, we have signed off 9 new driver/engineers. This will help with the efficiency in manning and help reduce overtime.

Suppression is doing high rise training and we are in the process of writing a high rise protocol. The purpose for the training and protocol is to be proactive in the event we receive a new ladder truck in the near future.

***Deputy Chief Sibert***

The Special Operations Division received new radio set-ups (mobiles and portables).

Special Operations Coordinators reviewed and were updating training regiments for each discipline.

Deputy Chief Sibert along with members of suppression reviewed applications for the rescue and water rescue technicians positions that were applied for. Those positions have now been filled. Commissioner Fitzgerald requested that the

Special Operations Division record calls even if it is something as simple as helping someone off a sandbar or helping with their anchor.

***Fire Marshal Tim Fernandez***

For the month of December, we did 424 existing occupancy inspections. That is up 233 from last month. Existing occupancy reinspections were 110; new construction inspections were 113; 20 use inspections; 22 fire flows; 53 plan reviews and 0 buildings. Fire Marshal Fernandez introduced Assistant Fire Marshal Vaughn Spangler to the commissioners.

***Union President Greg DeWitt***

Last month the union worked closely with Deputy Chief Sibert on the Special Operations and with Assistant Chief Craft on the Acting Lieutenants exam. We also had a discipline issue we worked out and everyone was very professional. Lt. DeWitt thanked everyone for their help and cooperation.

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, the Fire Department will hold its annual football game with the Lee County Sheriffs. All the money received will be going toward a charity.

**OLD BUSINESS**

At last months meeting, Commissioner Paterson requested the Department issue a small publicity campaign regarding the tax reform vote on January 29<sup>th</sup>. At that time, Chief Kinsey stated that PIO Debbi Redfield could put something together. Chief Kinsey responded that a press release and a second press release would be going out today. The department has been working with our counsel for clarification on this issue.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Terry Lewis with Lewis, Longman & Walker spoke about the tax referendum. He stated that any monies spent for the tax referendum were to be for “educational purposes” only and not an opinion. Mr. Lewis stated that it would not be a problem if the commissioners stated their opinion but they could not use tax dollars to do so.

The purpose of Mr. Lewis being at the meeting he stated was to clarify issues related to Station 5 in which the former Chief Gourley negotiated for with Bonita Bay for land to place a new station on .5 acres free of charge and in return, provide fire protection and emergency medical services. This never materialized.

Mr. Lewis stated he did not attend any meetings with the City of Bonita regarding this issue. He also stated that he spoke with the developer and they negotiated with the City of Bonita Springs and not the Department. Mr. Lewis stated there was no real recourse for the department. Commissioner Fitzgerald asked that a meeting be set up with Terry Lewis, Chief Kinsey, and a representative of Bonita Bay to resolve the issue. **Commissioner Fitzgerald made a motion to direct Terry Lewis, the Chief and a member of the board to meet with Bonita Bay**

**to resolve if Bonita Bay has an obligation to the District; seconded by Commissioner Paterson. Motion carried.**

### **High Tech Trading (Tri-Caster Studio)**

Joe Reinhart, president, gave a brief description of the video recording system the Department is looking at to purchase. Mr. Reinhart estimated it would cost between \$40-\$60,000.00 depending on add-ons, training, etc. Commissioner Paterson and Buttino concurred that the capability of live streaming via the computer would be a benefit and the functionality of the equipment would also benefit the Public Education Department as well. Commissioner Liles requested that Division Chief Cleland return to the meeting next month with a cost estimate for the equipment with and without a maintenance agreement. Attorney Terry Lewis explained 'a sole source' purchase.

### **Liberty Youth Ranch**

Alan Dimmett, founder and CEO of the Liberty Youth Ranch gave a brief history stating that it is a non-profit organization, tax exempt organization that is privately funded. The mission of the organization is to serve the at-risk boys and girls between the ages of 4-17 through counseling and a stable home environment.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Alex Grant requested that the CEO of the Liberty Youth Ranch do a presentation to the City Council of Bonita Springs.

Commissioner Paterson reiterated again the need for everyone to vote "no" on the tax proposal vote on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Even though it will save the average homeowner approximately \$20.00, the reduction in the loss of revenue will impact the services of the fire department. **Commissioner Paterson made a motion that the Board of Commissioners of the Bonita Springs Fire Control & Rescue District go on record as opposing the tax reform amendment. Seconded by Commissioner Conforti. Commissioner Fitzgerald voted no.**

A Commissioners Forum will be held the first Tuesday of February at 7:00 P.M. Commissioner Conforti asked for suggestions for speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Huss  
Secretary