

**Bonita Springs Fire Control & Rescue District  
Board Minutes**

March 9, 2009

**Present:**

Chairman, Ed FitzGerald  
Commissioner, Evans Conforti  
Commissioner, Frank Liles  
Commissioner, Wayne Edsall  
Commissioner, Stephen Lohan

**Administrative:**

Chief, Phil Kinsey, Jr.  
Assistant Chief, Ken Craft  
Deputy Chief, Joe Daigle  
Deputy Chief, Dan Ryan  
Deputy Chief, Shane Sibert  
Finance Director, Tony Gambino  
Administrative Director, Iris Roman  
Union President, Greg DeWitt

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

**Public Input (Agenda Items)**

No public input

**I. Administrative**

a. Minutes

A **motion** to accept the minutes as prepared was made by Commissioner Edsall; **second** by Commissioner Lohan. **Motion approved.** A **motion** was made by Commissioner Conforti to approve the workshop notes; **second** by Commissioner Edsall. **Motion approved.**

b. Financial – (One Motion)

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Conforti to accept the February and current expenditures; acknowledgement of February 2009 financial report; and acknowledgement of wire transfers and transfers between accounts; **second** by Commissioner Liles. **Motion approved.**

**II. Chiefs' Reports**

**Chief Kinsey**

During the month of February, the Public Information and Education Division began our annual brushfire blitz. This includes information distributed to the media, educational meetings with homeowners, and setting up displays at retail locations. This effort will continue through the upcoming months.

The current CERT class continues with 11 students. The final mock disaster drill will be held in the upcoming weeks.

We hosted the Leadership Bonita Class on February 20th. This is initiated through the Chamber of Commerce to educate the next generation of leaders on

Bonita's assets and issues. The group has also expressed an interest in the CERT program.

Our car seat technicians assisted 8 families in the installation of child restraint seats.

We attended a book fair at the Bonita Springs Charter School to encourage children to read.

Ten people participated in Heart Saver, AED or healthcare providers CPR during the month of February.

A copy of the Annual Report was given to the board and will be discussed at next month's board meeting.

TriData will be here the week of March 16th. All of the meetings will take place at Estero Fire Rescue Station 43 which is on Three Oaks Parkway. On Monday, March 16th they will be discussing administration, public education and training. On Tuesday, March 17th, they will be discussing emergency operations and suppression. On Wednesday, March 18th, they will be discussing prevention and inspections and also support services. On Thursday, March 19th, they will be speaking with the fire chiefs, the alternates, and the fire commissioners at 8:30 a.m. On Friday, there will be a stakeholders meeting at Bonita Station #4 at 9:00 a.m.

The trustees of Chapter 175 Pension Plan would like to have a joint meeting on April 20th at 3:30 p.m. at Station 4.

At the recommendation of Commissioner Edsall, the District did investigate Fire View. It's a very in-depth program. The cost of the program for one desktop would be \$35,000.00, and for a Fire View server it would cost approximately \$45,000.00. Chief Kinsey stated that the District has the resources to do this in house and with Lee County.

#### **Assistant Chief Craft**

There were 451 responses, or approximately a 6.4% decrease from January 2009 of 481 incidents. Seven of these calls were joint response with Estero Fire. Additionally, Estero Fire ran an additional 15 calls for us based upon AVL dispatch. Thus, totaling approximately 466 calls for the month.

Eighty-three percent of all our overall responses were reached in 8 minutes or less. This includes emergency and non-emergency calls.

Ninety percent of medical incidents were reached within 8 minutes

Sixty percent of suppression incidents were reached in six minutes or less by the first due engine.

Individual unit responses: 591, an approximate 5.75% increase from January of 627.

Ten auto-aid and 1 mutual aid responses were made with Estero and North Naples.

There were 153 different training classes that were offered during the month of February between the Fire/EMS and Special Operations Divisions. This resulted in the logging of over 1,754 personnel hours of training.

Three fire protocols were released during the month. We are currently working on 3 more new protocols.

Sixty-four hydrants were flushed, lubricated, prepped and painted.

### **Deputy Chief Daigle**

The EMS Division has discontinued the use of the oxygen cascade system (Praxair), and will be receiving prefilled oxygen bottles (Airgas).

During the month of February, the EMS Division completed their monthly pharmacology review.

Currently, there are 32 online paramedics and 49 EMTs.

The EMS Division will be preparing for our bi-annual state inspection. Personnel will also be recertifying in Advanced Cardiac Life Support.

### **Deputy Chief Ryan**

Engine 21 will be officially placed in service on the 18th of this month. On the 17th, we will be disposing of the reserve engine.

Truck 25 from the Sutphin Corp. is still being manufactured. We should be receiving it at the end of April or first part of May.

There were 16 preplans completed this month.

### **Deputy Chief Sibert**

Marine 22 should be fully repaired and back in service in a week or two. They are waiting on a couple of parts for the deck gun. When it is completed, Chief Sibert will e-mail Iris with a suitable date for the commissioners to go out on the boat.

The MERT (Marine Emergency Response Team) is still planning and hosting a county-wide drill.

On February 20th, the Honor Guard was invited to attend and march in the Edison Festival of Lights Parade. This was the first time they have been asked to participate in the parade.

## **Union President DeWitt**

The chili cook-off team participated in a chili cook-off in Estero for “Celebrate Estero.” The team won three trophies – one for the best chili, the people’s choice, and the best decorated booth.

There was a softball game between the District and Citrus Park for their “Give Back Day” and Citrus Park won.

The MDA boot drive is coming up on March 13, 14 and 15. There will be four intersections where collections will take place. On Wednesday night March 11th, the MDA goodwill ambassador, Tommy Hotchkiss will be at the meeting to have pizza and sodas with the Union.

Commissioner Edsall suggested the board write a letter of support to the City of Bonita Springs so that it is on record and the City knows where the commissioners stand on the issue and that the Commissioners are supporting the continuation of the boot drive. Commissioner Edsall made a **motion** to have a special letter from the board go out to the City stating their support for the MDA boot drive and possibly have the department “grandfathered” in for collecting in the future; **second** by Chairman FitzGerald. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chief Kinsey stated that the bid process is complete on Station 5 and these bids are only valid for 120 days which would put the timeframe into the second or third week of July.

## **III. Old Business - None**

## **IV. New Business**

- a. Chief Kinsey gave a brief description of the activities of the Citrus Park “Give Back” day. The residents also raised funds for the Fire Explorers Post 5513 and for the Districts free smoke alarm program. Citrus Park made a presentation to Chief Kinsey of a check in the amount of \$10,398.55 which was collected from the residents at Citrus Park.
- b. Disposition Report – February 09.  
Commissioner Conforti made a **motion** to accept the disposition report; **second** by Commissioner Liles. **Motion passed.**
- c. Ratification of Suppression Union Contract – Articles 12, 13 & 18  
A **motion** was made by Commissioner Conforti to accept the ratification and Articles 12, 13 and 18 of the suppression union contract; **second** by Commissioner Liles. **Motion passed. Commissioners Liles, Conforti and FitzGerald voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Lohan and Edsall voted no.**

## **V. Public Input**

Alex Grantt made a suggestion that a protocol be written for the budgeting of future fire stations. He also requested more information regarding the audits. Chairman FitzGerald and Commissioner Conforti stated that any further information regarding budgets and audits will need to be clarified by Mr. Grantt's accountant or CPA who can explain it to him as it is very time consuming for the District's finance department to gather and explain the information to him.

## **VII. Commissioner's Business**

### **a. Education Policy – includes Fire Commissioners.**

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Edsall to have the board approve any education that they may attend; **second** by Commissioner Conforti. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### **b. Travel Policy – Fire Commissioners (Workshop)**

Commissioner Edsall made a **motion** to increase the per diem for breakfasts to \$15.00, lunch to \$20.00, and dinner to \$35.00. **No second. Motion failed to pass.**

Commissioner Edsall made a second **motion** to increase the mileage to that of the IRS' rate rather than the State of Florida rate; **second** by Commissioner Lohan. **Motion passed.**

In the Travel Policy, Commissioner Edsall wanted to add a sentence after "The Fire Chief may authorize use of privately owned vehicles for travel in lieu of publically owned vehicles or common carriers" to "Commissioners may elect to use their private auto or a district vehicle at their discretion." The IRS rate would also go in that same paragraph. A **motion** by Commissioner Edsall was made to add the verbiage "Commissioners may elect to use their private auto or a district vehicle at their own discretion;" **second** by Commissioner Conforti. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### **c. Commissioners Assigned Areas of Interest (Chairman FitzGerald)**

At the last board meeting, Chairman FitzGerald proposed the idea that some of the commissioners accept a leadership position under some of the areas of responsibilities of the department. Chairman FitzGerald stated that the Legislative Liaison person would be someone who works with Chief Kinsey, travels to Tallahassee on pertinent legislative issues that affect the department, and support Chief Kinsey's actions. Commissioner Wayne Edsall showed interest in this position and was approved by the other members of the board.

Chairman FitzGerald was appointed by former Chairman Liles to be the liaison to the City of Bonita and stated he would like to continue with that position as a liaison for the department.

The liaison for communications between the union and administration will be Commissioner Conforti. It was brought up by Union President DeWitt that he will go to the other members individually to discuss an issue if needed.

A liaison for the pension meetings would relay the content of meetings to other board members. Hearing no volunteers, Chairman FitzGerald will be attending those meetings and report back to the board.

**d. Discussion on Squad-21-** Tabled until the next months meeting.

**e. Travel Approval – Chairman FitzGerald and Commissioner Edsall**

The Chairman and Commissioner Edsall would like to attend the financial management courses at the National Fire Academy in Maryland in August 2009. The cost of this would be approximately \$2,000.00 per person. Commissioner Lohan made a **motion** to approve their travel with the stipulation that the Commissioners turn over their NFA reimbursement to the District; **second** by Commissioner Conforti.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**f. Proposed Legislative Change – Chairman FitzGerald**

Commissioner FitzGerald proposed a motion to amend the Florida State Statute #175 as it relates to the pensions of future firefighters. He has asked Attorney Terry Lewis to draft legislation to limit the pensions to 2% per year times 25 years which would equal 50% Thirty percent of the District's payroll is going toward pensions.

Terry Lewis responded by saying it's too late in the year as the legislative session is closed. Terry suggested he make a motion to the board to see if the board is in agreement with this. This action could possibly affect new hires in the future. Chairman FitzGerald made a **motion** to make the change in the pension; **second** by Commissioner Edsall. His motion did not pass. Commissioner Lohan made a **motion** to table Chairman Fitzgerald's proposal until after the results of the merger study; **second** by Commissioner Conforti. **Motion passed** with Chairman FitzGerald voting nay to table his motion. The motion is tabled until the results of the TriData merger study are completed sometime in July or August.

**Commissioner's Input**

After much discussion regarding the building of Station 5, the original motion still stands to table building until the final report from TriData is complete.

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Huss, Secretary