

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – August 14, 2023
Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

Steve Lohan - Chairman
James Murphy – Vice Chairman
Jeffery Maturo – Secretary/Treasurer
Steven Slachta – Commissioner
Tommy Hugo – Commissioner

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief
Jason Brod – Assistant Chief
Andrew Schmidt – Deputy Chief
Eric Scholz - Fire Marshal
Lisa Gendron - Admin-Finance Director
Anna-Marie Waller – Admin Coordinator

Chairman Lohan called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Chaplain Chitwood led a moment of silence for fallen firefighters and their families, and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Slachta motioned to approve the July 10, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the July 2023 Financials. Commissioner Slachta seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

Commissioner Hugo motioned to approve the budgeted and unbudgeted P.O.s, including the additional budgeted P.O. for Floor Meister for \$13,066.64. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Murphy took a moment to extend his thoughts and prayers for the people of Lahaina, Hawaii.

Commissioner Maturo thanked the Chief and Firefighters for their presence at the schools reminding people to slow down and watch out for the children.

Commissioner Slachta wanted confirmation that everything was all set for the 9-11 program. He asked Commissioner Lohan to introduce the speaker.

PRESENTATIONS

Training Captain Colin Bostin presented the “Paul Phillips Award” to Firefighter Tyler Bess for his outstanding performance in his new hire orientation training class.

Training Captain Kelli Wilson presented the Phoenix Award to Lt. Joe Sanderson, Firefighter Robert Crews, and Firefighter Rob Schmidt. Also receiving the award for LCEMS were Paramedic Stan Ball, Paramedic Jason Marchand, and EMT Aaron Larva.

DISPOSALS

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the July disposals of 11 computers and 2 boat motors. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Maturo asked how the heat was being addressed regarding the firefighters and their training. Chief DeWitt confirmed that we were following the guidelines. He stated that the Chiefs, Battalion Chiefs, and Training Captains carry liquid IV, and Fletcher farm is set up for ice baths if needed. None of our crews has had an issue with the heat.

Commissioner Lohan inquired about the issue with the gas shut-off locations. He wanted to know if there had been any response from TECO. Chief DeWitt commented that it had been brought up to the State, as the issue seems to be statewide. Chief DeWitt said he will be attending a battery class at the Florida Fire College on September 7 & 8, 2023, where they will discuss the TECO issue.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve Budget Transfer #3. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Chief DeWitt informed the Commissioners that Station 27 is now open. Arrangements have been made for us to purchase boat fuel from Bonita Bay Marina.
- The Chief remarked that we are in Budget preparation, which is going well. He reminded the Board that the Final Budget Workshop is August 29, 2023, at 3:00 pm. Also, the first Budget Hearing is September 12, 2023, at 5:01 pm.
- Chief DeWitt informed the Board that the Chamber’s “Business After Hours” would be on August 30, 2023.
- The Chief reported that the Performance Review has been submitted. We are waiting for the Facilities Report draft proposal.
- Chief DeWitt informed the Board that he and Commissioner Lohan, Assistant Chief Brod, and Deputy Chief Schmidt met with Trinity Commercial Group (TCG) regarding their Big Hickory property-listing proposal. If the attorney approves the agreement, they want to proceed with TCG as the listing agent. Commissioner Slachta motioned to approve the proposal. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. During the discussion, Commissioner Murphy motioned to table the decision until we tried to get them to give

us their best and final offer regarding their commission rate. There was no second, and Commissioner Murphy's motion died. The vote on Commissioner Slachta's motion passed 4-1, with the no vote coming from Commissioner Murphy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alex Grant wanted to share information on hazardous chemicals like vinyl chloride and pool chlorine. He also expressed his concern and disbelief about the TECO gas shut-off situation.

Commissioner Maturo motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 pm.

APPROVED