

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – September 12, 2022
Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

Steve Lohan - Chairman
Lawrence P. Kosilla, Jr. - Vice Chairman
Jeffery Maturo - Commissioner
Steven Slachta - Commissioner

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief
Eric Madden - Deputy Chief
Eric Scholz – Asst. Fire Marshal
Lisa Gendron - Admin-Finance Director
Anna-Marie Waller - Admin Coordinator

Absent:

James Murphy - Secretary/Treasurer

Chairman Lohan called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Chaplain Chitwood led a moment of silence for fallen firefighters and their families. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The meeting recessed to convene the Tentative Budget hearing at 5:01. The hearing was to adopt the tentative millage and budget for 2022-2023. Commissioner Maturo read the agenda for the hearing.

There was no public input.

Commissioner Slachta motioned to approve the tentative millage rate of 1.9800. Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Commissioner Kosilla motioned to approve the tentative budget for 2022-2023. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

The Budget hearing adjourned at 5:03 pm, and the regular meeting reconvened.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the August 8, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Commissioner Kosilla motioned to approve the September 1, 2022, Budget Workshop Minutes. Commissioner Slachta seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Slachta motioned to approve the August 2022 Financials. Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

DISPOSALS

Commissioner Kosilla motioned to approve the disposals. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

The Commissioners all agreed that the 9-11 Memorial program was well done and that Nicole Hornberger and the staff did a great job. Commissioner Lohan also commented that the finishing of the mural was a great addition to the Memorial Garden.

PRESENTATIONS

Chief DeWitt presented promotional badges to Battalion Chief Richard Lanza and Lieutenant Calvin Payne. Assistant Chief Jason Brod and Deputy Chief Andrew Schmidt were unable to attend.

Chief DeWitt presented a 25 Years of Service pin to Admin-Finance Director Lisa Gendron.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Kosilla asked about Station 23's roof and the apron at Station 22. Chief DeWitt explained that the architect and engineer are still working on it.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Kosilla motioned to approve the new job descriptions for the Admin Assistant, Administrative-Finance Director, Administrative-Logistics Coordinator, Human Resource Coordinator, and Public Information Officer-Public Education Specialist. Commissioner Maturro seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Commissioner Slachta motioned to approve Dr. Abo's contract. Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Commissioner Maturro motioned to approve Budget Transfer #2. Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Commissioner Maturro motioned to approve the write-off of uncollectable fees for Fire Prevention. Commissioner Slachta seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Commissioner Kosilla motioned to approve the General Pension Resolution 22-08-01, which includes the PRIA option for retirees and a COLA increase. Commissioner Slachta seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Chief DeWitt thanked the staff for their work on the 9-11 Memorial program. He also thanked the City of Bonita Springs for the use of their stage.
- Chief updated the Board regarding Training Classes taking place in September. On September 14 and 15, there will be an S-215 Class (Fire Operations and Incident Command Systems). Then, on September 21 and 22, there will be an S-330 Class (Strike Team and Incident Command).
- Chief DeWitt remarked that Dr. Candace Ashby would hold classes on September 27 through 29. Her topic is "Leadership from the Bottom Up." She will hold two classes each day, so all shifts have the opportunity to attend.
- Chief also commented that LCSO would be using the bay for training. Commissioner Maturro commented that he thinks it is awesome that the fire department and the sheriff's department work so closely.

- Chief DeWitt mentioned that the Final Budget Meeting would be held at 5:01 pm on September 21, 2022.
- Chief DeWitt asked that the Commissioners let Anna-Marie know if they would be attending the FASD Quarterly Meeting, October 20, 2022, to October 21, 2022, in Fort Lauderdale so that she could make the appropriate reservations.
- Chief told the Board that he would be out of the office Tuesday through Thursday at an EMS Council meeting but would be available by phone.
- Commissioner Lohan asked Chief DeWitt if he knew what caused an increase of 33% in “false alarm” calls. Chief DeWitt replied that it could be because of weather, power surges, maintenance, or contractor error. The Nuisance Alarm policy is in effect to curb the number of calls.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Alexander Grant wanted to thank the Board for allowing him to hold his BTV interview at Station 3. He was the last volunteer firefighter and the first HazMat specialist. He also asked about the difference between a Strike Team and Mutual Aid. The Chief replied that the Strike Team is a “like and kind” response to a situation. Mr. Grant continued to share his concern about world events that could affect us all.

Commissioner Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.