

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**Minutes – July 11, 2016
Monthly Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

Steve Lohan – Chairman
Lawrence P. Kosilla, Jr. – Vice Chairman
James Murphy – Secretary/Treasurer
Patrick McCourt – Commissioner
Frank W. Liles – Commissioner

Administrative Staff Present:

Joseph V. Daigle – Fire Chief
Greg DeWitt – Assistant Chief
Rich Scott – Deputy Chief
Cesar Sanchez – Deputy Chief
Tim Fernandez – Fire Marshal
Lisa Gendron – Admin-Finance Director
Jessica DeWitt – Admin Coordinator

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

Chairman Lohan opened the meeting with a moment of silence for the families of the firefighters that lost their lives during the past month as well as for the family of Lieutenant Armand Calzadilla after the recent tragic loss of his son. The moment of silence was followed by an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

Alex Grantt commented on Agenda Item 11a. “Set Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2016-2017.”

APPROVAL OF JUNE 2016 MINUTES

Commissioner Kosilla made a motion to approve the June 13, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the **motion passed unanimously**. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to approve the June 27, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion. Commissioner McCourt noted that he was listed as being in attendance which was incorrect, and should instead show Commissioner Liles. **The motion passed unanimously, contingent upon the change.**

APPROVAL OF JUNE 2016 FINANCIALS

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the June 2016 and Current Expenditures and ACH Payments, Acknowledgement of the Financial Report, and Acknowledgement of Wire Transfers and Transfers Between Accounts. Commissioner Liles seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the **motion passed unanimously**.

PRESENTATION FROM PAM HANCOCK, PGIT

Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust, the carrier of the District’s Workers’ Compensation policy, presented a check to the District for \$5,000. The District received the grant as a reward for purchasing each firefighter a second set of bunker gear. The purchase was approved by the Board during the previous year, and ensured that each firefighter would always have a clean set of gear, as an effort to reduce the rising epidemic of cancer in the fire service.

DISPOSITION OF ASSETS

Commissioner Kosilla made a motion to approve the disposition of the assets listed on the Disposition Report. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and **motion passed 5-0.**

PRESENTATIONS

Years of Service Pins

Chief Daigle recognized Facilities Coordinator Michael Burkard, Sr. for ten years of service to the District, and also to Finance Coordinator Beverly Gervasi for one year of service.

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Kosilla noted that he would need to attend the August Regular Board Meeting via phone.

Commissioner McCourt stated that instead of purchasing new fire trucks for the new fire stations, as proposed in the working 2016-2017 Budget, the District should pay Lee County EMS for additional ambulance services within the Fire District.

Chairman Lohan requested tabling last month's Board motion to reapply for a COPCN with transport. He noted that Lee County's working 2016-2017 Budget proposed adding 1.5 ambulances within the District's response area. Commissioner McCourt made a motion to table the previous motion until Lee County's 2016-2017 Budget was approved. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to rescind the previous month's motion to reapply for COPCN with transport. Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and **motion passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Education/Certification Requirements

Chairman Lohan noted that many other elected officials in Florida were required to take Ethics training each term. Chairman Lohan noted that the State may include Special District elected officials in the future. Chairman Lohan also stated that he found that becoming a Certified District Officer through the Florida Association of Special Districts was very beneficial for the job of Fire Commissioner. He suggested that the Board make the certification a requirement or at least a strong suggestion for new Fire Commissioners within their first year or two on the Board. Commissioner Kosilla made a motion to make the certification a requirement for Commissioners to complete within their first four years of office. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. During discussion of the motion, Chairman Lohan noted that it should be approved by the District's attorney. Commissioner McCourt noted that he believed the certification was already strongly suggested by the District, and that it was unlikely the Board could mandate any type of training for the elected officials. Chief Daigle stated that it was his understanding that there could be no rules or regulations for the Commissioners further than what the State Law mandates. Commissioner Kosilla withdrew his motion until the Board heard from the District's attorney an official statement of whether it could be mandatory.

NEW BUSINESS

Set Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Chief Daigle stated that the Staff's recommendation was to set the not-to-exceed tentative millage rate for fiscal year 2016-2017 as 2.3500, the millage rate of the current 2015-2016 fiscal year. Commissioner McCourt made a motion to set the not-to-exceed tentative millage rate at the rollback rate. There was no second and the motion failed. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the Staff's recommendation of 2.3500. Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion, and in the roll call vote, the motion passed 3-2 with Commissioner McCourt and Commissioner Liles dissenting.

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Joseph V. Daigle

Chief Daigle noted that Dr. Steve Knight of Fitch & Associates had met with the Staff and several Commissioners to initiate the Facilities and Operations Report. He noted that the report would take about six months to complete.

Deputy Chief Cesar Sanchez

Deputy Chief Sanchez gave a presentation on the BSFD training center's 'burn building.' The training center was recently recertified and the burn building had undergone repairs incurred from its use. Deputy Chief Sanchez noted the benefits to training in-house and hosting neighboring fire departments as well.

Deputy Chief Rich Scott

Deputy Chief Scott reviewed two recent emergency calls responded to by Marine-22, the District's marine apparatus. A recent boat fire in Wiggins Pass was highlighted and Deputy Chief Scott explained that a boat fire was extinguished using mostly foam. The environmental impact of letting a burning boat sink was noted. A response to a paddleboarder's medical emergency in the water was also highlighted, which included the use of the District's sonar equipment. Commissioner McCourt inquired how much foam each rescue marine unit could carry. Deputy Chief Scott stated that M-22 could carry approximately 25 gallons, which demonstrated the necessity of multiple rescue units responding to one fire.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alex Grantt rebutted Commissioner Liles' statement in a recent newspaper article; Mr. Grantt stated that the District's 2009 report completed by TriData did not recommend Station Six or Station Seven. Mr. Grantt recommended again that the District and other south Lee County agencies create a specialized mobile medical response unit for Priority 1 calls with a resident physician on board.

Ron Pure requested to follow up with the District whether it had considered acquiring a line of credit rather than holding reserves for an emergency. Mr. Pure also requested to follow up with a previous statement he made regarding increasing impact fees. Chairman Lohan stated that the Staff would email Mr. Pure follow-ups to his inquiries.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.