

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

Minutes – December 4, 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
Eric Madden – Deputy Chief
Andrew Schmidt – Deputy Chief
Lisa Gendron - Admin-Finance Director
Anna-Marie Waller – Admin Coordinator

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

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 Maturo motioned to approve the November 13, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Slachta seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Hugo motioned to approve the November 2023 Financials, including the budgeted P.O. over \$10,000.00 from Motorola (P.O. #2656 for \$13,647.46) for SQ21's repeater. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

PRESENTATIONS

Deputy Chief Madden presented the Phoenix Award to Firefighters Terry Bonnell, Bryant Bruzos, and Matt Laurich. Also receiving the award from Collier County EMS were BC Charlie Matthews, Lt. Sean Swing, Paramedic Stephen Wilmath, and North Collier Firefighter Jorge Castillo.

The Years of Service pin recipients were not in attendance. They are BC Cesar Sanchez and Lieutenant Paul Canning with 30 years, and Lieutenant Roy Brown with 15 years.

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Maturo inquired about the new Zoll heart monitors. Chief Dewitt responded that he negotiated the price down \$60,000.00 from the original quote. Also, payments can be made over three years interest-free. We will receive three days of training, a 5-year warranty, and a dedicated person to our account.

Commissioner Maturo also asked if any additional safety equipment was needed for the firefighters. Chief Brod explained that the firefighters did not raise any concerns in their Safety Committee meeting. Chief Madden explained that they have increased the thickness of their gloves when working with patients. Also, the firefighters have been issued Nar-Can for their personal use should they be exposed to any lethal drugs.

DISPOSALS

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the November disposals. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Lohan asked if there had been any progress regarding the TECO shut-offs. Chief DeWitt said it would be discussed at the Florida Fire Chiefs meeting in January.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Chief DeWitt addressed Commissioner Slactha's inquiry about the Bonita Springs Fire District merger with the Fort Myers Beach Fire District. The Chief said that, at this time, it has been taken off the table. Iona and Fort Myers Beach have agreed to do a feasibility study regarding a merger. Chief DeWitt and Chief Choate met Representative Botana, and he decided to withdraw the bill but said he would talk about it again after the feasibility study.
- The Chief told the Commissioners there will be a Live Fire Co-Op on December 5, 6, and 7, 2023. There will be a morning and afternoon session. Fire departments from all over the county will be participating.
- Chief DeWitt reminded the Board that "Toys for Tots" will start setting up on December 5, 2023. He said a Saturday night event filled the trailer, Rescue 21, and the BC vehicle.
- The Chief remarked that the Florida Fire Chiefs Association (formerly Fire Rescue East) would meet from January 8 through 12, 2024, and they added H.O.T. classes.
- Chief DeWitt also let the Commissioners know that he will be taking a vacation from December 28, 2023, to January 2, 2024, but he will still be available by phone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.