

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – September 14, 2026
Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

Jeffrey Maturo – Chairman
Steve Lohan – Vice Chairman
James Murphy – Commissioner
Jeff Kerr – Commissioner

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief
Jason Brod – Assistant Chief
Kelli Wilson – Deputy Chief
Eric Scholz – Fire Marshal
Beverly Gervasi – Finance Director
Natalie Hughes – Admin-Logist. Coordinator

Fire Commissioner Absent:

Tommy Hugo – Secretary/Treasurer

Chairman Maturo called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Chaplain Chitwood led with a moment of silence in remembrance of the six fallen firefighters and their families, followed by a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

The Board recessed at 5:03 p.m. to convene the Tentative Millage and Tentative Budget hearing and reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 5:08 p.m. Minutes of the hearing recorded separately.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kerr motioned to approve the August 10, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes and September 3, 2026, Budget Workshop Minutes. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed, 4-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Lohan motioned to approve the August 2026 Financials, consisting of the purchase orders exceeding \$10,000.00. Commissioner Kerr seconded the motion.

The motion passed, 4-0.

UNION BUSINESS

Local 3444 Union Secretary Declan Allison thanked the Commissioners and the District, expressing gratitude to Assistant Chief Brod for his collaboration with the Union to work through the details and execution of the three-week Kelly day. He also noted that the October (Breast Cancer) and November (Movember) T-shirts would be available for purchase again this year, and anyone interested should contact him directly.

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Murphy expressed his gratitude for the September 11 remembrance event held at Station 21, including the great speaker and wanted to thank everyone who had a part in making the event possible. All commissioners agreed that the event was a job well done.

Commissioner Kerr asked if there was an update on the EVT overtime issue. Chief DeWitt explained that the EVT's position had been sent to the attorney regarding overtime and he was waiting for an update.

Commissioner Maturo expressed gratitude for the care his mother received during a recent medical emergency, and wanted to thank all of the support staff and the crew, Lt. Paramedic Linehan, Firefighter Paramedic Perez, and Firefighter EMT Blasi, for treating her as if she were their own mother and for their outstanding care.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

The resolution for the General Employees' Pension 8-Year DROP was presented to the Board for adoption. Chief DeWitt explained that the General Employees voted unanimously to extend their DROP from 5 to 8 years. Foster and Foster provided an impact letter confirming the extension would be at no cost to the District. Commissioner Murphy motioned to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Lohan seconded the motion. **The motion passed, 4-0.**

Chief DeWitt discussed pension board seat assignments. The General Employees' Pension Board suggested shifting Arnie Stull from his trustee-appointed seat to the Resident-of-the-District seat on the General Employees' Pension Board, a seat appointed by the Board of Commissioners. This shift followed a recommendation (not a legal requirement) from the District attorney that no one serve on two boards. Sondra Gibbons, who had served on both, moved to the Firefighters' Pension Board, and her seat on the General Employees' Pension Board became vacant. Mr. Stull's shift to the resident seat will also vacate his trustee-appointed seat, for which the pension board may seek a replacement who lives outside the District.

Commissioner Murphy motioned to shift Arnie Stull to the board-appointed General Employees' Pension Board Resident-of-the-District seat. Commissioner Kerr seconded the motion. **The motion passed, 4-0.**

Commissioner Lohan motioned to reappoint Sondra Gibbons to the board-appointed Firefighters' Pension Board Resident-of-the-District seat. Commissioner Kerr seconded the motion. **The motion passed, 4-0.**

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Greg DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- The new brush truck is at Station 25 being outfitted; upon completion, the former Brush 24 will be reassigned to Station 26, giving the District three brush trucks.
- Next *Business After Hours* is September 24, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at AC Hotel Naples.
- State of the Region is September 16, 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at Hyatt Regency Coconut Point.
- The hiring process is underway. The District received over 100 applicants; approximately 55 took the physical agility assessment. The District will interview candidates and hire eight to nine employees.
- Condolences were given to the family of Steve Slachta, a former Board Member and former City Councilman, who passed away. Memorial service information will follow; the location of services is TBD.
- Chief DeWitt thanked the Board and staff for this year's budget process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.