

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**Minutes – April 14, 2025**  
**Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

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

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief  
Jason Brod – Asst. Chief  
Andrew Schmidt – Deputy Chief  
Eric Scholz – Fire Marshal  
Beverly Gervasi – Finance Director  
Anna-Marie Waller – Admin Coordinator

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

Chaplain Chitwood began the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of the fallen firefighters and their families. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments on the agenda items.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Hugo motioned to approve the March 10, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS**

Commissioner Hugo motioned to approve the March 2025 Financials, including purchase orders (P.O.'s) exceeding \$10,000.00. Commissioner Kerr seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

**COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS**

Commissioner Lohan congratulated the City of Bonita Springs on their outstanding job on Celebrate Bonita. Commissioner Murphy voiced his agreement.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Assistant Chief Brod presented the Phoenix Award to Battalion Chief Jeffrey Millican, Lieutenant Andy Chicas, Firefighter Ramon Perez, Firefighter Christopher Sanchez, LCEMS Paramedic Annette Franco, EMT Alex Rosenbaum, and bystanders Art Rogers (CERT Member), and nurse Morgan Dempster. PIO Nicole Hornberger expressed the importance bystander CPR.

Gregory Wasmuth was promoted from Firefighter/Acting Lieutenant to Training Captain.

Years of Service pins were also presented. Receiving a 20-year pin, but not in attendance was Fire Inspector Jeff Krupp. Firefighter Noah Leskin also received his one-year pin and Firefighter badge, indicating that he is no longer a probationary Firefighter.

## **DISPOSALS**

Commissioner Kerr motioned to approve the March disposals. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Maturo commented the heat and training, and how the District is preparing for it. Deputy Chief Schmidt assured the board that there was plenty of Liquid IV, which is not recommended by the IAFF, on all the trucks and vehicles. He also stated that per the IAFF they are encouraging Heat Acclimation Training as well as other things that can be done prior to shift to help stay hydrated. The gear that the District has from Fire-Dex highly rated as it has heat release technology. Deputy Chief Schmidt stated that training can't be eliminated, but things are being done to minimize prolonged exposure. They are training in the shade, staying physically fit, setting hydration policies and even having a nutritionist meet with the firefighters are a few recommendations that are being incorporated.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Kerr motioned to approve Resolution 2025-04-01 changing the Mission Square Authorized Administrator. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

## **CHIEFS' REPORTS**

### ***Chief Greg DeWitt***

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Mentioned the brush fire battles and CREW's controlled burns. The District received many phone calls and callers were directed to download the Bonita Springs Fire App to get the most up to date information.
- Chief DeWitt commented that the Annual Report should be finalized this week.
- Chief DeWitt agreed that the City of Bonita and our crews did an excellent job on Celebrate Bonita.
- Six new firefighters were hired and will begin four weeks of orientation on April 28, 2025, and should be on shift June 1, 2025.
- Commissioner Lohan, EVT Vangelder, EVT Bogacz, Deputy Chief Schmidt, and Chief DeWitt are going to Appleton, WI for a truck tour. June 1 will be the mid-build inspection, and the truck should be on the road in July.
- Business After Hours is April 17, 2025, at the Naples Botanical Gardens, and the INCredible Awards are May 13, 2025.
- Talks with possible buyers of the restaurant are ongoing.
- At the Legislative Forum in Tallahassee, a few bills were brought to attention, which are being followed. Results should be available May 2, 2025.
- There were 12 people from the department that attended FDIC this year. It was mentioned that the last three years Training Captain Colin Bostin taught a search class.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lohan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:31 p.m.