

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

**Minutes – April 12, 2021
Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

Steve Lohan – Chairman
Lawrence P. Kosilla, Jr. – Vice Chairman
James Murphy – Secretary/Treasurer
Jeffrey Maturo – Commissioner
Steven Slachta – Commissioner

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Fire Chief
Richard Scott – Assistant Fire Chief
Jason Brod – Deputy Chief
Eric Madden – Deputy Chief
Janet Washburn – Fire Marshal
Lisa Gendron – Admin – Finance Director
Anna-Marie Waller – Admin Coordinator

Chairman Lohan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Chaplain Chitwood gave an invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. There was no public comment on agenda items.

APPROVAL MINUTES

Commissioner Slachta motioned to approve the March 8, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes, and Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the March 2021 Financials, and Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Slachta congratulated Commissioner Kosilla on his election to the Bonita Springs Utilities Board.

PRESENTATIONS

Chief DeWitt promoted two Firefighters. Allan Seruchar was promoted to Lieutenant and was presented his pin by his wife, Jessica Seruchar. Eric Scholz was promoted to Assistant Fire Marshal. His wife, Alicia Scholz, gave him his pin.

DISPOSALS

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the disposal of seven computers. Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve Budget Transfer #1 for Communication Maintenance. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Remarked that Montrose Environmental was contracted to monitor the carcinogen levels from the use of the AFFF Foam. The original cost was approximately \$8,300.00. The area was resurveyed in April of 2020, and levels were reported to be less than the acceptable levels required by the DEP. The DEP is asking for another survey to see where the levels are at this time. This second survey will cost approximately \$6,900.00.
- Commented that interviews for the 3 Firefighter openings will begin on May 3, 2021.
- Stated that Commissioners Lohan and Kosilla, along with Deputy Chief Brod, and himself will be heading to Appleton, Wisconsin, to check on the progress of the two new trucks.
- Remarked earlier this month, he testified before the House against HB 415 – Fire Department Communications and HB 1103 and SB 1624, both about Special Districts Accountability.
- Stated that our crews have been training at the old dog track the last few weeks. Next week we are inviting other Lee and Collier County crews to take advantage of the opportunity to train there as well.
- Commented that there will be a Fire Expo on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, for the Bonita Springs-Estero Area Realtors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alexander Grant suggested the District could encourage younger people to start getting vaccinated. Mr. Grant also handed out a copy of a letter to the editor from Mr. Jim Conway that expressed his disappointment with the District's lack of vaccine distribution. Commissioner Lohan took exception to the comments and explained that the Department members were prepared to vaccinate people. However, they were not given authorization from the County Health Department to distribute the vaccine. Commissioner Murphy stated he was going to contact the News-Press regarding this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.