BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – October 12, 2026
Regular Board Meeting

Fire Commissioners Present:
Jeffrey Maturo – Chairman
Steve Lohan – Vice Chairman
Tommy Hugo – Secretary/Treasurer
James Murphy – Commissioner
Jeff Kerr – Commissioner

Administrative Staff Present:
Greg DeWitt – Chief
Jason Brod – Assistant Chief
Andrew Schmidt – Deputy Chief
Kelli Wilson – Deputy Chief
Eric Scholz – Fire Marshal
Beverly Gervasi – Finance Director
Natalie Hughes – Administrative Director
Anna-Marie Waller – Admin Coordinator

Chairman Maturo called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and led a moment of silence in remembrance of the seven fallen firefighters and their families, followed by a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Commissioner Kerr motioned to approve the September 14, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Commissioner Hugo motioned to approve the September 14, 2026, Tentative Millage and Tentative Budget Hearing Minutes. Commissioner Kerr seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Commissioner Kerr motioned to approve the September 21, 2026, Final Millage and Final Budget Hearing Minutes. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS
Commissioner Lohan motioned to approve all September 2026 Financials, including purchase orders exceeding $10,000.00. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

PRESENTATIONS
Fire Chief DeWitt presented Firefighter Mark Simon with his 25-year service pin in recognition of his years of service to the District. Chief DeWitt highlighted Simon's service at Station 27 in the marine unit and his dedication to Urban Search and Rescue (USAR). Assistant Chief Jason Brod was also recognized with a 25-year service pin. Chief DeWitt noted that Assistant Chief Brod began his career as a firefighter on Chief DeWitt's shift and advanced through the ranks, ultimately becoming Assistant Chief of Operations.

Lieutenant Jim Lamb, Firefighter Wayne Day, and Firefighter Jonathan Whitlock were not present at the meeting. Lieutenant Lamb and Firefighter Day were recognized for 25 years of service, and Firefighter Whitlock was recognized for 20 years of service.

The Board recessed from 5:07 p.m. to 5:09 p.m. to allow attendees who were present for the presentations to depart, if they wished.

APPROVED

UNION BUSINESS
Local 3444 Union Treasurer Eric Del Pozo reported that there was no new business to discuss. He noted that November (Movember) T-shirts and holiday shirts would soon be available for purchase by those interested.

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS
Commissioner Murphy, along with Fire Chief DeWitt and Vice Chairman Lohan, attended the celebration of life for former Fire Commissioner and former City Councilman Steven Slachta. They noted it was an honor to be there to remember him and all that he contributed to Bonita Springs.

Chairman Maturo expressed his gratitude to Chief DeWitt for taking him to Vehicle and Machinery Rescue (VMR) Training in Fort Myers. Commissioner Maturo was impressed by the District, specifically noting the professionalism of all employees in attendance.

Commissioner Maturo asked Chief DeWitt if there was any update on the Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) overtime issue. Chief DeWitt explained that two independent attorneys and the labor attorney reviewed the issue and issued two opinion letters concluding that the position does not meet the FLSA criteria for overtime eligibility. The third opinion letter is pending and will be shared with the Board upon receipt.

OLD BUSINESS
Chief DeWitt shared that the Brush Truck will be in service soon and that it is a combined high-water and brush truck that will serve dual purposes.

NEW BUSINESS
Chief DeWitt explained that a proposed Commissioner Post-Employment Benefit was discussed during the budget meetings. The benefit would be similar to that offered to the District retirees, but would be funded by the District rather than through the Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association (VEBA). Under the proposed terms, any Fire Board Commissioner, whether currently serving or serving in the future, who has served eight (8) years as a Commissioner would receive a post-employment benefit of $5,100 per year (before age 65) or $3,816 per year (age 65 and older, Medicare-eligible) to offset medical expenses. The Benefit would mirror the VEBA, including current and future modifications to the VEBA.

Commissioner Kerr motioned to approve the post-employment benefit upon the terms discussed. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed, 4-1, with Chairman Maturo voting Nay.**

A formal resolution will be prepared by the District's attorney and will be effective October 12, 2026.

CHIEF'S REPORT
- Brush Truck: The Chief will notify personnel when the Brush Truck is officially placed into service.

- Toys for Tots: The annual Toys for Tots drive will begin on October 26, with collection boxes distributed to local businesses. Registration will begin in November at the Bonita Springs Assistance Office (BSAO). On December 4, the meeting room will be set up at BSFD as the Toys for Tots pickup location.

- December Board Meeting: The Board was reminded that the December Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1.

- Urban Search and Rescue (USAR): The USAR team deployed in response to the hurricane, with five team members participating. Team members will receive 48 hours of rest before returning to duty.

APPROVED

- Business After Hours: The next Business After Hours event is scheduled for October 29, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at Arts Bonita off Old 41, Bonita Springs.

- Halloween Walk: The City's Halloween Walk is scheduled for October 31 and will include trick-or-treating and a Halloween showcase outside at BSFD Station 21.

- Snell Lane Roadwork: Snell Lane is being repaved. Fire apparatus will be rerouted as necessary to accommodate the road improvements.

- Firefighter Hiring: Conditional job offers were extended to 10 prospective firefighters to address staffing needs related to Kelly Days and retirements. The candidates have completed their physical examinations. A six-week orientation is scheduled to begin November 2, with the new firefighters expected to begin shift assignments on December 14.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

APPROVED