

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

**Minutes – April 11, 2016  
Monthly Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

Steve Lohan – Chairman  
Lawrence P. Kosilla, Jr. – Vice Chairman  
James Murphy – Commissioner  
Patrick McCourt – Commissioner  
Frank W. Liles – Commissioner

Administrative Staff Present:

Joseph V. Daigle – Fire Chief  
Greg DeWitt – Assistant Chief  
Frank Giuliano – Deputy Chief  
Rich Scott – Deputy Chief  
Tim Fernandez – Fire Marshal  
Lisa Gendron – Admin-Finance Director  
Jessica DeWitt – Admin Coordinator

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

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence for the families of the firefighters that lost their lives during the past month and an invocation by Chaplain Chitwood. The invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There was no public comment on agenda items.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 2016 MINUTES**

Commissioner Kosilla made a motion to approve the March 14, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes and the March 28, 2016 Special Board Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the **motion passed unanimously**.

**APPROVAL OF MARCH 2016 FINANCIALS**

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the March 2016 and Current Expenditures and ACH Payments, Acknowledgement of the Financial Report, and Acknowledgement of Wire Transfers and Transfers Between Accounts. Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the **motion passed unanimously**.

***Disposition Report***

Assistant Chief DeWitt described the Disposal Report which included end-of-life radios and computers which had recently been replaced with up-to-date technology. Commissioner Murphy inquired how the District would dispose of the items. Assistant Chief DeWitt explained the District had reached out to other like agencies and received no interest. As the technology reached end-of-life status, the items would be thrown away. Commissioner Murphy made a motion to accept the Disposal Report and Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and **motion passed unanimously**.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

Chairman Lohan noted that Item 7a, Presentation “Appreciation of Service for Resigned Commissioner Fred Forbes,” would be postponed until the May Regular Board Meeting.

### ***Local 3444 Presentation – Boot Drive Donations to MDA***

Natalie Hughes gave a presentation to describe 2016’s Boot Drive in which the firefighters collected \$35,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Ms. Hughes, Local 3444 President Brad Brown, and Local 3444 MDA Coordinator Randy McGovern presented the donation check to Chelsea Miller of MDA. Ms. Miller thanked everybody for their participation and for the donation. Firefighter McGovern reiterated appreciation to the District and Commissioners for allowing the partnership for a great cause.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***Appointment of New Commissioner to the Fire Board***

Chairman Lohan thanked the applicants and commended their qualifications. Commissioners Murphy and McCourt reiterated the Chairman’s statement. Commissioner McCourt made a motion to nominate Dr. Richard Check. There was no second and the **motion died**.

Commissioner Murphy made a motion to nominate Frank Liles and Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion. During discussion, Commissioner Murphy stated that Mr. Liles was the most qualified candidate. Chairman Lohan noted that Mr. Liles was elected by the Public onto the Board for the term in which he resigned from due to medical reasons. In a roll call vote, **motion passed 3-1, with Commissioner McCourt as the dissenting vote**.

Commissioner Liles was sworn in and joined the Board for the remainder of the meeting.

### ***Hickory Island Station Update***

Chief Daigle presented a proposed site for a station on Big Hickory Island, located on Hickory Boulevard, shortly before it turns into Estero Boulevard. He explained that it was an existing commercial building which used to be a deli and would need some improvements to become living space. There was also a nearby dock where the District could build a lift for the Rescue Boat. Deputy Chief Scott stated that it was an ideal location for the marine rescue vessel. Chief Daigle requested the Board authorize negotiations for a lease agreement for the building so that the District could begin receiving estimates and bids for necessary improvement projects. The Chief noted there were sufficient funds for the project in the current year’s Capital Improvement budget. Commissioner Murphy inquired to the Chairman if there should be any community outreach. Chairman Lohan stated that the requested motion to draft a lease agreement would be the first step in providing the hard numbers for the public. Commissioner Murphy stated he would like community outreach involved later in the process.

Commissioner Kosilla made a motion to authorize the Chief to come back to the Board with a longterm lease agreement. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. During discussion, Commissioner McCourt stated that mobile response units would be a better answer to the beach area’s response time issues. Commissioner McCourt questioned the need for improved MERT response, stating there were many agencies serving the waterways besides Fire-Rescue. Deputy Chief Scott stated that the Sheriff’s Office, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation

Commission, the Coast Guard, and Fire-Rescue each served individual roles and met individual needs. It was noted that the proposed station site would require a minimum of three first responders. In a roll-call vote, **motion passed 4-1, with Commissioner McCourt as the dissenting vote.**

## **CHIEFS' REPORTS**

### ***Chief Joseph V. Daigle***

Chief Daigle highlighted a few of the District's recent calls. Included were several house fires, one which involved live ammunition inside. The Chief noted one in which a mother and child heard the smoke detector going off while in the shower. The Chief highlighted recent technical rescues and vehicle extrications and their processes.

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

Assistant Chief DeWitt noted to the Board that the firefighters were currently training in Rope Operations Standards.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alex Grantt questioned if the Board had considered his suggestion of providing AEDs to buildings and condo associations on Black Island and to the nearby ranger station. He stated it would be a good idea for BSFCRD to do so and to train volunteers to use them. Commissioner Murphy noted that he was part of the Fire District's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which is a program comprised of over two hundred Bonita Springs volunteers trained in basic life support techniques such as using an AED. Chairman Lohan noted the individual associations Mr. Grantt spoke of should initiate acquiring AEDs. Mr. Grantt stated that the District should fund them. Mr. Grantt stated that he suggested the first responders and the vehicle at the possible new beach station move to Station Two during tropical storms.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.