

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – February 13, 2023
Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

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

Absent:

Steven Slachta – Commissioner (see attached)

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief
Jason Brod – Assistant Chief
Eric Madden – Deputy Chief
Andrew Schmidt – Deputy Chief
Eric Scholz – Acting Fire Marshal
Lisa Gendron - Admin-Finance Director
Anna-Marie Waller - Admin Coordinator

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

Chaplain Chitwood led a moment of silence for fallen firefighters and their families, and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the January 9, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the January 2023 Financials. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the Purchase Orders over \$10,000.00. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Commissioner Hugo motioned to approve the Hurricane Ian Purchase orders over \$10,000.00 for Wayne Fire Sprinkler and Vision Pro. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the first draw from Vision Pro. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Maturo commented on the department's response to a recent fire. He said it allowed him to see the firefighters at work. He also stated that he is always impressed with our firefighters, and if there is anything they need to get the job done, to let him and the board know, and they will get it for them.

PRESENTATIONS

Deputy Chief Madden presented the Phoenix Award to Firefighter Colin Bostin, Firefighter Sean Linehan, Firefighter Jordan Sauerwald, Firefighter William Scott, and Firefighter Jacob Driskell, who could not attend.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the Four Seasons Lawn Maintenance Contract.

Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Chief DeWitt remarked that Commissioner Lohan, Assistant Chief Brod, and Lieutenant Sheffield would be going to Wisconsin with him at the end of the month for the first inspection of the new truck. March 20 through March 22 will be the final inspection, and he is looking for delivery around April 1 and having the truck in service toward the end of April or the beginning of May.
- The Chief commented that January and February are the months for hydrants. There were 2,965 hydrants inspected and serviced. There are 20 out of service, and five are out for repair. The Bonita Terra-Citrus Park hydrants are not in our service, so they could not be located. Captains Wilson and Bostin will inspect those to ensure they are up to code, flow test, and GPS them.
- Chief DeWitt reported that he would be meeting with the communities of Bonita Terra-Citrus Park on February 24, 2023, to discuss how things could be done better in an emergency situation.
- Chief DeWitt stated that he has interviews scheduled for early next week with eight potential new firefighters, and we will be hiring five, with a late April or early May start date.
- The Chief informed the board that the posting for the Fire Marshal position closes Tuesday, February 14, 2023, and the new Training Captain will start Monday, February 20, 2023.
- Chief DeWitt stated that he and Commissioner Lohan would attend FASD on March 8th and 9th.
- The Chief announced that Station 7 permits had been pulled. Demolition, both inside and out, is complete. The locks are all changed, and rough A/C and framing are complete. We are currently waiting on the trades. Chief DeWitt stated that it should be approximately four months until we can occupy the station.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Matt Loeb commented on the purchase of the Big Hickory Property. Mr. Loeb hoped the District would keep some of the old property functions, such as the restaurant. However, Commissioner Lohan assured him that the District plans to keep the parcel that houses the station, and the other will be sold.

Mr. Alex Grant provided information on fusion equipment, PFAS foam, and lithium batteries in electric vehicles to help the firefighters.

Mayor Rick Steinmeyer stated that the property values in Bonita Springs are rising. He also wanted to thank the District for their excellent job protecting and keeping the citizens safe.

Commissioner Lohan welcomed Council Member Jamie Bogacz as the new liaison between the City Council and the Fire Department.

Commissioner Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.