

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – November 14, 2022
Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

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

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief
Jason Brod – Assistant Chief
Eric Madden - Deputy Chief
Janet Washburn – Fire Marshal
Eric Scholz – Asst. 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. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kosilla motioned to approve the October 10, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the October 2022 Financials. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

DISPOSALS

Commissioner Slachta motioned to approve the disposals. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Murphy thanked all the volunteers who helped with his election.

Commissioner Kosilla stated he is proud to be part of the District. He also said that the Board always has the District's best interest in mind when making decisions. He thinks highly of the Chief, the office staff, and the firefighters. He considers everyone family and the best there is to work with. He said it was an honor and pleasure to serve on the board.

Commissioner Slachta wanted to know if communications during Hurricane Ian had improved. Chief DeWitt assured him that they had improved over previous incidents.

Commissioner Maturo congratulated Commissioner Murphy on his reelection. He also commented that he would miss Commissioner Kosilla.

Commissioner Lohan also congratulated Commissioner Murphy and expressed his thanks for Commissioner Kosilla's 8-1/2 years of service on the board. Commissioner Lohan also remarked on the Tunnels to Tower's response to the District after Hurricane Ian. He was impressed with how quickly and effectively they work.

PRESENTATIONS

Deputy Chief Madden presented a Phoenix Award to Lieutenant Giovanni Zamora, Firefighter Robert Schmidt, and Firefighter Allen Espinal for a medical event on March 20, 2022.

Chief DeWitt presented promotional pinnings for Assistant Chief Jason Brod, Deputy Andrew Schmidt, and Lieutenant Eric DelPozo took place.

Chief DeWitt also presented the 5 Years of Service pins to Firefighter Jordan Green, Firefighter Curtis Mere, Firefighter Robert Milhous, Firefighter Henrique Scheffer, and Firefighter April Staffieri. Not present to accept their pin were Firefighter Sean Linehan, Firefighter Jaime Minor, Firefighter Jordan Sauerwald, Firefighter Desiree Schultz, Firefighter Frank Todd, and Firefighter Kyle Waltemyer.

There were also ten firefighters celebrating 10 Years of Service. Those recognized by Chief DeWitt were Firefighter Austin Beaudette, Lieutenant Eric DelPozo, and Lieutenant Calvin Payne. Not present to accept their pin were Firefighter Michael Burkard, Jr., Firefighter Sebastian Castro, Firefighter Brian Hornberger, Lieutenant Philip Kinsey, Firefighter Stanley Laurich, Firefighter Vince Perkins, and Firefighter Joe Sanderson.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Maturro motioned to approve the Waiver of Inspection Fees due to Hurricane Ian. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

Commissioner Slachta motioned to approve the 2023 Board Meeting schedule dates. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Chief DeWitt commented that Tunnel to Towers is still here helping out and will remain through November. The organization supplied four truckloads of supplies. They are having a big toy giveaway on December 10, 2022. He also remarked that they are grateful for what we have done for them. Commissioner Slachta suggested that we write a letter of appreciation.
- Chief DeWitt informed the board that the Extrication team would compete in Miami from November 17 to November 20, 2022.
- He reported that Station 27 is still in negotiations. The building department confirmed that plans need to be resubmitted as is to get a permit. This should happen at the end of the week or at the beginning of the following week.
- Chief DeWitt told the Commissioners that the Hurricanes Ian and Nicole cost about \$307,634.00 and should be 100% reimbursed by FEMA. We are still waiting for reimbursement from Irma, so he is unsure when the District will receive the most recent request. We have also received a reimbursement check from VFIS for Station 27 for

\$34,000.00. The District is waiting on a check for E-27 for approximately \$14,000.00 to \$16,000.00.

- On Tuesday, November 15, 2022, the Chief will attend a FEMA meeting at 1st Presbyterian in Fort Myers. Then he will head to Ocala for the Florida Fire Chiefs meeting and return on Friday.
- New Engine 26 will be on the assembly line at the beginning of January and off the line in mid-February. He is looking for it to be in service at the end of April or the beginning of May.
- Commissioner Lohan expressed his appreciation for the team members at the District and on the board.
- Chief DeWitt mentioned that there is a Hurricane Ian Benefit Concert on December 1, 2022, at Hertz Arena and another on November 19, 2022, at Riverside Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Alexander Grant reported he has had multiple calls for pest control issues that could be connected to unusual debris in the swamps and was wondering if the swamps had been searched. Chief DeWitt responded that if there were a specific request, it would have been addressed. Mr. Grant was also concerned about the devastation to the area condominiums.

Commissioner Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 pm.