

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
December 14, 2021

**Meeting called to order** at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Ducrou

**Invocation** – Moment of Silence

Commissioner Hansen – Excused  
Commissioner Griffin – Present  
Commissioner Mere - Present  
Commissioner Ducrou – Present  
Commissioner Cook – Present  
Chief Doug Underwood - Present  
Office Manager - Present  
Attorney Ian Mann – Absent

**Others Present:** Some Public

**Award Presentation** – Chief Underwood recognizes Volunteer Firefighter Edward Cornish for his more than 20 years of service with the district stating Mr. Cornish is no longer able to perform his duties as a firefighter, and he invites Former Chief Nisbet to speak. Chief Nisbet summarizes Ed's service not only with our district but also at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial as a chaperone to families of the fallen. The board thanks him for his service. Ed speaks and thanks the board and the department for allowing him to serve.

**Public Input Agenda Items** – None

**Minutes** – Review and Acceptance of the minutes of the November 9, 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Griffin to accept the minutes. Commissioner Mere seconded the motion. Chairman Ducrou calls for any discussion. Hearing none, he calls for any opposed and with none opposed, motion passed.

**Financial Reports** – Review and Acceptance of the Financials for November 2021. Motion made by Commissioner Mere to accept the financials. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Chairman Ducrou calls for any discussion. Hearing none, he calls for any opposed and with none opposed, motion passed.

**Fire Marshal Report** – Chief Underwood states there were no inspections for the month of November but there were pre-inspections for change of occupancy of existing units.

**Administrative Report** (attached) – Chief Underwood reads the Administrative Report into the record and offers to answer any questions. There is a brief discussion about the blood drive and future drives being split days with Seminole. Commissioner Mere asks if there is any new development with MW Horticulture. Chief Underwood states he did testify last Friday in the case and Judge Fuller denied the emergency injunction as the county did not have a company that could state how long it would take to clean up the site, meanwhile they continue to violate land use and fire codes. The emergency injunction enabled them to get the case on the docket sooner than the March 2023 date, and only the emergency injunction

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was denied, so the case will continue, but it will take a lot longer now. According to the county's survey they have only removed about 2% from July until just before the December hearing. Chief will discuss any actions on the billing with any of the commissioners and the attorney or in an executive session if requested. Chairman Ducrou permits him to address the topic in whichever manner Chief prefers. He calls for any further questions. Hearing none, he calls for Union Petitions.

**Union Petitions** – Hearing none he calls for Old Business

**Old Business – None.** Chairman Ducrou calls for new business.

**New Business –**

- **Election of Officers** – Chairman Ducrou states he was happy to take the Chairman position for the last year but feels, based upon the past 4 months, it would be irresponsible to continue to hold that position. Commissioner Mere steps up and states he is willing to assume the role. Commissioner Cook nominates Commissioner Mere as Chairman. Commissioner Ducrou seconds the motion. With no discussion offered and none opposed, Commissioner Mere is appointed Chairman. Commissioner Griffin offers to accept Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Mere seconds and with all in favor, Commissioner Griffin is appointed Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Cook nominates Commissioner Hansen as Secretary/Treasurer and Commissioner Griffin seconded, and with all in favor Commissioner Hansen is appointed Secretary/Treasurer.

**Chief's Items** – Chief states we have been awarded the Forestry 50/50 grant for the 2 Dual-Band portable radios, the Tecgen brush gear for the new firefighters. The grant is approved for in excess of \$14,000, for which our portion will be about \$7,200. Commissioner Mere asks if we looked at the cost of the blue tooth headsets. Chief Underwood states he did and they're about \$550 each and he tried using one during live fire training and it kept dropping signal so he is interested in trying a wired one which would be considered for the brush truck and the engineers on the pumpers, so he is looking at trying a couple to start off with, but he wants to test them out. He wants to see how they hold up and if they drop signal. They are not really designed for combat use due to the extreme conditions. The truck he ordered in April is now scheduled to be built the 4th week of February, just as a target date, no VIN number yet, that's just the target. The side-by-side, he has been in touch with Northbrook and they are looking into what they might be able to do. He has received a couple quotes, one for \$32,000 from the vendor the City of Fort Myers used, and then directly from Polaris Defense for about \$29,000 with a rescue body, no water, no pump, just lights, stokes basket and a seat on the back for a medic and a box to put some stuff in like an extinguisher and a few other little tool items. It's a basic like we use at the fair from EMS. They got theirs back in 2019 for \$26,000 but prices have gone up. He plans to see what Metro Development does and if that's not an option, he will proceed with the Firehouse Subs grant. Commissioner Ducrou inquires of our need for this. Chief states we already have a couple times a year in our preserves

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and states just a month or so ago Captain Swindle contacted him to see if he was home to bring his over because we had someone down way deep in the woods on a walking trail who was unable to walk any more. They had to wheel the patient out over a mile on a stretcher. Commissioner Ducrou asks who is the closest district that has one. Chief responds Alva houses one for EMS and City of Fort Myers has one for the events they have downtown, there are a couple others around. Metro initially offered one to us because they are putting in quite a few miles of trails, some are already done along the creek, as well as the lagoon is going to be quite a distance around the 5-acre lagoon, but they want us to house it here. There is some discussion on how we would transport it, and Commissioner Ducrou states he loves it, if someone else is going to pay for it and we get an enclosed trailer to avoid anyone doing something stupid going down the road and to protect it from weather and rot. Chief states they would only drive it for nearby use and it would be equipped with radial tires, seat belts, windshield with wipers, and the lights package is a legitimate \$4,000 lights and sirens package. They are capable of being registered like a motorcycle and insured. VFIS also has driver training on those as with any other response unit. Commissioner Mere states we could afford the \$2,000 it would cost for a trailer if someone else purchases the unit for us. Chief Underwood announces he is working with Susan Lindenmuth our PIO and our website company on re-designing our website which we have budgeted a couple thousand dollars to do so, and he requests our board make time for an appointment in February (he believes it is the 9<sup>th</sup>) to come in for professional photos for the site. He is a professional photographer who is donating his time to come in and take professional photos for the site for us in full uniform with a nice backdrop. It will be mid-morning, as soon as he gets off shift (he works for Estero), here in the training room. He would like all commissioners to make time for this so we can get some really nice individual and group board photos done. Again, he strongly encourages everyone to get here as the gentleman is donating his time for us. He will notify everyone as soon as he confirms the date and will send multiple reminders. Lastly, he asks the board if they need him to continue reading the administrative report into the record or if we can forgo that in the future. Many of the board members wish it to be read into the record as we are doing it now, as it can help remind them of something they wanted to bring up or discuss further.

**Commissioner Items** –Chairman Ducrou calls for any Commissioner Items.  
Hearing None, he calls for any Public Input.

**Public Input** – Chairman Ducrou calls for any public input and hearing none, he calls for motion to adjourn.

**Adjournment** – Commissioner Cook moves to adjourn. Commissioner Mere seconds the motion and with none opposed meeting is adjourned 7:45 p.m.