

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
May 12, 2009

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Hansen

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation by Commissioner Hansen

Roll Call: Commissioner Hansen – Present
Commissioner Cook - Present
Commissioner Ducrou - Present
Commissioner Griffin - Present
Commissioner Klos – Present
Chief Larry Nisbet - Present
Office Manager - Theresa Sharp - Present
Attorney Ian Mann - Absent

Others Present: Some Public

Minutes - Review and Acceptance of the April 14, 2009 Board Meeting minutes. Motion made by Commissioner Griffin to accept April minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Klos. Vote called. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes - Review and Acceptance of the Amended March 10, 2009 Board Meeting minutes. Motion made by Commissioner Cook to accept amended March minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Vote called. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: Commissioner Ducrou motioned acceptance of the April 2009 Financials. Commissioner Cook seconded the Motion. Vote called. Motion passed unanimously.

Admin/Ops/Fire Marshall's-Report (attached) – Chief Nisbet covers the Fire Marshall's report and Admin report. Special attention is drawn to Commercial Development Order for 31 & N. River Rd. which has cleared preliminary re-zoning approvals and is now going before County Planning for approval. Chief Nisbet covers the balance of the Administration report. Commissioner Ducrou inquires as to whether we had taken photos from the locomotive fire. Chief Nisbet states that while he had the camera out, there were 90 people on the train and evacuations superseded the photo op. He goes on to say it was the closest he has seen to shipboard firefighting due to the narrow doorways and hot steel. We had to use 300 gallons of foam to extinguish the fire. Commissioner Ducrou inquires of the need for the Office Manager to have a fit for duty. Chief explains that the fee was budgeted for and does benefit the District that we have confirmation that all full-time staff is confirmed healthy. He adds that the Office Manager's physical was performed at a reduced fee as the NFPA certifications and she did not get the 1583. Commissioner Hansen inquires as to the fee difference. Chief Nisbet states the difference to be approximately \$150. Office Manager interjects that our insurance agent will be contacting LifeScan for the results of the physicals in establishing the next fiscal year quotes. She also offers to cover the cost of the physical in the form of a donation. Commissioner Ducrou declines the offer but explains that his opinion is that since NFPA standard is not required for the non-high-risk staff, he feels that the physical could be more economically provided through the use of our health insurance plan and primary care physician for a co-pay of \$10 which the District could absorb more easily in light of the budget cuts

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 12, 2009

we are facing in the coming year. Chief Nisbet states that he had checked with other Departments and his findings are that many provide them for all full-time staff and even some have opened them up to dependants. Discussions turn to the budget figures which will be better indicators and be available over the next month with finals being available for the July meeting. Chief Nisbet states that physicals may have to be cut altogether but that recent indicators such as work comp premiums and budget cuts are not necessarily as glib as originally anticipated. He tells of a budget tool provided us by the Shores to help us calculate the effect of the anticipated cuts.

Commissioner Hansen calls for any further comments. None reply. He then mentions the letter from EMS and Charlotte County for Chief Nisbet to elaborate upon. Chief Nisbet explains that we performed Mutual Aid to Charlotte County brushfires where they had lost structures and their letter was expressing their appreciation. A Lee County EMS employee who has been working with us for a while wrote the EMS letter to their administration regarding his observations. Commissioner Ducrou points out that since the EMS staff rotate to various departments this letter is a very good reflection on our Department, not only the contrast between how things have been here in the past compared to now; but also how they remain at other departments. (Both letters are attached). Commissioner Hansen asks for anything else. No replies.

Petitions before the Board – None

Union Petitions/Discussions – None

Old Business –

- **EMS –** Lease rent is still in process; there has been a delay in the process due to Chief Dickerson experiencing an unexpected death in her family. The square foot annual lease presently translates to \$3376 per year which is in line with other Fire Districts. However, Chief Nisbet is going to try to improve upon that figure, due to the low revenues this District receives, possibly through supplies and since they have not had to pay for so long, perhaps we can get them to pay for the mounting of the Mobil Data Computers (MDC) into the trucks with the ADL radios. Those fees would translate to about \$5000 per truck. Commissioner Ducrou inquires as to what our radio network fees run per year. Commissioner Griffin replies the checks he has signed were around \$1300. Budget was less than \$500 per month or \$5,700 this year. Chief states that that is going up \$1.41 per radio per month for next year because of re-banding. EOC is giving us 6 radios to turn back in for credit toward the upgraded radios as 6 of our 2000's would be obsolete in 14 months and would not be upgradeable. We will now get by for the next 7-10 years. Commissioner Ducrou states that his problem with the contract is that EMS could not go down the street and rent commercial space for \$7 per s.f. per month and we are looking at charging them \$2 s.f. per year; and that translates to \$281 per month; which they must cost half that much in utilities per month. Just because other Departments are willing to give that away; it would seem that since they are charging triple the rent they would pay us just for radio licensing; that they are not treating us as fairly as they would have us treat them. We don't wish to take advantage of them, but there are things they can do to try to make our life easier, just as we have always tried to make their life easier. Chief Nisbet asks for suggestions as to what the Board might feel is amicable. Commissioner Hansen asks if we were not discussing them donating the installations of the radios in the trucks; and Chief confirms that he would be trying to get them to pay the \$15,000 for the installation of the 3 MDCs and VRM radios at a cost of approximately \$5,000 per truck. Commissioner Hansen points out that if we do that on the side and sign the lease agreement, that next year they get the lease for the \$3000. Chief Nisbet points out that we can have the 6 month rent increase notice in there too, giving us the ability to increase the rent. Commissioner Ducrou points out that it is 1 year. Chief points out that other Departments have varying rates for the

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 12, 2009

different types of square footage use; while other Departments do not have an agreement at but that EMS contributed to the cost of the new building. The agreements similar to this one averaged \$1-\$2 per s.f. one time charge. This particular one is the exact same one as the City has except for square footage variations. We were looking at getting an additional \$1000 per year to assist with cleaning supplies & utilities. Commissioner Ducrou suggests that they not charge us for the radio fees, and supply us with what supplies we need for BLS every year combined with them paying for the MDC installations this year. That way as calls go up and number of radios go up, they would just absorb those costs. That way we don't charge them and they don't charge us. Chief says he could look into that option, but he's uncertain as to the response he will get with that since other Departments might try to follow suit and some are paying \$12,000 a year in radio fees and that their BLS supply cost also rising with the number of calls a year. Commissioner Ducrou notes that EMS has done the BLS supplies in the past and has been cutting back on all their expenditures while making the Fire Departments absorb all these cut backs. That if we told them fine, go find commercial space somewhere else, their costs would be 75% higher than what we propose. Our Board is prepared to meet with their Commissioners to work something out. That we are certainly not being ridiculous with our expectations. Discussions turn to the possibility of them pulling out of the station, availability of the ambulance within the District, that we actually run more calls with Medic 26 and Medic 11. Suggestion is made that part of the agreement be that within 3 fiscal years they staff an ALS employee to run as a Medic on our engine to help prepare for growth and assist upcoming Medics ability to acquire training and credentials. Chief will get with Chief Dickerson to see what can be done to this regard. Commissioner Ducrou points out that we are first on scene, use our supplies, and they transport and bill for item. Chief Nisbet states that they have been good about paying for anything they have messed up like the outlet they pulled from the ceiling last week. Chief will have something for the commissioners next meeting.

New Business –

- **6X6 Brush Truck from Forestry** – Chief explains that Forestry has offered us this 1996 2.5 Ton Military truck with automatic transmission, Caterpillar 330HP with 13,000 miles, for conversion to Brush Truck. If we don't want it they can send it elsewhere, but we were first on the list for the offer. It would provide us with better access where the small brush truck shouldn't go and the large brush truck is a 1976 and is harder to get parts for. Chief proposes we accept the loan of the truck and the moving of \$15,000 from our reserve line of the budget and move it to a line making those funds accessible for the skid unit, a remote control nozzle for the front, and have our guys modify the truck as another brush truck. Forestry will grant us a 50/50 Grant to assist with the conversion. Dura Poly, the place where we purchased the last skid unit has offered to provide a 500G water, 20 G Foam with foam system, with 300gpm Hail pump with booster reel, brought down and installed for \$11,000. 50/50 Grant would cover ½ that, and painting and lettering and miscellaneous other costs should easily be covered in the \$15,000 requested. Elite wanted \$16,000 and Ten-8 wanted in the \$20,000s, and we're still waiting on E-Ones. We are still hoping to get one from Myakka but we needed to know if had Board approval for the acceptance and the money for the 50/50 match and other conversion expenses. Commissioner Cook inquires if the pump is Diesel. Chief states it is gas and that Diesel would add at least another \$10,000 to the price. There is some discussion on the run time on the gas before refuel and the heat present when refuel is required. Chief Nisbet states the fuel tank mounted on top of the water tank in a caged area remote from the pump and the exhaust. Commissioner Ducrou asks if we must first motion to accept the truck. Chief affirms and states that we are only responsible for the insurance, maintenance, and upkeep; when we're done with it, we just give it back to them and they auction it off. We keep our conversions & equipment that is added. Commissioner Ducrou Motions to accept the truck. Commissioner Cook states every time we get something for free

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 12, 2009

it costs us a whole bunch of money. Commissioner Hansen states that it would have cost us substantially more without this offer. Commissioner Griffin seconds the motion. Vote called. Motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Hansen then verifies that a motion is needed to release the funds which Chief Nisbet requests from reserves to be placed into vehicle acquisitions. Commissioner Griffin reiterates that the skid unit is \$11,000 with Forestry paying ½? Chief Nisbet corrects that it is \$11,000 and 50/50 will cover ½ for a cost to us of about \$5,700 and we are getting a 40% discount on the remote control nozzle for a cost of about \$3,100 with all the electronics. Motion made by Commissioner Ducrou, Seconded by Commissioner Cook. Vote called. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Red Cross** – Last year we donated \$250, Chief requests we donate the same this year in light of the rehab aid they give us. Motion by Commissioner Klo, Seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Vote Called. Motion Passed Unanimously.

- **Rates Discussion** – Officer Manager interjects that we did receive our Tropical Storm Fay. Office Manager announces that CD with Florida Gulf Bank is maturing on June 23 at which time it will take a dip to 1.24 down from 3.4APY. After much discussion, it is discussed that we could move our money to TIB if they are maintaining that 2% rate (or a ¼% higher rate than Regions), we would do well to move \$200-\$300,000 to TIB for the higher rate and move money into Regions as needed for operating. Motion by Commissioner Cook, Seconded by Commissioner Ducrou. Vote called. Motion Passed Unanimously. Office Manager notes that some sort of wire transfer or letter will need to be signed by 2 Commissioners to move the money. Commissioner Ducrou asks Chief Nisbet to inquire of the Fire Chiefs at their next meeting about the possibilities of pooling resources to give us more leverage with the banks. Chief will do that at his Five Bugle Meeting Friday.

- **Chief's Performance Appraisal** – Commissioner Ducrou summarizes his observation that not just pertaining to Chief Nisbet, but with the entire District he has seen a night and day difference from previous two administrations, he has seen more change in the last 12 months than in the past 10 years. He appreciates and likes Chief Nisbet's communication skills and how he values the Board's input on all the issues, that the staff feels empowered to make decisions, that they are not afraid to act, knowing they will grow from the experiences, and he feels the Agency is stronger for Chief's leadership skills. He also appreciates Chief Nisbet's education background and his contacts through the schools, has assisted the Department with the classes he has been able to bring in, and his contacts with Division of Forestry. All in all it has been great. More direction will be given at the start of the budget year as to what we can do. He states his appreciation for the comprehensive 5-Year Plan Chief prepared. He likes how we have brought the Volunteers more into a unified standing with the organization with everyone working together as a team. This weekend's call was very impressive and reassuring that we are accomplishing this and Commissioner Ducrou was pleased and proud of the staff and the impressions we made to the residents we assisted.

Commissioner Hansen remarks that he was happy to see that the impression we made went beyond the residents and firefighters but also to the Sheriff's Department as well. Commissioner Hansen calls for any other comments. Commissioner Griffin agrees with all evaluations made. Commissioner Cook inquires as to anything more Chief Nisbet would like to see from the Board or any criticisms. Chief replies to the negative. He states he likes the tough questions when he is asked, and he appreciates the ability the Board has given him to get things done. It has given him the ability to enable his staff to get things done and it has helped quite a bit. He references Commissioner Cook's request with regard to station property, and states that that is something that still exists but that he is waiting to see what transpires with the Upriver Village project, but that is still high on the list, but if there's any direction from the Board strategically, or if anything comes up within the District that they hear people would

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

May 12, 2009

like to see, or want to know about, he would appreciate the input. He wants to make sure that we represent our community as much as we represent ourselves. Chief also states he believes we will be ok next year with the budget, but he does not believe we will be impacted as much as some of the other Districts. He does feel that Station #2 still does need to be a high priority and we will need to work collectively toward that. He expresses how pleased he is with our present Board. Commissioner Klos points out the effect that the fires have on our community's impression and they won't mind so much spending money for the support of the Fire District when they see our response and efforts. Commissioner Hansen expresses his appreciation for the communication between the Chief and the Board and how he has seen the changes in the morale within the Department as well. All the Commissioners agree that the Chief has made dramatic changes in the Department and in morale. Chief Nisbet credits his Captains and his DVP and their efforts to facilitate these changes as well. Commissioner Klos states that he would like to see more of our firefighters attend the Board meetings and all the Commissioners concur. Commissioner Ducrou states that if negotiations are the only time they see the staff present at the Board Meetings, they are not likely to see the decisions they want. Commissioner Cook states that if the staff show that they care about every decision that's made here, it makes a difference. Commissioner Hansen calls for any other comments. Chief Nisbet announces that we will have promotion announcement at the next meeting. Commissioner Ducrou asks that when he has a shift that keeps him from being present, he be noted as "Excused" rather than "Absent". Acknowledged. He adds that if Chief would discuss it with Ray or Eddie they would probably allow him to attend even though he's on shift as they now have sufficient number of Drivers. Chief acknowledges.

Public Input – None

Motion to Adjourn – Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Ducrou, Seconded by ALL. Vote Called. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.