

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
June 9, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Ducrou

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation – Commissioner Hansen

Commissioner Ducrou – Present
Commissioner Hansen – Present
Commissioner Cook – Present
Commissioner Griffin – Present
Commissioner Klos – Excused
Chief Larry Nisbet - Present
Office Manager - Theresa Sharp - Present
Attorney Ian Mann – Present

Others Present: Some public

Minutes – Review and Acceptance of the minutes of the May 12, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Hansen to accept the minutes. Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion. Chairman Ducrou calls for questions or comments. With no questions or discussion and none opposed, motion carries.

Financial Report - Review & Acceptance of the May 2015 financials. Commissioner Cook moves to accept the May 2015 financials. Commissioner Hansen seconded the motion. Chairman Ducrou calls for questions or comments. With no questions or discussion, and none opposed, motion carries.

Fire Marshal and Administrative Reports (attached) – Chief Nisbet reads the Fire Marshal and Administrative reports into the record. He asks for questions. Commissioner Cook asks who's going to make it tomorrow. Commissioner Hansen states he can be here. Commissioner Cook asks if Commissioner Griffin can make it. His reply is no, he's busy. Commissioner Cook states, he is busier than heck, but if no-one was able to come, he would come. Commissioner Hansen states he will be here. Commissioner Ducrou asks Chief; on the SAFER, what I realized when I got limitedly involved with the city; did the SAFER have, in this go around, a section in which we had to tell whether we were going to keep the employees on after the disbursement of the grant was done? Chief Nisbet responds, it asks if it is your intention to keep the employees; they ask if that's our intention, absolutely. But, he continues, we don't have to guarantee that; once the performance period is over, there is no obligation to keep anyone. Commissioner Ducrou agrees, we intend to. He asks if Chief knows of any of the Departments that were soliciting, did they all state that they intend to? Chief states they have to, it is a part of the application, it's a box. Commissioner Ducrou asks if they all stated they *intend* to; because from what I understand;

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City of Fort Myers stated they do not intend to keep the employees past that. Chief Nisbet states if that is how they filled it out, it was not very smart on their part. Commissioner Ducrou states they did last time and they got it. And they had each employee sign a notice. Chief Nisbet states, I have no idea how their application is filled out. Commissioner Cook states he didn't know there was a choice. I thought you had to. Commissioner Ducrou stated he didn't realize that either. Chief Nisbet states, Chief Ross said the meeting went very, very well, they actually had someone from the Department of Homeland Security in there. She stated their intent is if they can get people off of it, they want to get them off it. If they can slowly wean them off it, they want to do that. So if we get fortunate enough to have the grant issued by the end of the year, next budget year we'll have funding, and pretty much the following year we'll have funding until the 2017-2018 budget. I hope to at least have the ability to fund 3 of those 6 positions. If I can, then I can show an improving financial condition that I am only re-applying for three which will give us points because it will show that we have an improving financial condition and that we are trying to wean ourselves off it. Ideally, I'd like to get all six off it. I hate this. Commissioner Ducrou agrees. Chief Nisbet states Chief Ross told them, if you want to look at Tice and Bayshore, we are the poster children for SAFER. Our property values bottomed out, we are smaller departments, smaller agencies; and all we are trying to do is make sure we have at least 1 engine company that can meet the standard that at least when we arrive on scene we can do what needs to be done, we can perform as a fire department. They were very supportive, and I'll have some additional information for you in executive session. Commissioner Ducrou states with the 4% increase that we're looking to get with the Property Appraiser; it's not going to set the world on fire for us being able to absorb these costs. Chief Nisbet states we did the math on that, and with the increase and the tender payment coming off, we can absorb one firefighter. Commissioner Ducrou asks if that includes the increases we normally expect in a budget year? Chief states yes, that's where we are at. Commissioner Cook adds; but we were just talking 2 meetings ago about how we were having a problem with our engine, having the tender payment going away doesn't mean much. Chief Nisbet states, here's the thing; we've got to have the engine gone over; I believe we've got the electronic issues cleared up, I just brought this up two meetings ago to make you aware that we are starting to see some issues on this; if it continues; I don't want to get into the situation that the previous Boards and previous Chiefs did with engine 22 where we're throwing motor after motor and good after bad, how many motors can you throw in there before you could have made a truck payment? I don't want to get into that situation, so... Commissioner Ducrou asks what that truck has on it for miles or time. Chief states he'll have to get back to the Board on that, he has no idea. Commissioner Hansen states that their philosophy at that time was \$47,000 was cheaper than \$400,000. Commissioner Cook agrees, that was the big thing. Commissioner Cook states, it made sense then. Commissioner Ducrou states that's not a bad decision. Commissioner Hansen states it kept us going for a while. Commissioner Ducrou states you've got to do what you've got to do. With no further discussion Chairman Ducrou calls for Petitions/Public Input.

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Petitions before the Board/Public Input –None

Union Petitions - None

Old Business – Commissioner Ducrou wishes to discuss any discussions we've had with North. Chief states only informal to this point. The past couple weeks we haven't discussed anything because they were dealing with the loss, and we are both waiting to see our numbers. So, besides some informal discussions, nothing further. The other thing too, he continues, I need some direction from the Board as to what you want me to do. Commissioner Ducrou, I have what you think I should do, but I do not have Board direction. And here's the thing, if I'm going to do this, or if this is what the Board chooses to do; I need some direction on what you want me to do; because I really don't know what to do. Yeah, on some aspects, I see that merging would be beneficial, and there are other aspects where it wouldn't be beneficial. But, I work for you'all and I need some direction if that's the direction you want me to go; I need the Board to make that determination exactly what you want me to do, so I have some direction on how to do that. Commissioner Griffin asks, so what are we finding out? Commissioner Ducrou responds, well, my view is, even if we get the SAFER Grant, it buys us time, and for us, and I think honestly, if this was the way to do things, every county in the state of Florida would have 17 fire departments in it. The County wide consolidation's never gong to happen, but if we're able to absorb some costs, by doing something with Nort Fort Myers, whether it's a full on consolidation or whether it's sharing responsibilities with other districts; more than the first out, because first out we're still staffing everything, and they're still staffing everything off their station closest to us, there's got to be ways that we can help each other out that allow us to have better staffing than we can afford to do right now. So, my position was that we should move in that direction and not wait until... if we get a SAFER Grant; wait until that one runs out and realize, well were laying people off again; you know; we're running with 2 guys and hoping that we can have enough volunteers to not hurt somebody else at a call. I'd rather be proactive myself, but the Chief's completely right, this should come as Board direction not my personal pet peave; but I think we shouldn't stick our head in the sand; that's my personal belief. Commissioner Cook states, I agree, it should be one big department, I do, I think it would be beneficial to everybody, manning wise, there's got to be some way to do it; and we're not looking at a fee anymore. For some reason, we've kind of bailed on that; because this is going, but it's not going to do this forever; and it may drop again; because right now, I'm seeing a frenzy. Kind of like a shark frenzy; like we had before; property, if you look at our MLS right now; everything is pending in our MLS in our whole area; there's no houses for sale, that you can bid on, everything is pending, and things are going up. Commissioner Ducrou adds, and we're still looking at a 4% increase. Commissioner Cook states, no, that's because that's last year, these numbers are kind of late. Commissioner Ducrou states, well, January first. Commissioner Cook states these numbers are kind of late. Yeah, these numbers

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are late; I just got a full price offer on my house, there's a good example; and I hadn't had a bid yet, house has been up since February. Nobody's even give us any bids. They come in full offer. We turned it down, and they gave us another offer. So people are wanting to move to this area. It'll go up; but it will go back down too; because we've had this happen before. It's scary. Commissioner Hansen points out, but as we go up and down, North goes up and down. Financially, they're not any better off than we are. Commissioner Cook agrees. Commissioner Ducrou states, I believe financially; they have some pay structure costs, and retirement costs, that are astronomical. I think collectively the two Boards would have to try to structure... Commissioner Cook interjects, we've got to fix things. Commissioner Ducrou states, yeah, we've got to fix things. He continues; one of my thoughts, and this is just for thinking, if we're able to have them assist us with manpower, and we covered up to where their station is at on Slater, and they gave us manpower, we offset equipment costs, we could go into their district a little bit, but we would have two of their firefighters and that would cover half of our structure fires we're having right now. So it's not a full on merger, but there's things we are able to do as a board that would cut the operational costs. Commissioner Hansen states, almost like a mutual aide. Commissioner Ducrou continues, Yeah, we have the sharing of our personnel expenses; we have our two, they're able to give us 2; we're able to keep 4 staffed so we can do things. It doesn't have to be that; it doesn't have to be anything like that, but I'm just.. I think collectively we have to come up with a way; I think we can do things smarter. Because, you know, if this was the model to do things; like I say; every county in the state would be this model, and it's not. Commissioner Cook states; there has to be discussions between the two of us to figure out some kind of solution to the problem down the road. Basically, that's it. Whether it's a merger; whether it's a consolidation; there's got to be something. You guys are all smart guys. You know what I mean? You and Dave Rice can sit down and say, hey; we've got to figure something out. Chief Nisbet states, we can do it tomorrow with some direction. Commissioner Cook states; there's the direction. Chief Nisbet states, here's the thing; we've got to make sure that what this board wants is the exact same thing the North Fort Myers Board wants. Commissioner Cook states I agree with that, but we have to have an idea first. Chief Nisbet continues; and here's the thing, operational costs; our operational costs are less than 6% of our budget; we don't have a lot of operational costs. Our costs are in payroll. Commissioner Cook states; here's the problem with this whole thing; this whole big thing we got here; we can't sustain it. We can't sustain what we have. Chief Nisbet states, but we're talking about cutting operational costs. What costs, he asks; what operational costs? Because it's not going to be in benefits; because the small employee pool, this year went from less than 50 employees to less than 100 employees so we're not going to get the benefit of that; North Fort Myers is going to be in the canned plan just like the rest of us. Yeah, we could share some resources; move some trucks, suff like that; but they still have a coverage issue they have to get taken care of; so are they going to build a station and move a truck, and still have to staff that? There's a lot of logistics, but as far as operational costs, we already share some operational

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costs. We do joint training, we share trucks when they break down, we work with each other, we cover each other, stuff like that. The only thing that we would pick up from it is maybe we would get two people over here to work, or get one person over here to at least have a 3 person engine company; because their minimum staffing is 9 people; three, three and three. Commissioner Cook agrees; yeah, they have a tough time with that; I know that. Chief continues, they have a 2.5 million dollar post retirement liability that they're dealing with. Commissioner Cook agrees, yeah that's hurting them. Chief Nisbet continues; and I caution the Board; do you want to get involved with having to deal with that also? Commissioner Hansen states, that was my question, their financials; we look bad; I think; but when you go look at theirs, theirs is worse. Chief Nisbet addresses Commissioner Cook, about the assessment; I just haven't brought you the new proposal on the assessment. Commissioner Cook states; Ok; I'm just saying, you know how I'm pretty adamant about that; because that's the way to fix things. Chief Nisbet states; I'm going to wait for an actual election year; but now that Cape Coral's assessment has passed the Supreme Court litmus paper test; because I think that model would actually work for us a lot better and it would take care of a lot of the issues you heard about at the public hearing. Commissioner Cook states the assessment thing should be the future. I don't think that we should be looking for the property values going up because we're going to run into the same thing we're running into right now. It's all going to happen again. With the assessment fee, maybe we can eliminate some of that. We will know what we're going to have. Commissioner Griffin states, we'll be more stable, If you can get it passed. Commissioner Cook states, it's the way you run a business, that's the way it would be done. Chief Nisbet states, I agree; that's why I proposed it in the first place. Commissioner Cook states; well, I just want to make sure that we are still persuing that at a very heavy, not just thinking, alright, let's just sit back and these people are going to get a big increase anyways. Commissioner Ducrou asks how you going to get it passed? Commissioner Cook responds, we're just going to have to figure out a way to do it. Commissioner Ducrou reminds, it wasn't even close. Commissioner Cook states; it wasn't even close and here's the thing about...let's go back to the North Fort Myers one; theirs made so much sense money wise, and I've talked to many people that had no clue that's what it meant. They voted no, and they had no clue that's what it meant. I know people who live in Daughtry's Creek that pay over \$500 a year in taxes, and theirs was going to go down to like \$252 and they voted no. And I asked them, do you understand...and they said, oh, we thought it was above and beyond what we already pay; that's what everybody thinks. Commissioner Hansen states that is because there were people out there telling them it was above and beyond. Chief Nisbet reminds, we put billboards up, North Fort Myers put billboards up. Commissioner Cook states, we've just got to fight harder. Commissioner Hansen states "education". Chief Nisbet states; here's the thing Commissioner Cook; and I don't mean any disrespect to any intelligent people out there; but the average taxpayer doesn't pay attention to that stuff. Look at Lehigh Acres, just last week, they were setting their final assessment rates and people were coming in and still thinking the same exact thing you just

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said; "this is on top of my taxes". And they didn't get it. And of course they had some people who had non-profits that were running motor vehicle service stations that were still wanting the non-profit credits; stuff like that. That's why I plugged the Board when I said we were going to go across the board and be done with it, that we weren't going to be doing any exemptions and stuff like that; we just weren't going to go down that road. But that is something I'll bring back to you after I get a chance to work with Chief Cocker find out some stuff on that; but no, I am not by any means going to off the assessment roll; I'm just letting things calm down a little bit. Commissioner Cook states; well, I think it helps us if it's going up for everybody. If everybody's values going up, they're paying more, it helps us; but, it still needs to be that way, because we can't survive on our own, obviously. We need the government money to keep us going, and you're talking about going into two more SAFER grants to even do that. Chief Nisbet responds, I didn't say that; I said that if we would have to go for them; we would have improving financial conditions, and even at the 4% increase; if it maintains the 4%, we should be able to pick up three at the end of the SAFER grant and take them off the SAFER grant, and we'd only be applying for three for an improving financial condition. But If I don't have to go for another SAFER grant after this one, I'm sure not going to go for it. Commissioner Cook agrees stating, I think we should never have to go for one, I think that's the way it should be. Chief agrees stating, I hate living on Welfare. But, you know, I'm not going to look a gift horse in the mouth; if I can get my personnel back, I'm gonna' get them back. Commissioner Cook states, I understand that. Commissioner Ducrou states, there's got to be a way to make both Departments work together. I don't know what it is. Chief Nisbet asks, what do you want to accomplish? That's the thing about it; I'm getting told look at this; go look at merging, what is it that you want to accomplish; what do you want this to look like? You're not giving me that picture. You're saying "It should be better. You should be able to work it together, and be better." Ok, what are you wanting to achieve? Do you want to see a 10% budget reduction for our taxpayers here, or 10% there? What are quantitative measures that you are looking for? Commissioner Ducrou states, I personally am not looking for a reduction for the taxpayers in either district. If it stays status quo, fine. Because I am not necessarily looking for a complete merger. We can actually come to a contractual agreement between the two departments as what we're going to do, what they're going to put in, what we're going to put in, to try and share and offset some resource costs; so even though we might be covering a larger geographical area, we have more personnel with which to do it. Chief Nisbet responds; ok, so we pick up a larger geographical area, and then give me three people, one person per shift, so we have a three person engine company, because, they're not going to give me four. I can tell you that right now. They are not hiring any more people, anything like that. Commissioner Cook states, I don't think they can. Chief agrees, they can't, they don't have the ability. So they're going to give me one more person; I'm going to pick up a larger geographical area for one more person to run on the truck so we have a three person engine company here, which would be better than two, compared to our operational costs to cover the larger geographical area, truck wear and tear, is it going to

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mash out? Commissioner Griffin states, I'm looking at it like if we're running in their area, it's going to take the unit out of our district. Chief Nisbet states that we are already backing each other up operationally. They come to us, we go to them, we're already doing a lot of operational...if we have anything going on; they're hitting us, if they've got anything going on, we're immediately hitting them; because there's days that truck out there only has two people because two people are on a rescue truck working a cardiac arrest. We're already doing a lot of operational sharing; but I just don't see where you think we are going to cut a lot of cost in the operational sharing. Because all we're doing is they are going to pay for three firefighters to come over and sit in this station. Where they going to move engine 3 to? They don't have another building to move engine 3 to. If they had an empty station I would agree with you on that. What is the benefit to North Fort Myers to do this? Commissioner Ducrou states the benefit to North Fort Myers is, they could cover up to let's say the Slater area, from another station. Chief Nisbet states, but their next closest station is off Barrett Rd. or off of Pine Shadows. They don't have another station that would benefit from moving that truck. They'd either have to rent a facility or build a facility. Commissioner Ducrou states, no, they'd run it out of another station; they'd have a longer response time, like we'd have a longer response time to that station, and you know why we'd have a longer response time?...because the people decided not to pay the necessary tax for us to keep what we have. There have to be consequences but it shouldn't be for our guys to run on a skeleton crew and accept all this possible danger. If we can absorb two of their guys they can run from a longer area up to Slater, we could run all the way up to Slater, and we would save money. Chief Nisbet asks again; what's the benefit to North Fort Myers? Commissioner Ducrou replies, they're not going to have to operate that station. What do they normally keep at that station? Chief Nisbet responds one engine and a rescue. Commissioner Cook is amazed stating; they get a lot of calls out of that station though. Chief Nisbet states that station runs about 3800 calls a year. Commissioner Cook states, they run all Suncoast, which is busy. Slater runs all Suncoast. Chief Nisbet states, they pretty much run everything between the two 41s, Suncoast, everything up to the County line. Commissioner Cook states, because talking to Darrell, they've got all three stations pretty much equal in calls. It used to be that station three could have 2 or 3 duty days without a call. They run equal now. They are all equal; when they shut down station one and changed it, they actually run equal amount of calls out of all three stations. Commissioner Ducrou states, but this stuff out of Suncoast would be coming on the west side, they'd be coming out of another station. Commissioner Cook states, but I don't know they can absorb that. They are already running all day. That station one they have, was station 4; they run all day now. I worked there the other day, they weren't there at all. They were never there. They were gone all day. That's during season. Chief Nisbet states we're constantly doing coverage for each other. We actually covered them last year 2 to 1. We were actually over there doing station coverage two times to their one coming to us. They are that busy. Just two days ago, they had every truck in North Fort Myers blown out. Because we were working a fire together they were up with us on St.

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Paul; every station was blown out and they had City of Fort Myers over at Slater Rd. This is the kind of frustration; I mean; I don't know what... Commissioner Cook states, we don't run any calls here; they run a ton of calls there. Commissioner Ducrou addresses Chief Nisbet stating, you personally told me you believe in consolidation and asks Chief who he would pick. Chief Nisbet responds, I do believe in consolidation, I'm not saying I don't. I just feel it has to be at a right time. Both Commissioner Ducrou and Cook state there is no right time. Commissioner Cook states there's never going to be a right time. Chief Nisbet states; sure there is; I look at North Collier Fire Department right now. The North Naples and the Big Corkscrew Island. That was a right time consolidation. You had one department that had less than 1 mil and another district that was 3.5; they were able to take both districts to like a 1.1 mil, to sharing of resources, they got both districts to agree to it, they expanded the service, they lowered the ISO, that supported the ISO; that was a good time for merger. There are benefits to consolidation, and I have learned since I have been in this position there are not benefits to it. Each model has its own. You know between paid staff and volunteers on the St. Paul fire, I had every piece of equipment that I have in this department staffed; with a majority of certified Firefighter/EMTs. Every brush truck was staffed, every engine was staffed, and we had a tender out. We are making do. Do we have our scary days, of course we do. Commissioner Ducrou asks why then do we have any paid if we are able to do it with volunteers? Chief Nisbet responds, because my volunteers are not a guarantee. Commissioner Ducrou replies, exactly. Chief states, I'm giving you an example of where it worked out well. In the discussion, Commissioner Ducrou you just asked me a question, I told you we couldn't do this, but my concern is, you guys are giving me all these reasons why we should do this, but you're not giving me any direction. If you want me to look into this, as the Board, give me the direction, tell me what you want me to look at, tell me where you want to go with this, is it operational, what do you want to achieve? Don't sit there and ask me if I'm going to do something, or if I've done something when you haven't told me what you want me to look at and what you want me to work with Chief Rice on. I have a department here to run too. That's all I'm asking for is direction. Either wait 6 months until we see how things shake out with the budget and SAFER, or give me some direction today, and tell me what you want me to do, and give me a date when you want me to come back and report it to you. You would expect it from anybody else that was an employee, or any place that you were working at. Commissioner Griffin states, I look at it like we need to find out what kind of financial gain it would give us. Commissioner Cook states, there's going to be no financial gain. In the future it's going to be a lot. Right now it's going to be a loss. That's what happens to all these departments. There's a loss right this minute, but in the future it's the way to be. There's going to be growing pains to it, it's not going to be all perfect, but... He concludes, I don't know what direction to give him. Commissioner Ducrou responds, personally, off the top of my head, I feel a little anxious with trying to make a motion, but I would be more than happy to research this between now and the next meeting so I have something elaborate for you so we can direct you. Chief Nisbet responds that would be helpful; but if

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we do that, I need a Board Resolution to do that. Commissioner Ducrou advises Chief he will get it. He asks if that is ok with Chief, he states, I will be happy to present all my findings in our next meeting and we can tweek it, amend it, pass or not pass it. Commissioner Cook states, yeah there's got to be some direction, I don't have any direction to give him. Commissioner Hansen states, we've got to see what benefit there is to it. I know the larger district, everything has a benefit, but I'm sitting here looking at us struggling, they're really struggling, you take two strugglers and put them together, it's not going to be a windfall. Commissioner Cook states, I don't know that it'll be worse though, I think it might be the same, though, but in the future, things would be different. Commissioner Ducrou states we have no areas that we can cut besides actually laying people off. North has areas they're actually going to have to make cuts in some of these retiree benefits that are going to eat them alive. Between their healthcare and what they've promised people after they're gone. They're going to end up having to do that to sustain themselves; but they can do that and not go under; where we're at that line of cutting people. Commissioner Griffin asks if he's talked to anyone there about that. Commissioner Ducrou states he has spoken with Danny Ballard when I saw him at the City of Fort Myers, and he believes it has merit, he also felt that the employees out here didn't want it, so he was anxious about that, and you know, I do weigh what the employees feel, what their concerns are and what they want, but I also have to weigh whether we can have a feasible fire department and what the taxpayers are actually getting for a service. And just because there's a lot of bad blood, and bad felings between the firefighters here and the firefighters at North Fort Myers, based on either perceived or actual things that happened during our assessment vote, that doesn't mean it should be a deciding factor as to whether to go forward to save our department or make it more structually resolved. Commissioner Griffin states, I guess my concern would be, you're talking about for them, where they have their cuts, I personally don't see that ever happening, them cutting benefits as far as retirement and all that. Commissioner Cook states, I don't think they have a choice. Mathmatically, I don't think they have a choice. Eventually you're going to have almost as many people collecting that are retired. Commissioner Ducrou states, I didn't think we were going to lay off six people, but we didn't have a choice. That's what happens. And honestly, I don't care if it's North or Tice, or Shores; if there's something that we can collectively work with another district in which we can make ourselves stronger, for the long run, then I'm for it. Chief Nisbet asks, what if the other department says no? Commissioner Ducrou responds, then we tried. Commissioner Cook replies, yeah, then we did what we could. Commissioner Ducrou continues, you can't force them into doing it. But I think we have to try and go to them whether it's our Board attend one of their meetings to try and verbally discuss...there's going to be a lot of apprehension. Commissioner Cook states it has to be legitimate too. Commissioner Ducrou continues, "what are you trying to do, take over our District, do you want us to take over your District?" it's not; how do we share resources to where we can make things better for both districts out of a very bad situation? Because even with the SAFER grants, this isn't going away. A 4% increase is not going to get us out of this. I mean I looked

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at the max growth and it's going to take us almost 11 years to get back to the budget we lost. So, I think the SAFER would be a great thing and it buys us time to breathe so we're not rushing into something and we can look at everything with an open mind and with open eyes. Commissioner Cook agrees, we need to. Commissioner Griffin states, definitely, I'm just looking at them, it's not up to us, it's up to North, we're looking at we're needing them, I don't know what they're looking at. Commissioner Cook agrees, they're not looking at us, they don't want us. Commissioner Ducrou states, collectively this could be a win-win for both. But you have to look at that. Commissioner Griffin states, the whole thing I'm saying is if they're not willing to then, you know... Commissioner Ducrou states you've got to start here first. Commissioner Griffin states, that's true, that's why I asked if you'd talked with somebody, you might have talked to somebody, you get to those different meetings and stuff. Commissioner Cook states, well, these talks have been going on behind the scenes for years. You know what I mean, it's not like it just happened yesterday. Commissioner Griffin states, the reason I asked that was if you had talked to anybody, what their take was on it. Are they for this, or even ascertaining... Commissioner Cook states I sat here when they had a vote on it...(to Commissioner Ducrou) you were here; what 10 years ago, 8 years ago; it's not like it just started. Commissioner Ducrou states, they're open for discussions. Well, Danny was open for discussions. Commissioner Cook states, maybe it doesn't work, maybe it just would not work. But it would be nice to know if it could work. Than just sitting here thinking "oh well, if we take this, our operations only this much, our personnel's this much, it's not gonna work; but that's not a real way of looking at things. There are personnel decisions that can be made that could give us more money, for one big department. Chief Nisbet states that would have to be negotiated. Commissioner Cook states, but you see what I'm saying, there are things; Lieutenants, Captains, we eliminate some of that pay scale; maybe not eliminate it, but let it go away, eventually. You don't need two Lieutenants on every shift. What do you guys have here? Chief Nisbet responds, a company officer on every first line. Commissioner Cook continues, you know what I mean, that kind of stuff could change, that would; 5 years, 10 years from now; that does make it less money than having two complete departments running. I mean, we know it does. It's a no brainer. You know, you don't need two Chiefs. You know, you've got a chief and an assistant chief. You don't need two secretaries, you've got one secretary. Chief Nisbet states, just so you know, each taxpayer only has one Chief. The Bayshore taxpayer only has one fire chief. The North Fort Myers taxpayer only has one fire chief. Commissioner Cook states, yeah, I understand that, but if you only had one department, you don't have two Chiefs; you'd have... Commissioner Ducrou states, you would have more administrative staff, I mean, it's not going to be drastic, I'm not looking for anything drastic; I don't think it would be. But I think even if it stabilized you where you are at, it would be something to build on. And if it's one of these things that, hey it can't work, this is going to be devastating to us, then I'm really curious how it works in every other county in the State of Florida. Chief Nisbet responds, I think the answer to that is in most of those other counties in Florida, one being just to the north of us, they minimally staff the

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personnel. Sarasota County has two people per truck. Charlotte County has two people per truck. When they get in trouble, who do they call? They call Lee County because the way that our system is set up we can provide the assistance and the resources to come help them. We have that ability because of the way that the Districts are set up. That is one benefit that we have is that we have each District is only providing assistance with one truck and two people. Sarasota County can't even put a strike team together to come help other people. So, where they've done it, I can just say, look at our County EMS System. Completely understaffed, underutilized, under units and stuff like that, they don't have enough EMS units on, things like that; that is what these other counties have done, is the county has taken over the fire and EMS service and they've put the least amount of service out there that they need to provide the service. The districts, and this is where I think the districts are actually in a better aspect, is because we plan and we put resources together for the Bayshore District to make sure that we are adequately protected, and we provide assistance to our neighbors when they need it. North Fort Myers does the same. Tice does the same. Fort Myers Shores does the same. Yeah, the housing market crushed us all. There was no place to hide. The only place that probably rode it through good was Bonita and Estero. Even all the big ones. Commissioner Ducrou and I talked about this the other day, the problem is, not now so much, how our system is made up, the problem is that we have a property appraisal system here in Lee County that doesn't seem to be making sense to the appraisal system of the county to the north of us and the appraisal system of the county to the south of us; because they've already made up their money pre-fall. And they're past the bill in the south. They've already surpassed the bill. So what is the problem? The problem is in the property evaluation system. And I don't know how to attack that. I've had a few calls, I've talked with a couple County Commissioners, but... Commissioner Cook states, well I think there's things he does that help us too. There's the ways he does the taxes which does help us, that other counties don't do. Chief states, yeah, but from what we've understood it now, that was actually written in our legislative act when they did the Lee County Fire District Act, so that can't go away. Commissioner Hansen states, so minimally, they're looking at sharing a man or two. Commissioner Ducrou states they're not looking at anything. They don't even know. Commissioner Hansen says, I'm saying, minimally we're looking at; if we can share a man a shift, we can get three men on a truck. Commissioner Cook states, like I said, they're not looking for help. Commissioner Hansen states, I was here when we used to run the Charlotte County station on 31, and they paid us so much money to provide services because they couldn't run it. Commissioner Cook states, but we got paid. Commissioner Ducrou states, \$300,000 a year. Chief Nisbet states, yeah, it was good money, I actually sat on the Board when we negotiated that deal. Yeah, and they provided a truck, and they paid utilities. Discussion is weaning and Commissioner Hansen asks if Commissioner Ducrou is going to research it. Commissioner Ducrou states he will. Chairman Ducrou calls for any other old business. Hearing none, he calls for new business.

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New Business – Chief Nisbet states there are several new items; the first few are interrelated and I've made sure Ian was here with us tonight so we could discuss it.

- Addresses for Board Members
- E-Mails for Board Members
- Form 1

Chief Nisbet states, we have to post on our website your home addresses for every Board member, and an e-mail address for every Board member that you have to check. Commissioner Cook asks, are you kidding me? Chief corrects his statement that it be a home address, to say it has to be a personal address, but it could be a PO Box; it doesn't have to be a home address... Commissioner Cook asks, what about here. Chief states, it cannot be the station. Attorney Ian Mann advises the Board that there is a new statute that imposes this obligation for the District to set up a website. Communication to the public is effectively a presumption coming out of the legislature now to make internet communication available to all voters. So you have to have a website. And that statute requires that an address be listed for each of the Board members. Chief raised the issue with me and I researched, that some of you are active duty firefighters working in other districts. There is a statutory exemption in Florida for firefighter's personal information being subject to Florida Statute 119 Public records law. Same statute says if you get arrested, they can't put your booking photo up on the Sheriff's office website. That exempts your personal information from a citizen going to the District and saying, pursuant to Chapter 119, I want the home addresses of all the firefighters that work in this District; but, you're not just firefighters, you're now public officials. So this new statute is trumping that 119 exemption. If you want to keep personal addresses private, you can resign from the board, but if you want to be an elected official, you're giving up some of that privacy you get in that 119 exemption. Now, what I have seen some other elected officials doing, that appears to comply; there's a variety of responses; some people are just giving up their information. You can go on the Lee County Supervisor of Elections website and you'll find that Mike Scott has his home address listed on all his filings. So, he's decided he's not trying to keep his information private. Some officials are listing a PO Box; and I don't see any prohibition that prevents you from doing that. You have to have a personal address listed for you. It doesn't necessarily have to be your home; as I read the statute, so if you want to keep your personal residences out of these records, you can get a post office box. I think you will be in compliance with the statute. E-mail addresses; you can't have just a generic Commissioners@bayshorefire.org but we can set up in house District one, District two, Districtthree@bayshorefire.org. Each of you has to have your own address because otherwise, if you have a

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generic address and a constituent tries to send you an e-mail and then somebody hits reply all, you are now having a meeting out of the sunshine. So you have to have your own e-mail address and make sure that you don't cross communicate. If somebody tries to send a joint message on these new e-mail addresses with multiple recipients, don't reply all; you're now out of the sunshine in your communication. So, you can either give up your home address to be listed on the website or you can get a PO Box. Either one complies. Commissioner Hansen asks if one PO Box would cover all of us. Attorney Mann states, no, same issue, that the constituent needs to be able to contact their Commissioner through this individual communication. Commissioner Cook states, that makes sense, I don't know that they need to go to my house, but they need to get ahold of me through mail. Attorney Mann continues, that's the purpose of e-mail addresses. My dad's home phone has been listed all my life; he's never taken it out of the phone book; and they still get the occasional call from angry constituents, but, that's the way I read this new statute. You have this privacy protection built into the 119 exemption for those of you that are firefighters; unfortunately, you're giving that up by virtue of being an elected official; so you've got to have either home residential address, if you want to give that up, or you can set up a Post Office Box and use that; either way. Commissioner Cook asks, well, couldn't people get that anyways. I give it to the County every year. Attorney Mann states, with a little bit of work, it's not hard to find any of you in the Property Appraiser's record. Commissioner Cook states, well the elections office has it all. Attorney Mann states, exactly; you have to file the same information with the elections office; but you have the same options. Certain elected officials have a post office box listed when they file their paperwork with the supervisor of elections. That's what I'm using as my authority that, hey, post office box appears to satisfy this requirement of giving an address. It's so that the voter, constituent, resident, landowner, taxpayer, whoever; in this District, has a way they can send you communication and it doesn't have to go through some office manager and they don't know that you're not getting them. Office Manager states, we did go ahead and set all of you up with e-mail addresses. They are your seat number @bayshorefire.org, for example seatone@bayshorefire.org. I'll give you each the passwords to get in individually. Ian suggests the Commissioners check them every once in a while. Office Manager reminds the Commissioners to remember this conversation when they file their Form 1 with the elections office. Chief Nisbet states, we wanted to make sure you were aware, because we got this notice and the first person I called was Ian. Commissioner Cook states, I don't have a PO Box, I already had my address listed so it was easy to get. Attorney Mann agrees, your address is already listed in the public records where, this is a personal privacy preference. How hard do you want to try to keep your information out of the public eye, when it's already there, you just have to look a little bit. Commissioner Cook

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agrees stating it's not private. Attorney Mann states, none of you can hide from the public, trust me. It's how easy you're going to make it for the really angry constituent to show up on your doorstep one night...

Commissioner Cook agrees, yeah, that's the weird one. Commissioner Ducrou states, you remember those meetings we had out here.

Commissioner Hansen states, next year we'll have to have that neon light out front. Commissioner Griffin states they won't make it to my door.

Chief agrees, they'll have a hard time with that one. Attorney Mann suggests that whatever information the Board puts on the Form 1 be consistent with the information we put on the website. Pick whichever one you're going to use and do it consistently throughout all those forms.

- Set Maximum Millage Rate – Chief Nisbet notes that since he is out much of July he's thinking we could cancel the July Board meeting if we take care of the items tonight that make the July meeting necessary. Theresa has contacted the Board of Revenue to make sure we can set the Maximum Millage rate tonight, and he recommends we stay at the 3.5000 millage rate cap and authorize the Office Manager to set the Budget Hearing dates once the County and Schoolboard dates are known. That way we can go ahead and publish the change in the September meeting and advertise the union negotiations all in one ad. Chairman Ducrou entertains a motion. Commissioner Cook moves to set the Maximum Millage Rate at 3.5000 mils for 2015/2016. Commissioner Hansen seconded the motion. Chairman Ducrou calls for discussion. Commissioner Hansen states, I thought the maximum millage rate is 3.75. Chief Nisbet states the legislative cap is 3.75; however the voted District cap is 3.500. We can go to 3.75 with voter approval. We tried that once. With no further discussions, Chairman Ducrou calls for vote. Vote is unanimous.
- Authorize Office Manager to set dates for Prelim and Final Budget Hearings along with the reassignment of the regular September Board meeting to coincide with the budget hearings. Chairman Ducrou entertains a motion. Commissioner Hansen so moves. Commissioner Griffin seconds the motion. With no further discussion offered and none opposed, motion carries.
- Chairman Ducrou entertains a motion to cancel the July meeting. Commissioner Cook so moves. Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion. With no further discussion and none opposed motion carried.

Chairman Ducrou calls for Public Input

Public Input – Firefighter Cornish thanks Chief Nisbet for sending him up to the National Fire Academy again, the Strategy and Tactics class was good. It was the Florida State weekend with Maine. He states Florida had a poor showing with only 23 individuals where Maine brought 91 individuals. He got some feedback from the departments from Maine and gave them some as well. He states they have tenders up there as well, and they sit in their stations and look pretty; and

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they have no clue how to use them. He explains he broke the cardinal rule with FEMA, they teach you to do it their way, and in one scenario, he said it doesn't make any sense, it was a tender operation. They let firefighter Cornish teach that scenario Chief's way; and everybody was wagging their tongues when he was done, because it made sense. He continues, as far as what you guys discussed tonight, Commissioner Ducrou, you know I was very much against it ten years ago, the consolidation, after what we've been through the last ten years, my total of fifteen years; longer than any employee here in this department, it makes sense, what you guys are talking about now, back then it didn't. I support you; I support Chief 100%, and whatever decision you make. I'm sure eventually everybody else will, but I support it as a long standing employee of this department; and I want to continue to be a long standing employee here. I look forward to working with everybody. Commissioner Ducrou says, great and thanks him. With no further public input meeting is Recessed for Executive Session.
7:48

Reconvene: 8:15pm with no further business to discuss Chief Nisbet advises he will schedule an executive session into the August agenda. Chairman Ducrou asks if they can schedule the negotiations for 8:15 so he can participate. Chief Nisbet states that can probably be arranged. Chairman Ducrou entertains a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Cook moves to adjourn. Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion, and with none opposed, meeting adjourns at 8:17pm.