

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
April 12, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Griffin

Invocation: MOS

Roll Call:

Chairman Hansen - Excused
Vice Chairman Griffin – Present
Sec./Treas. Mere – Present
Commissioner Ducrou – Excused
Commissioner Cook – Present
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 March 8, 2016 Board meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Cook to accept the minutes. Commissioner Mere seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Griffin calls for questions or comments. With no questions or discussion and none opposed, motion carries.

Financial Report - Review & Acceptance of the March 2016 financials. Commissioner Mere moves to accept the March 2016 financials. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Griffin calls for questions or comments. With no questions or discussion, and none opposed, motion carries.

Fire Marshal and Administrative Reports (attached) – Chief Nisbet states there is no Fire Marshal report. He reads into record the Admin Report. Chief notes here that our Knox Box key and North Fort Myers' key will be the same since we do a lot of closest unit response with them. He adds that's the residential, and we'll work on the commercial in the future. Commissioner Griffin asks how that works; will each resident have to buy their own box. Chief Nisbet responds to the affirmative. He states, their own box and it's \$150 and they'll put it on the front door. Commissioner Griffin states same as commercial... Chief agrees and states it'll have the door hanger and everything on it, they call us, we come out there, we open it up, they put the key inside, and we lock it up. Captain Underwood states that a lot of places down south use it and it's pretty popular. A lot of residents want it because of life alert, and some of them are living by themselves. Chief Nisbet adds that they're going to be doing a big PR and a mailing. He continues with his Administrative Report. Commissioner Griffin asks what medications the guys will be carrying, like cardiac. Chief Nisbet responds yes, actually I'll cover that in new business, but briefly, we're going to carry epinephrine for allergic reactions, we're going to carry nitro and aspirin for cardiac events, we'll carry oral glucose for diabetic emergencies, albuterol and prevental updrafts for respiratory emergencies, and all these have been released

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in the pre-hospital drugs and the County is going to oversee the program. Something has come up this evening that I'll cover in the new business. Vice-Chairman Griffin calls for any other questions for the Chief on his reports. Hearing none he calls for Union Petitions/Discussions.

Union Petitions – None. Hearing no Union Petitions, he calls for Public Input.

Public Input – None. With no public input he calls for Old Business.

Old Business – Hearing none, Vice Chairman Griffin calls for new business.

New Business – Chief Nisbet wishes to cover the BLS enhancement first and then the Five Year Plan.

- **Enhanced BLS** - Chief states he just happened to pull up on a motor vehicle accident a little bit ago that North Fort Myers was working and Chief Abves got with me, and the County will need us to execute a Memorandum of Understanding on this. They want us to be the first agency to lead this out, and pretty-much what that memorandum of understanding is, is they are going to provide the training, we're going to fall under their medical direction, which I thought was going to work out anyway, and if there's any QA issues, both agencies will do the review on that, and provide remedial training, they're going to provide all the training. One of the reasons that we need to do this is, in the report I told you the cost per truck is \$75 per truck, it's actually going to be closer to \$50 since we've been able to work out some deals with LeeSar, and we'll probably be taking all our medical supplies to LeeSar now because on this program, we'll be able to get a group medical purchasing rate, save some money, but the other portion of this is, the epi for the allergic reaction is...if I can get an epi-pen to carry on the truck, it's \$189 for one pen. That \$189 for that one pen only lasts for one year. But I can get a vial of epinephrine and a syringe, and alcohol prep, and that vial will last for two years, and the cost of it is \$7. It makes more sense to do it that way in cost effectiveness. That being said, it's a little bit different than what the protocol originally dictated, but they're ok with it and the medical directors have already signed off on it. We just have to have the ability to execute a memorandum of understanding. The County would like to get this program up and going in the next few weeks so we can do the training, and I would just like authorization from the Board that you will allow me to execute that MOU when it comes available, and I will forward it to Ian to make sure that we don't have any legal issues with it. Mr. Mann states, "I'm sure it will be fine". Commissioner Mere asks who is in charge of what is on the truck from that standpoint, for what drugs; I know we're limited on what drugs they can push, but who's making that call on what to push? Because now if they are letting us do different drugs on there, but we still don't have paramedics on staff... Chief Nisbet states we actually follow Lee County EMS protocol as it stands. It actually breaks down the protocol starting with BLS care and goes

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to ALS care, so all of our care falls under BLS care. We have to have a minimum of at least one EMT on the rescue truck, which we inherently push for two. The only time we may not have a second EMT on the truck is if we have a kid that's finishing up his EMT school and due to staffing, we throw him on the truck; but the Captains are very good about making sure we have two EMTs on the truck at all times. Typically, it's full time personnel, but sometimes volunteers come in, they want to get some experience, we'll throw them on and give one of the paid guys a chance to go on the engine. But for the most part, there're two EMTs on. Our protocol will be very, very distinct. If we have an allergic reaction that's showing signs of anaphylaxis, begins to develop respiratory difficulty, then we will push this drug in this amount. If we have a patient that has breathing difficulty and is exhibiting these symptoms, the protocol will dictate when we give the albuterol updraft. Then what happens is, when we do that, once we have the medics on site, we advise that we can do that. Also under this system, and what we currently have in place; for example, myself as a medic, Shawn Stackhouse is a medic, Charles Triggs is a medic, we can perform as paramedics in conjunction with Lee County EMS when they're on scene, so in other words, we don't have an ALS license to do it solely for the District, but if we're on scene and working a cardiac arrest with Medic 19, we're under their credentialing process that we can actually participate with them and assist by performing paramedic functions on site. It gives them an extra set of hands. Commissioner Cook states he finds that interesting, he didn't know that. Captain Underwood adds, with regard to what he (Commissioner Mere) was asking, the senior paid staff, the senior firefighters, or if it's the engine, the Captain; is responsible for that truck. Commissioner Mere states, then they're the ones responsible for what's on that truck. Captain Underwood confirms, the senior Firefighter/EMT that's on the rescue truck, is responsible for the operations on that truck. Chief Nisbet states, and here's the good thing, about these medications, if we make a mistake, the chance of it being a life threatening mistake, is minimal, very, very minimal. Commissioner Mere states, that's really where I'm going with that too, is, not knowing the full spectrum of what they're going to allow us on that truck. Are we having anything that we can actually put ourselves in a liability situation? Chief Nisbet states, actually no. EMS medical direction; for the medical directors to sign off on this, they're pretty comfortable with it. And I will tell you that, as far as a BLS agency, Lee County holds Bayshore Fire Rescue in very high regard with our BLS level of care. He continues, because one of the things I have done as Fire Chief, I consider an EMS call as important as a fire call. There's no difference; we handle an EMS call at 110% just the same as we handle a fire call at 110%. Commissioner Mere asks if we get to bill any of these items that we push on the truck at the rate the hospital bills it. Chief Nisbet responds to the negative, no, what will happen is, we will incur the cost of the initial set up, and we'll probably have a set up in storage, so that if we use one and we don't get one, but the way that this will work, is if we use a vial of epi on scene, before that ambulance leaves, they're going to give us

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a vial of epi. As far as the nitro, we're actually going to have nitro pills instead of the nitro spray like the medics carry, because a bottle of nitro is something like \$2.49 and nitro spray is \$100. So in our protocol we'll give one nitro. Commissioner Mere asks, so once we buy these drugs, EMS is basically going to keep us filled on these drugs; we won't incur any other cost? Chief Nisbet responds, we will have incurred additional costs, if we expire. So if our medications inside the truck expire, for not using them, and that's probably more likely, honestly, you can say that we're looking at providing these lifesaving medications, we're incurring about a \$50 a year cost. Commissioner Mere asks if we can, since we still have EMS here, have somebody look at when we are getting to a year on the epi drug for instance, they're carrying the same vials on there, they're using them more than we are; to basically change them out when we get something that's... Chief Nisbet states, and I'm pretty sure that'll be an aspect of it, but in the worst case scenario, \$50 per year, per truck. Commissioner Cook agrees, not a big cost. Chief Nisbet states, I spend almost \$350 a year just in oxygen. Commissioner Mere states he's been meaning to talk to us about that, since God provides it for free! Captain Underwood states our medics have been very, very good about providing us with anything we use on a call, even some of the stuff we have expiring; our AED pads, they helped us transition to the pads they use on their truck, that are compatible with our machines; those are \$150 apiece for those pads that match their machine so that when we plug in to their machine, we're getting their automated set up. Chief Nisbet states that as an agency, we have a very good working partnership. Commissioner Mere states, and it makes sense in the fact that they're billing the items for any patient that's in there, because we can't bill. Chief Nisbet states they bill a flat rate. So if they start an IV on a patient that's an advanced life support call, that's \$1,100.00; if they push a multitude of drugs in a cardiac arrest, it's \$1,100. It's a flat rate. Medicare, back a few years, took away the itemized aspect of it. Commissioner Mere states, at least they can bill for the drugs, and maybe sometimes they're making it and sometimes they're not, but the fact is, if we can't, then if we can exchange with them, we're at least, the drugs are being reimbursed. Chief Nisbet states, and I think if we use it, we'll get it back, I think, the nitro pills, I think we'll have to buy those, because they use the spray and we use the pills, the aspirin, they'll probably kick us a bottle, they are as much excited about this enhanced level of BLS care as we are. Last year, Lee Control handled 210,000 911 calls. So, to give you an idea, it's busy out there. So they want to see us enhanced, and I think that this is going to progress, eventually, where this will enable us to progress toward an ALS system out here within the next 3-5 years. Commissioner Mere asks if it will be at the beginning of each shift when inventory is done on what items are still in there. Chief Nisbet confirms, oh yeah, it'll be part of truck checks, and then we'll have a quality ensure process where they'll do a bit more detailed check; but there's nothing in there that's a narcotic or anything that has to be controlled, or locked up or anything like that. And here's the thing, if someone gets an amp

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of epi pushed into their muscle, and they don't need it, their heart's going to beat a little faster, unless they're 80 years old with six stents in them, it's not really going to hurt anything. So Commissioners, I just need a motion to authorize me to execute the MOU, I'll coordinate with the attorney if needed... Commissioner Mere moves to allow. Commissioner Cook seconds the motion and with none opposed the motion is passed.

- Five Year Plan - Chief Nisbet states he got it done; it was a crystal ball approach, he provided it in the packets so the Board could ask any questions; see if there was anything, time frames you thought were unrealistic, or any questions that you may have; or if you have any changes or adjustments you would like to have made, we can bring it back next meeting, or if you feel it is good the way it is, then we can adopt it. Commissioner Cook asks if there is anything that Chief would like to touch on. Chief Nisbet states, it mirrors the framework for the previous five year plans that we have done; of course, you know, the biggest difficulties were trying to determine forecast growth, trying to forecast apparatus, trying to get the most out of that; and of course trying to forecast personnel. You can see under apparatus, because we were fortunate enough to get one of those (brush trucks) given to us by Forestry. The next thing I have in there is 2018-2019 if we need to do another administration vehicle, with the potential of an Assistant Chief being added down the road, or if we need to go to Brush 132, if we need to replace it by then, and put in a Rescue Light-Duty brush or something. The one other unit that I didn't have on here; that I haven't done anything with, and it would be the 2019-2020 budget, would be a refurb on E-131 because at that point the truck would be 10 years old and that's when NFPA recommends a refurb. And what it is, you refurb the truck for about a third the cost it would be to have a new truck, you have the paint redone, the pump reworked, engine rebuilt, all that, everything fixed back on it, and that would probably be, ballpark, a \$100,000 expenditure. And then what you would do is get another 10 years out of the truck. He continues, so that's the only thing that I didn't include in this, because we're not having any issues. We've gotten all the electrical issues we were having taken care of that we were dealing with last year, we're doing a lot better with the truck. He corrects himself about the refurb not being in the plan, he states it's on the next page and is slotted for 2018-2019. Commissioner Mere asks about the refurbing of another brush truck, is that when we're at our five year point, when we're expecting another from Forestry? Chief Nisbet states, ah, yeah; probably yeah, I was looking at that as if Brush 133 we would have had about ten years also. We would be seeing where we're at, at that point. The problem that we were running into with Brush 131 was parts; it was still running ok, we just couldn't get parts for it. He continues, the hiring plan, if you notice, I put in 2018-2019 one administrative personnel and three firefighters; and that could get pushed up a year or two, depending on growth; the administrative personnel would be an Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal position, somebody else in the 40 hour work week, somebody to help with Fire Marshal and fire prevention activities and the operational stuff; and then of course, call volume as it increased would dictate the addition of three firefighters. My ultimate

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ten year goal plan would be that we have six full time firefighters on duty per day at the station, with a minimum staffing of four. That way we would be able to have one person off sick and one person off on vacation, but have a minimum staffing here of four with the normal six; and then of course, if a new station would have to be built, then that would have to be adjusted. And then the rest of it was just staying up with current state statutes and technology, and identifying what we need to do. I put all the most recent mutual aid agreements in there. The prevention schedule, Impact Fees are probably due for renewal or review in the next two years, so we'll see what those end up doing. For the most part I was looking at what we need to do to maintain. He continues, the one thing I thought was refreshing to see, which actually is going to improve my timeline, I think on our recovery; from our 2008 beginning of the housing market dip, where we started getting impacted, but on page 3, as you can see 2008/2009 was our best year, 1,296,000; we got down to 1,029,000 in 2013/2014, and we're back up to 1,143,689; so as you can see, our increase is actually coming in a little better than 4% per year. So we probably made pretty close to a third of the ground that we lost. And I expect June to be another good year, with a lot of things that are coming on the books; a full year of Love's truck stop, we've had about 25 single family homes built within the District, a lot of sales higher than the assessed value, not knowing what portability will do, and then of course, the property for the Pritchett project is no longer getting AG exempt, so that's going to increase. So my gut feeling is we'll probably see somewhere around 7%. Commissioner Cook states, really? Chief states, yeah, that's my gut feeling. Commissioner Cook states that's a big jump. Commissioner Mere states the loss of that AG will be good. Chief Nisbet states that will help out a bit; the other good thing is we are already in our budget prep, Theresa and I have talked a little bit, and the guys are going to get an e-mail tomorrow so they can get me their stuff, but the FRS contribution rates, which are usually one of the hardest things for me to figure out in my budget; they're only going up one quarter of one percent. So our retirement rates are going to stay pretty close to flat. So that's going to help out in the budget process, now the next thing is going to be health insurance.

Commissioner Mere asks if we are thinking with the growth, on Pritchett Parkway, and the little bit of growth that we're going to see with Syd Kitson's point of view, that three, or even six firefighters is going to be enough to cover that? Chief responds, no. I'm not saying that six is going to be it. I went with a conservative number. With one station, six would probably be sufficient; if we ended up with a second station on 31, within the next five years, we would probably be looking at ten per shift. Six here and four there. That is probably how we would look at it because this would still be the bulk of our calls, out of this station, and then depending on call volume, we would possibly be looking at a battalion chief's position, or shift Captain's position and a vehicle, and maybe go to Lieutenants on the units, that would have to be negotiated. Commissioner Mere states, well, with 1200 homes coming in, on the Pritchett Parkway side... Chief Nisbet responds, 1200 homes over 10 years. Commissioner Mere continues his thought, I 'm just wondering are we going to be able to service that from this one station. Chief states, yes we could, it depends on what goes on

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with 31. The Lee County portion of the Babcock project is Phase III which is 10 years, but I would expect you'll see some wake effect off the properties off of that once it really starts going; like you see there at 31 and North River Road, we have the Kreinbrink project that we've talked about at previous board meetings, I don't know how far that's going to go; but I would say with this current county commission, they have a better chance than they would have in years past. So it will be interesting to see how that all shakes out. He states, our seasonal influx, without brushfires, we were up 10% during that time period, call volume wise. So we actually had a lot of times that we had to send firefighters in with the medic units, so we've been seeing a significant increase. I would say that, that project on Pritchett Parkway, just as a guestimate, with the community demographics that I think we're going to be dealing with, we will probably see; at the most, 10% call volume increase. I think that we stand to see more motor vehicle accidents at that interchange, however that works out, at Pritchett and Bayshore, will be more likely than a lot of calls in there; but we'll see those too. Commissioner Mere states, I'm just thinking personnel because if we've got multiple calls at one time, with only one station, there's nowhere else to pull from; with the exception of pulling from North, or other neighboring districts, and that distance starts getting longer and longer. Chief Nisbet states, and that happens now. It's not uncommon for us to get two or three calls at one time. We'll be tied up on a call and something else will come up, and we'll have to have either Shores or North handle it; and now with the way dispatch is in the CAD, that's automatic. And the same thing with us, we've been going into North a lot lately, backing up their station 3 area because they've been running only one truck out of station 3 right now, due to staffing. As a matter of fact, we went to one call today; handled a medical call for them today off of Slater, and I would say eventually, this part of the county will transition like the rest of the county that we'll go to AVL closest unit response. I would see that in probably the next 12-18 months. That way they'll just pick the closest unit; so we could very easily have a Shores engine handling an accident on Highway 31 and we don't go, or we could be handling a call in Daugherty's Creek for a medical and engine 3 may not go. Then of course if there's a fire, automatically, all three stations will go. Commissioner Mere states, then it just comes down to your District for taxing purposes only. Chief Nisbet states, correct. Pretty much, yes. It's more of a readiness of response; which is pretty much what we are now. Now, when we're busy, we're busy. That's the bad part of the fire service business. If you have a fire that breaks out and nothing else is going on, you're going to get that station that's in your district right down the road. But if they're already on a brushfire or already on a wreck, or already on a fire, you may not get that truck. Vice-Chairman Griffin calls for anything else. Commissioner Mere states based upon his reading of the five year plan, in reality, we all know, it's just guestimates, I move to adopt the proposed Five Year Plan. Commissioner Cook seconds the motion. With none opposed, motion carries. Commissioner Cook states it would be nice if we were rolling a bunch into our reserves, but, it's all about money. It's hard to do a five year plan when you don't know what you're going to have. Commissioner Mere states he feels that we're going to be seeing enough growth to allow us to see a little bit

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more that we'll be able to roll into the reserves, but it is a question of when. Chief Nisbet states and I addressed that I was trying to get to a six month reserve status within 5 years; which I think I can beat that time frame, it's just the unforeseen. Commissioner Griffin agrees, it just kind of depends on how things go, we might just... Chief agrees, a truck blows up, or a hurricane comes in and levels the station, who knows. That's why I tried to say at least 5 years. Hearing no further comments, Vice Chairman Griffin calls for Commissioner Items.

Commissioner Items - Hearing none, Vice Chairman Griffin calls for Public Input.

Public Input – Hearing none, he calls for Motion to Adjourn.

Adjournment - Commissioner Cook moves to adjourn. Commissioner Mere seconded the motion, and with none opposed, meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.