

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – October 14, 2024
Regular Board Meeting

Fire Commissioners Present:

Steve Lohan - Chairman
James Murphy – Vice Chairman
Jeffery Maturo – Secretary/Treasurer
Tommy Hugo - Commissioner
Stephanie Kissinger – Commissioner

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief
Jason Brod – Assistant Chief
Eric Scholz - Fire Marshal
Beverly Gervasi – Finance Director
Anna-Marie Waller – Admin Coordinator

Chairman Lohan called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting began with a moment of silence for 8 fallen firefighters and their families. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hugo motioned to approve the Budget Workshop Minutes for August 26, 2024. Commissioner Kissinger seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

Commissioner Kissinger motioned to approve the September 9, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the September 25, 2024, Final Millage and Final Budget Minutes. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the September 25, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes regarding the State Money Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Kissinger motioned to approve the September 2024 Financials, including P. O.'s over \$10,000.00. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

PRESENTATIONS

Fire Marshal Scholz and Chief DeWitt presented Inspector Worth Anderson with his 10 Years of Service pin.

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Lohan extended a big thank you to the Chief and all those who worked diligently to get Bonita Springs through Hurricane Milton.

Commissioner Murphy also thanked and acknowledged all those who worked together with the District to navigate the hurricane, including District staff, LCSO, BSU, and the City of Bonita.

Commissioner Maturo also congratulated Chief DeWitt and staff on a job well done.

Commissioner Hugo asked if we still had members out at USAR. Chief DeWitt replied that we did.

DISPOSAL

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

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Expressed his gratitude to all the Commissioners for their support during the hurricane. This support enabled him to do whatever was necessary to keep Bonita Springs safe and ready for whatever Hurricane Milton threw our way. He commented that our team is second to none.
- Explained that CRS, our IT support company, provided us with Starlink equipment for satellite internet connection during the storm.
- Told the Commissioners that Station 27 did incur some damage. About 2" to 4" inches of water got into the station. Restoration work has already started. It has been dried out, and the cabinets have been removed. The crew at Station 27 loaded up the trailer and took everything else with them. At this time, Stations 21 and 22 are without internet.
- Mentioned that "Business After Hours" will be on October 26, 2024, at the Marriott TownePlace at Coconut Point from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Replied to Commissioner Hugo that the docks were ok and the electricity was back on.
- Touched on what Commissioner Murphy said about the city working together. The citizens were in good hands between BSU, LCSO, and the City of Bonita Springs.
- Replied to Commissioner Maturo that Engine 26 was back in service on Thursday after the repair of the collapsed brake line.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Lohan recognized the attendance of City Council Member Laura Carr at the meeting.

Mr. Alex Grant informed everyone that on April 5, 2025, the Florida Antique Bucket Brigade will hold its quarterly meeting in Fort Myers at Station 1. He hoped a volunteer would take the District's antique truck to Fort Myers that day.

Mr. Grant is also involved with the Bonita Springs Historical Preservation Board. They would like to preserve school buildings 1A and 1B of the old elementary school on Dean Street. He requested some help from the Fire Marshal regarding the fire sprinkler system.

Commissioner Maturo motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kissinger seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at **5:24** p.m.