

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – March 13, 2023
Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

Steve Lohan - Chairman
Jeffery Maturo – Secretary/Treasurer
Steven Slachta – Commissioner
Tommy Hugo – Commissioner

Absent:

James Murphy - Secretary/Treasurer

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief
Jason Brod – Assistant Chief
Eric Madden – Deputy Chief
Eric Scholz – Fire Marshal
Lisa Gendron - Admin-Finance Director
Anna-Marie Waller - Admin Coordinator

Absent :

Andrew Schmidt – Deputy Chief

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

Chaplain Chitwood led a moment of silence for fallen firefighters and their families, and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Slachta motioned to approve the February 13, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the February 2023 Financials. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Lohan commented on how many accidents the firefighters have responded to because of the bad traffic on the roadways.

Commissioner Slachta mentioned how happy he is to see so many firefighters getting their degrees.

Commissioner Lohan stated there would be two committee meetings in Tallahassee that would affect the Commissioners. They want it to be mandatory for all public officials to take four hours of ethics classes. FASD will offer the courses. There may also be an online option.

PRESENTATIONS

Deputy Chief Madden presented the Phoenix Award to Firefighter Joe Sanderson, Firefighter Sebastian Castro, Firefighter Gabriel Puente, and Battalion Chief Cesar Sanchez, who could not attend.

Chief DeWitt presented the Years of Service pins to the following:

5 Years of Service – Firefighter Gabriel Puente

20 Years of Service – Firefighter Juvert Calero, Firefighter Fred O'Donnell, Lieutenant Bruce Sheffield, and Lieutenant Ernie Williams

DISPOSALS

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the disposal of (1) AED and (1) Ipad Air. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the purchase of the new apparatus from Ten-8. Commissioner Slachta seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.** The Board also discussed reserving a second truck to help mitigate rising costs.

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Chief DeWitt stated that he and Commissioner Lohan attended the FASD Legislative Days in Tallahassee. There were 64 Special Districts represented on the second floor of the Capitol Rotunda
- Chief DeWitt remarked that a couple of weeks ago, he and Commissioner Lohan, Assistant Chief Brod, and Lieutenant Sheffield went to Wisconsin for the first inspection of the new truck. The final inspection is slated for the end of March, and he is looking for delivery at the beginning of April and having the truck in service toward the end of April or the beginning of May.
- The Chief commented that the five new hires start on Monday, March 20, 2023, with orientation and training, and these new firefighters will have to earn their position with the District during their probationary year.
- Chief DeWitt reported that the Annual Report would be presented at the April Board Meeting. The Commissioners thanked Nicole Hornberger for her work on putting it together.
- Chief DeWitt stated that the Financial Audit should be completed in time for the May Board Meeting.
- The Chief announced that the rebuild of Station 7 is moving along with installing rough framing and rough-in electric.
- Chief DeWitt stated that Fitch & Associates would send the dates for the Performance Audit.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Chief DeWitt announced that Roy Brown was elected as the Florida Professional Firefighters District 11 Vice President.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Alex Grant provided information on handling chemical and propane handling and spills. He also recommended a consultant for handling propane.

Commissioner Slachta motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.