

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – February 12, 2024
Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

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

Late:

Steven Slachta – Commissioner (5:20 p.m.)

Administrative Staff Present:

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

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

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 Maturo motioned to approve the January 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Hugo motioned to approve the January 2024 Financials. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Maturo thanked everyone involved with the station tour with his daughter's class. He commented that it will be an experience they will remember for a long time.

Commissioner Lohan remarked that everyone here does a great job, and sometimes, recognition of their efforts is overlooked.

DISPOSALS

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the January disposals. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Lohan brought up the issue of TECO and the gas lines. Chief DeWitt remarked that he had spoken to TECO's Regional Director and would be meeting with the State Fire Marshal. The Commissioners all agreed that they should start applying some pressure on TECO to resolve the issue of gas turn-off locations.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the new Fixed Asset Policy. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Reminded the Commissioners that “Business After Hours” will occur on February 22, 2024, at Lake Michigan Credit Union in Estero.
- Told the Commissioners that a Certificate of Deposit came due, and after some research, he decided it would be best to renew it at 5.3% for three months.
- Said there had been an offer on the restaurant property. As soon as he receives it, he will inform the Commissioners so that a decision can be made.
- Commented that the District has received 100% reimbursement for Hurricane Idalia.
- Remarked that Lt. Paul Canning is retiring on March 31, 2024. Two conditional job offers have been made to two new firefighters. They should be going through orientation either March 11 or March 18 and on the line no later than May 1, 2024.
- Informed the Commissioners that Fire Inspector Jessica Seruchar retired and Ashley Diaz was offered the position. She will have a one-month trial period to determine if she likes the job. After that, the District will advertise for an Administrative Assistant.
- Stated that he would be going to Tallahassee on February 14, 2024, to speak against Senate Bill 1058/House Bill 7031 regarding Special Districts. He will also represent the District at the “For Love and Honor Gala” hosted by the Florida Joint Council with the support of the Florida Division of State Fire Marshals.
- Responded to Commissioner Slactha’s question about the merger. He told him that the merger talk was done for Bonita Springs. It is now up to Iona-McGregor and Fort Myers Beach to get a feasibility study.
- Due to the plane crash in Collier County, Commissioner Maturo asked if the District was prepared for such an event. Chief DeWitt and the other Chiefs confirmed that the District is ready. We are using the new foam and have Exposure Forms for the firefighters to complete to keep track of them.
- Told the Commissioners that the Fitch & Associates report is complete. We are waiting for our copy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Alex Grant commented on the E. Palestine, Ohio train derailment and submitted handouts regarding the chemical composition of the hazardous materials transported on the train. He also remarked that the Antique Bucket Brigade is scheduled for an event at Fort Myers Station 1 in April 2026.

Commissioner Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.