

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – July 8, 2024
Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

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

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief
Eric Madden – Deputy Chief
Andrew Schmidt – Deputy Chief
Eric Scholz - Fire Marshal
Anna-Marie Waller – Admin Coordinator

Absent:

Tommy Hugo - Commissioner

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 June 3, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Kissinger seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the June 20, 2024, Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Kissinger seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

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

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve Budget Transfer #2. Commissioner Kissinger seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve P. O.'s over \$10,000.00 (\$30,275.50 - Gear Wash/Fire Dex). Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

PRESENTATIONS

Chief DeWitt presented Five-Year Service pins to Firefighter Marcos Aris, Firefighter Daniel Hutchinson, and Inspector Ashley Diaz.

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Maturo brought up the issue of the firefighters training in the heat. He commented that there should be a policy regarding the heat index and training and is willing to help write the policy. He wants it on next month's agenda for discussion. Commissioner Maturo wanted to know what safeguards were in place. According to the Chief, the District follows the State Fire College recommendation of the work-rest ratio. If the heat index is over 120, you work for 10 minutes, rest for 50 minutes, and hydrate with 1 liter of fluid every hour. Chief DeWitt reiterated that there is a policy. If the heat index is 110 or greater, there is no training. However, to maintain our "Standard of Service," we must train. Deputy Chief Schmidt explained that accommodations are being made, such as training in the mornings, in the bay, and utilizing the big fans. Commissioner Murphy was interested in what the Union thought. Commissioner Lohan also remarked that if someone feels uncomfortable, they should stop. Chief DeWitt will send information to the commissioners regarding the heat index and training for discussion at the next meeting.

DISPOSAL

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

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Lohan stated that it is time to go political with TECO. The problem of not knowing where the gas shut-off valves are located is still unresolved, and the mapping is outdated. The local representatives need to be informed.

The sale of the restaurant is in motion. We are 10 to 15 days short of the 60-day mark, at which point they have to lay out how the purchase will be facilitated. The rest of the deposit is due at 90 days. By 215 days, the purchaser must do their due diligence to ensure the City approves.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the tentative millage rate not to exceed 1.9466. Commissioner Kissinger seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Informed the Commissioners that Business After Hours is July 25, 2024, at TownePlace Suites in Estero.
- Stated Squad Saturday runs every month. This explains the vehicle hanging from the training tower. The firefighters will be training on rope ops.
- Mentioned that EMS Assessments are taking place.
- Noted that physicals will occur from the end of July through the beginning of August.
- Thanked Mr. Roy Brown for the excellent work on the July 4th Parade. Mr. Brown, in turn, thanked the Chief, the Board, and the LCSO for participating in the parade. Commissioner Maturo also thanked the union and the administration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Alex Grant presented some of his ideas on improving evacuation routes in the event of another natural disaster in the area.

Commissioner Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

APPROVED