

BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – May 8, 2023
Regular Board Meeting

Fire Commissioners Present:

Steve Lohan - Chairman
James Murphy – Vice Chairman
Jeffery Maturo – Secretary/Treasurer
Steven Slachta – Commissioner

Absent:

Tommy Hugo – Commissioner

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief
Jason Brod – Assistant 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 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 Maturo motioned to approve the April 10, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

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

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Maturo inquired about the sale of the restaurant. Chief DeWitt explained that the concentration at this time is on getting Station 27 completed. After that, then he will work on getting the restaurant sold.

Commissioner Murphy thanked the City of Bonita for “Celebrate Bonita,” the birthday party for Bonita Springs.

Commissioner Lohan stated how disappointed he was in the response from TECO regarding the recent gas leak and feels their response to the incident is unacceptable.

PRESENTATIONS

Chief DeWitt presented the promotional pins to Fire Marshal Eric Scholz, Assistant Fire Marshal Brad Johnston, Training Captain Colin Bostin, and Lieutenant Joe Sanderson. Each one was pinned by their wife and supported by family and friends.

DISPOSALS

Commissioner Slachta motioned to approve the April Disposals. Commissioner Murphy seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Jeff Brown of Ashley, Brown, and Smith, C.P.A., presented the District's 2022 Audit. He stated that the District is financially sound and is in compliance with state requirements. Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the audit. Commissioner Slachta seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

The Board agreed on the following meeting dates for the Budget Workshops: May 17, 2023, June 28, 2023, and August 29, 2023.

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the Fire Prevention Fee Waiver due to Hurricane Ian, retroactive to January 1, 2023, to May 31, 2023, and reinstating fees on June 1, 2023. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Chief DeWitt reported that Station 27 rebuild is moving along, the Chickee hut repair is slated for next week, and the boatlift is all set, just waiting for power.
- Chief DeWitt remarked that the Chambers "INCredible Awards" is May 25, 2023, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point.
- The Chief reminded the Commissioners that the June meeting is on June 5, 2023, the first Monday of the month instead of the usual second Monday.
- Chief DeWitt was happy to hear Celebrate Bonita was a great event and that he was sorry he missed it.
- Chief DeWitt informed the Commissioner there was a kick-off meeting for the 4th of July parade last week, with Frank Todd, Brian Hornberger, and Nicole Hornberger in charge of it this year.
- The Chief reported that the Legislative session ended without harming Special Districts. The only thing that affects the Commissioners is the required ethics training. It must be done by the next fiscal year. A link will be available through FASD for online training.
- Chief DeWitt commented that Fitch & Associates are two to three months behind in completing the Performance Audit and Facilities Report. FASD is trying to remove the Performance Audit requirement for next year.
- The Chief stated that the Braxton College contract was renewed.

OTHER REPORTS

Commissioner Maturo asked Assistant Chief Brod if any of our firefighters were getting hurt while dealing with incidents involving electric vehicles. AC Brod responded that none of our firefighters were getting hurt, and they hadn't noticed an increase in injuries.

Commissioner Murphy stated that BSU was interested in the District's weather stations and in hearing about them from the District.

Commissioner Slachta asked if the District still used Foams A & B. He was assured we use the safe green foams.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

APPROVED