

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – October 10, 2022
Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

Steve Lohan - Chairman
Lawrence P. Kosilla, Jr. - Vice Chairman
James Murphy - Secretary/Treasurer
Jeffery Maturo - Commissioner
Steven Slachta - Commissioner

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief
Jason Brod – Assistant Chief
Eric Madden - Deputy Chief
Andrew Schmidt – Deputy Chief
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, their families, and all those affected by Hurricane Ian. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the September 12, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Slachta seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

Commissioner Maturo motioned to approve the September 21, 2022, Final Millage and Final Budget Hearing Minutes. Commissioner Slachta seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the September 2022 Financials. Commissioner Kosilla seconded the motion. **The motion passed 5-0.**

DISPOSALS

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

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Murphy thanked everyone for the great work done during Hurricane Ian. He said it was unbelievable to watch all the coordination efforts.

Commissioner Kosilla stated he is proud to be part of the District. He said he had received many complimentary emails regarding the District's performance during and after the hurricane.

Commissioner Slachta commented that he knew the firefighters were busy because he kept hearing the sirens. He also thanked everyone for their hard work.

Commissioner Maturo remarked about the outstanding leadership shown during this crisis and that he was grateful to and proud of the members of the District.

Commissioner Lohan stated it was amazing to see the teamwork between all the different agencies that responded to this disaster. He also thanked everyone involved.

Commissioner Lohan shared the idea of having an Appreciation/Fundraiser at Riverside Park for all First Responders/LCSOs and their families as a “Thank You.” He wants it to be a free event with donations encouraged to aid those devastated by Hurricane Ian. He wants to set up a committee coordinated with the City of Bonita Springs.

PRESENTATIONS

The promotional and years of service presentations were postponed to next month.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Chief DeWitt thanked the staff and all personnel for their phenomenal work. He said this recovery would be a marathon, not a sprint.
- He stated that Hickory Boulevard is open to residents, relatives, and contractors approved by residents, Fort Myers Beach is open to everyone, and Sanibel is open to residents only.
- Chief DeWitt also said we are on the Fort Myers Beach rotation to supply a 12-hour Battalion Chief, three light rescues, and a brush truck.
- Chief DeWitt mentioned that the Fire Chief of Useppa was hospitalized in Miami after a helicopter crash.
- Chief DeWitt stated that the call volume was down after the initial days after Hurricane Ian, which was up 60%. We are now able to support other efforts.
- He commented that Station 7 was lost due to the hurricane. Chief DeWitt also remarked that he, along with Commissioner Lohan, would be meeting with the City of Bonita Springs to discuss options for a location for Station 7.
- Chief DeWitt mentions that the IAFF helped members of the union and their families with any issues they had after the hurricane. He said that U. S. Representative Byron Donalds also stepped up.
- Chief DeWitt commented that the Fort Myers Beach drawbridge would remain closed because they found it had shifted 9 to 12 inches.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Alexander Grant asked how everyone fared after the hurricane. He was happy to hear that the Station 7 boat was safe. He volunteered his services as a HazMat specialist if needed. Mr. Grant feels this is a wake-up call for climate change and hopes we never have another storm like Ian. Mr. Grant also expressed how sorry he was for all those who lost their homes.

Commissioner Kosilla commented that BSU is fully operational and all lift stations are working.

Commissioner Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

APPROVED