

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**Minutes – July 14, 2025  
Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

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

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief  
Jason Brod – Assistant Chief  
Andrew Schmidt – Deputy Chief  
Kelli Wilson – Deputy Chief  
Eric Scholz – Fire Marshal  
Beverly Gervasi – Finance Director  
Anna-Marie Waller – Admin Coordinator

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

Chaplain Chitwood began the meeting with a moment of silence to remember the fallen firefighters and their families. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Roy Brown, President of Professional Firefighters Local 3444, expressed his support for increasing the millage to provide additional compensation and benefits for firefighters, stating it would be beneficial for their health and wellness.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Kerr motioned to approve both the June 9, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes and the July 2, 2025, Budget Workshop #2 Minutes. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS**

Commissioner Hugo motioned to approve the June 2025 Financials, including purchase orders (P.O.'s) exceeding \$10,000.00. Commissioner Kerr seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

**COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS**

Commissioner Maturo requested that 1.8 million dollars be set aside for Kelly Days. Chief DeWitt remarked that it can be done during the budgeting process.

Commissioner Kerr remarked that Governor DeSantis approved 24/72's for firefighters. Commissioner Kerr thinks it is a plus and that we should be proactive in implementing this. Commissioner Maturo responded that a path to 24/72's is being set.

Commissioner Lohan commented that while at FASD, it was recommended that board members have the District's attorney conduct a refresher regarding the job and responsibilities of the board. The

consensus, with Commissioners Lohan, Murphy, and Kerr all agreeing, was to contact Lewis, Longman, and Walker to provide this information.

## **DISPOSALS**

Commissioner Kerr motioned to approve the June disposals. Commissioner Lohan seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Kerr remarked that the dive team is still training. He is also going to look into purchasing equipment for improved communication among the team.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Murphy motioned to keep the millage at the current rate of 1.9466. Commissioner Lohan seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.**

## **CHIEFS' REPORTS**

### ***Chief Greg DeWitt***

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Thank you to Local 3444 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. They did a great job.
- Last week, the bomb squad was on site for training.
- There is no "Business After Hours" this month. The next one will be in August.
- Wants to schedule an executive board meeting either before or after the August board meeting.
- At the August board meeting, the new Battalion Chiefs and Lieutenants will be pinned, and the new firefighters will be introduced.
- Collective Bargaining Agreement negotiations resume on July 15, 2025, and July 29, 2025.
- The plaque for Station 27 was displayed at the meeting. The Facilities Coordinator will put it in place.
- The drone is in. We are waiting for reimbursement. Deputy Chief Schmidt is a pilot, and we are developing a protocol for its use. We have two other pilots on shift. There will be new grants next year, so we should be able to get another drone.
- Fort Myers Beach doesn't have Battalion Chiefs. The only effect it will have on the District is if mutual aid is called. If our firefighters go to help, at least one of our Battalion Chiefs will also go. Our protocol is to send both BC's to a Bonita structure fire.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Alex Grant inquired about the requirements for a fire department to have an arson investigator. Chief DeWitt replied that our district has an arson investigator.

Roy Brown, President of Local 3444, thanked Chief DeWitt, the Commissioners, the department, and all sponsors and donors for making the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade a success. It was the only one in the area that was not canceled. A special thanks to Firefighters Frank Todd and Tyler Bess for organizing it.

Commissioner Maturo adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.