

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

Fire Commissioners Present:

Steve Lohan - Chairman
Jeffery Maturo – Secretary/Treasurer
Tommy Hugo - Commissioner
Stephanie Kissinger – Commissioner

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief
Jason Brod – Assistant Chief
Andrew Schmidt – Deputy Chief
Brad Johnston – Assistant Fire Marshal
Anna-Marie Waller – Admin Coordinator

Absent:

James Murphy – Vice Chairman

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 July 8, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

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

Commissioner Kissinger motioned to approve P. O.'s over \$10,000.00. Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed 4-0.**

PRESENTATIONS

Chief DeWitt presented a 30-Years of Service pin to Lieutenant David Brewer. Also receiving a 20-Years of Service pin was Firefighter Ramon Perez.

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Maturo commended the district and the firefighters for their community-mindedness. Having a child in school, he was happy to see the firefighters out on the first day of school, reminding people to slow down.

Commissioner Maturo brought up the issue of the firefighters training in the heat. He believes things are changing regarding training and the heat index. Commissioner Maturo thinks the

District should lead the change. Chief DeWitt confirmed that all measures are in place to handle the heat.

DISPOSAL

Commissioner Hugo motioned to approve the disposals. Commissioner Kissinger 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 The problem of not knowing where the gas shut-off valves are located is still unresolved, and the mapping is outdated.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.

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Informed the Commissioners that "Business After Hours" is August 22, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point.
- Thanked the Training Captains for their work on Squad Saturdays.
- Reminded the Commissioners about the August 26, 2024 Budget Workshop that begins at 3:00.
- Noted that flow testing of the MSA air pack had started. They are being taken apart, cleaned, and checked.
- Commented that physicals are complete.
- Remarked that the Extrication Team qualified for the World Competition and will hold some fundraisers to help pay their expenses.
- Told the Commissioners that Bonita Springs experienced minor damage from Hurricane Debby. There was some damage to the boat lift electric at Station 27. The boat is out of the water, on the trailer, and ready to use.
- Informed the Board that seven USAR members from Bonita Springs were deployed because of Hurricane Debby. Some of the team went to the Sarasota/Manatee area to help with evacuations (about 100). Chief DeWitt and Deputy Chief Schmidt went north as liaisons for the Incident Safety Team. All did a great job.
- He said he would continue researching the effects of training and the heat index. If it is brought down to 99 degrees, there would be no training from March – November. Some requirements need to be met to keep the ISO rating. Physical training must be done. Dr. Abo, the medical director, is reviewing our policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Alex Grant suggested that the firefighters train in the evenings when it is a little cooler.

Commissioner Kissinger motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.