

**BONITA SPRINGS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
Minutes – July 10, 2023
Regular Board Meeting**

Fire Commissioners Present:

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

Administrative Staff Present:

Greg DeWitt – Chief
Eric Madden – Deputy Chief
Andrew Schmidt – Deputy Chief
Brad Johnston – Asst. 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 June 5, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.
Commissioner Slachta seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

Commissioner Hugo motioned to approve the June 28, 2023, Budget Workshop Minutes.
Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

APPROVAL OF FINANCIALS

Commissioner Murphy motioned to approve the June 2023 Financials, including the P.O. for Cummins Power South for the actual amount of the repairs for E-25 of \$35,279.68.
Commissioner Hugo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Commissioner Maturo asked about measures to keep the firefighters from overheating in the record-high heat. Chief DeWitt assured the Board that the Battalion Chiefs and Training Captains carry Liquid IV for hydration. He also said that there is no outside training taking place if the heat index is 110°F. Chief DeWitt also commented that there had been no issues with the firefighters and only a few with civilians.

Commissioner Murphy thanked Union 3444 for their outstanding job on the July 4th Parade.
Commissioner Lohan also thanked them. They both thought it was great.

PRESENTATIONS

Chief DeWitt presented “5 Years of Service” pins to Administrative Assistant Ashley Taber and Administrative Coordinator Anna-Marie Waller. He also gave Administrative-Logistics Coordinator Natalie Hughes a “10 Years of Service” pin. Not present to receive their “15 Years of Service” pins were Firefighter Dan Platas and Firefighter Ben Bogacz.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Lohan inquired about the issue with the gas shut-off locations from a couple of months ago. He wanted to know if there had been any response from TECO. Chief DeWitt commented that there was no response, but he will try again to reach someone.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Murphy motioned that the Tentative Millage rate does not exceed 1.9466 mils. Commissioner Maturo seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously 5-0.**

CHIEFS' REPORTS

Chief Greg DeWitt

Chief DeWitt gave the Chief's Report:

- Chief DeWitt informed the Commissioners that the Chambers’ “Business After Hours” is July 13, 2023, at Millennial Brewery in Fort Myers.
- The Chief explained that the numbers from the Property Appraiser came in; however, the rollback number may be incorrect.
- Chief DeWitt commented on the success of the July 4th Parade. Laura Taylor estimated that there were 20,000 people in attendance.
- The Chief reported that Station 27 is about 80% complete. We are waiting for two quotes for dock and gas pump/tank repairs. The goal is to be operational by August 1, 2023.
- Chief DeWitt responded to Commissioner Murphy’s concern regarding people using the parking lot at Station 27. Chief DeWitt said he would get better signage and blockades to keep people out.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alex Grant, a former Haz-Mat Volunteer Firefighter, wanted to share information on the hazardous chemical ethylene oxide after there was a situation with the chemical in South Lee County. He left copies for the Fire Chiefs of South Trail and the City of Fort Myers. Mr. Grant also wanted to suggest that the District look into the Lucas Device for aiding in CPR rescues. Chief DeWitt commented that there is one in the budget for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.