

Minutes for the Meeting of
the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Board of Commissioners

October 23, 2024 10:00 AM
Diamondhead Beach Resort
2000 Estero Boulevard

In attendance: Chairman John Bennett, Vice-Chairman Larry Wood, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Knickle, Commissioner Ron Fleming , Fire Chief Scott Wirth, Finance Director Jane Thompson, and District members.

Absent: Commissioner Jacki Liszak

1. **Meeting Called to Order** 10:00am
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of Agenda** [Discussion/Approval]
4. **Restate Agenda Items** [Information]
5. **Public Input on Non-Agenda Items** - *none*
6. **Consent Agenda** [Approval]

Items listed are considered routine and action will be taken by one motion; if a Commissioner desires discussion, the specific item will be removed during the Adoption of the Agenda and considered separately.

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 30, 2024
- B. Approval of Checks General Fund Checks 48908-48953 Total \$249,678.03
- C. Approval of Capital Improvement Project Fund Check 1012 Total \$48,184.48
- D. Approval of General Fund Checks 48954-49004 Total \$110,458.53
- E. Approval of Capital Improvement Checks 1013-1014 Total \$140,632.81
Commissioner Fleming motioned to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Knickle seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

7. **Unfinished Business** - *none*

8. **New Business**

- A. Update on Facilities [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth presented a brief update on the progress of the new Station 31 and current District facility projects.

- B. Update on the Sale of Fire Station 31 [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth provided an update on the pending closing of the sale of existing Station 31.

- C. Post Storm Update [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth thanked the beach residents for evacuating for Hurricane Milton. The evacuation and collaboration with the Town enabled a smooth opening of the beach once the storm had passed. The District fielded over 1,200 calls and emails to compile an evacuation list in the event search and rescue was required after the storm.

Commissioner Fleming shared that he recently purchased a Knox box to prevent the need to break down a door or window. Chief Wirth shared information for the public on how to get a residential Knox box or lock box.

Chief Wirth noted that collaboration with LCSO and the Town of Fort Myers Beach worked well and thanked both agencies for their work. He also thanked District firefighters and employees for how they performed during Hurricane Milton.

Commissioner Bennett shared his appreciation for front line crews and their response.

Commissioner Wood shared that the beach's response to Hurricane Milton felt safer and more prepared compared to Hurricane Ian. Commissioner Knickle agreed that this response was much more organized and calmer and that he is proud to be part of the organization. Commissioner Fleming shared that the District did well in response.

Chief Wirth explained geo-divisions, the response of the fellow island fire districts, and his hopes for future organizational structure discussion for storm response.

Commissioner Knickle shared that he liked the Town leadership and District leadership being evacuated to the same facility allowing for better communication.

D. High Water Vehicle Purchase [Information/Discussion/Approval]

Chief Wirth shared information regarding high water vehicles. He noted that the District currently relies on mutual aid but he believes this is a tool that the District needs.

Commissioner Wood motioned to allow Chief Wirth to source a high water vehicle to present to the Board for approval. Commissioner Fleming seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

9. Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Wirth recognized the District members of USAR who were deployed by the state for search and rescue following Hurricane Milton. He thanked them for their dedication and congratulated them on a job well done.

Chief Wirth shared information on the ground breaking of the new Station 31 scheduled

for 10:00 am on Friday, October 25th. The 75th anniversary celebration originally scheduled for Saturday the 26th has been postponed for a future date to be determined.

Chief Wirth recognized District anniversaries for September and October.

10. Commissioners Remarks [Information]

Commissioner Fleming thanked everyone for their work during the storm.

Commissioner Knickle thanked Chief Wirth for his leadership through the recent storms and thanked staff for their work through Hurricane Milton.

Commissioner Wood remarked that Chief Wirth shows great leadership and instills confidence in staff response. He thinks that planning and purchase of a high water vehicle are necessary to improve response.

Commissioner Bennett thanked staff for their response during Hurricane Milton. He shared his thoughts on a recent house fire on his street and expressed his appreciation for those who responded.

11. Adjournment 10:39am