

MINUTES
WORK SESSION & MEETING OF THE
FORT MYERS BEACH FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TIME: 1:00 PM

DATE: March 3, 2020

PLACE: 2755 Estero Boulevard – Public Library
Fort Myers Beach, Florida 33931

IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Wood, Vice-Chairman Fleming, Commissioner Liszak, Commissioner Bennett, Fire Chief Love, District members and members of the public.

1 Meeting Called to Order

2 Pledge of Allegiance

3 Adoption of the Agenda [Discussion/Approval]

Chairman Wood called for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Liszak made a motion to approve the agenda. Vice-Chairman Fleming seconded. Motion approved unanimously 4 – 0

4 Restate Agenda Items [Information]

5 Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

No public input was provided

6 Unfinished Business

A. Commissioner Seat One (1) [Discussion/Public Input/Approval]

Chief Love provided the District Attorney’s opinion on options for filling the Commissioner Seat 1 position. Chief Love and the Board discussed the options in detail. After further discussion, the Board agreed to move forward with advertising for the position of Commissioner Seat 1. Following advertisement, the Board will review applicants and determine next steps. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to advertise the opening for the seat to the general public for a thirty (30) day period and proceed with selections and input from the candidates thereafter. Vice-Chairman Fleming seconded. Chairman Wood added “Seat 1” to the motion. Motion approved unanimously 4 – 0. Chief Love and the Board discussed dates and avenues for advertising. The Board requested that the information be posted to our website and social media as well.

7. New Business

A. Secretary/Treasurer Position [Discussion/Public Input/Approval]

Chairman Wood stated that he has been temporarily filling in for this position, but it’s not the optimum situation. The Board discussed the need for filling the Secretary/Treasurer position even if it is just an “acting” Secretary/Treasurer for now. The Board agreed that the Secretary/Treasurer position should be filled. Chairman Wood nominated Commissioner Bennett. Commissioner Bennett stated that he would

be happy to do it in the interim. Commissioner Lyszak seconded. Motion approved unanimously 3 – 0. Commissioner Bennett did not vote.

- B. Administrative Work Period & Benefit Policy Updates [Discussion/Public Input/Approval]
Chief Love discussed the updated policies P110, P111, and P112, which will keep the District's scales aligned. Chairman Wood called for a motion. Commissioner Bennett made a motion to approve the Work Period and Benefit policies P110, P111, and P112 with an effective date of March 1, 2020, and declare any District document referencing previous versions of policies 110 and 111, will now fall under the scope of these new policies as written. Vice-Chairman Fleming seconded. Motion approved unanimously 4 – 0.
- C. Administrative Compensation Scales Update [Discussion/Public Input/Approval]
Chief Love described that this update is to maintain our compensations scales with recent changes. Chairman Wood called for a motion. Commissioner Lyszak made a motion to approve the updated Compensation Scales as highlighted in the attached chart the Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District Compensation Update Chart 3/3/2019 for the 2019/2020 Pay & Position Schedule dated version 2/28/2019 with an effective date of October 1, 2019. Commissioner Bennett seconded. Motion approved unanimously 4 – 0.

8 Report from IAFF Union Representative District 3 and/or 15 [Information]

Local 1826 District 15 Vice President Jake Lamb discussed the governor's involvement in removing a past Board member and how it relates to our current situation.

9 Fire Chief Remarks [Information/Discussion]

Chief Love wished everyone an early Happy Saint Patrick's Day and thanked the staff for providing the theme. Chief Love explained the symbolism of the coins on the top of the cupcakes that were given out at the meeting and stated that we have completed a phase of the due diligence process on the property we are in the process of procuring. Chief Love stated that he's excited to report that the appraisals are in and that both appraisals came back higher, which is a big success for the District as we saved taxpayer money by purchasing the property under market value. Chief Love reminded the Board of the presentations at the March 25th meeting.

10 Commissioner Remarks [Information]

Chairman Wood stated that at the last meeting Commissioners were chastised and demeaned by an employee of our department. The statement indicated that the Chief was overstepping his authority when dealing with the Commissioners. Chairman Wood read section 4 (d) and section 2 and 3 of the Board policy for the record. Chairman Wood stated that all Board members agreed to this policy and approved it. Chairman Wood stated that the Commissioners do not demean any employee of the District and insist on the same level of respect.

Commissioner Bennett agreed with Chairman Wood's comments and stated that it was a little hard to bite his tongue at the last meeting and not make a comment in return to the DVP as he didn't want it to become an adversarial conversation. Commissioner Bennett stated that this Board backs the Chief 1000% and if not, he would not be in the job.

Commissioner Bennett stated that they follow their policies to the best of their ability as

they are there for a reason. Commissioner Bennett stated that he has never felt that he has to have approval to go visit a house or a station or anything else, it's just a matter of courtesy. Commissioner Bennett stated that open and clear communication is what they strive to do and will continue to do and that he looks forward to many more years of Chief Love being here.

Commissioner Liszak stated that she was not in attendance at the last meeting so she cannot comment on that, but that she supported both Commissioner Wood and Bennett's remarks.

Vice-Chairman Fleming stated that he is very pleased to hear that we made a great buy on the property and that he believes we were in favor of paying a fair market value, but it appears we did much better than that. Vice-Chairman Fleming congratulated Chief Love and everyone who was involved in the property purchase.

11. Adjournment

1:25 PM