

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
October 10, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Mere

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation – Commissioner Mere

Commissioner Griffin – Present
Commissioner Ducrou – Present
Commissioner Hansen – Present (7:10)
Commissioner Cook – Absent
Commissioner Mere – Present
Chief Doug Underwood – Present
Office Manager – Present
Attorney Ian Mann – Absent

Others Present: Some Staff

Public Input Agenda Items – None

Minutes – Review and Acceptance of the September 12, 2023 Preliminary Budget Hearing Minutes - Motion made by Commissioner Ducrou to accept the minutes. Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion. Chairman Mere calls for any discussion. Hearing none, he calls for vote and with all in favor, motion passed.

Minutes – Review and acceptance of the September 12, 2023 Board Meeting minutes - Motion made by Commissioner Griffin to accept the minutes. Commissioner Ducrou seconded the motion. Chairman Mere calls for any discussion. Hearing none, he calls for vote and with all in favor, motion passed.

Minutes – Review and acceptance of the September 26, 2023 Final Budget Hearing minutes – Motion made by Commissioner Griffin to accept the minutes. Commissioner Ducrou seconded the motion. With no further discussion offered Chairman Mere calls for Review of Financial Reports.

Financial Reports – Review and Acceptance of the Financials for September 2023 - Motion made by Commissioner Ducrou to accept the financials. Commissioner Griffin seconded the motion. Chairman Mere calls for any discussion. Hearing none, he calls for vote and with all in favor, motion passed. With no further discussion offered Chairman Mere calls for Fire Marshals report.

Fire Marshal Report – Chief Underwood states Annual Inspections have begun and all are expected to be pretty heavy the next few months, with completion by the end of the year. Commissioner Mere asks if the captains are still doing those. Chief responds they are still doing the annual and he is still doing the use permits and the alarm takeovers. He states a new change with Lee County taking over the Civic Center, we are now doing Special Use Permits, reviewing those which the

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
October 10, 2023

County requires for any event on County property. The Fair Board used to take care of that when they were under contract with the county so there are quite a few coming through now.

Chairman Mere calls for the Administrative Report.

Administrative Report (attached) – Chief Underwood reads the Administrative Report into the record. He adds a thank you to Captain Swindle and his shift for their assistance replacing Tender 131's pump. He declares it leak-free except for some valves for which we are waiting on parts. He finishes reading his report. Chief and Commissioner Mere discuss the call volume difference with and without the hurricane calls and it appears as though we are on par with last year. Chairman Mere calls for any questions. Hearing none, he calls for Union Petitions.

Union Petitions – NONE

Old Business –

- **None** - Chairman Mere calls for New Business.

New Business –

- **None** – Chairman Mere calls for Chief Items.

Chief Items –

- Chief Underwood states the day before, he was notified by the President of the Lee County Fire Chiefs that Representative Botana from the Bonita area has proposed to merge the Bonita Springs and Ft. Myers Beach Fire Districts; no other mention has been made by any other representative in this area to consolidate any others, but Botana is looking to put ballot language together as required by Chapter 191; so he will be keeping his eye on that to see how it goes. Chief states he will be attending the annual local delegation meeting the 30th of October, to see what is said about it and anything else pertinent to us. It is a meeting they hold before they submit all their bills to the State. Commissioner Ducrou inquires where this is coming from, if it is coming from the fire districts. Chief states it is coming from Botana. It came out in their local paper and he will send the Board the copy, it has both Fire District's comments and Adam Botana's as well. He's looking to save taxpayer dollars as Bonita has a \$30M budget and Ft. Myers Beach has a \$14M budget so he's hoping to reduce duplication.
- The other item Chief Underwood wishes to discuss is something that came up at the Five Bugle meeting last week, the Homestead Exemption. Several fire districts are pooling funds to hire Laura Donaldson to review how the Property Appraiser came upon his determination of applying the homestead exemption versus not, as there are a few case studies out there that upheld us as exempt from the exemption. He states they are

BAYSHORE FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
October 10, 2023

doing it quietly and just want to see all bases are covered, they are not seeking action at this point, just legal opinion. Commissioner Mere asks if that's something they'll be seeking for us to contribute to. Chief states they are not looking for any money from Districts with our small budgets. Commissioner Ducrou asks which District is on this. Chief responds South Trail is spearheading it, and Estero and Bonita jumped on board to participate. Laura Donaldson is South Trail's legal counsel. Special Districts are her specialty. Commissioner Ducrou is not interested in spending any money toward that. He feels it will bring a black eye; not going over well. Chairman Mere calls for any other Chief's items.

- Chief has one more. He recognizes Commissioner Hansen for his 25 years of service to this District. He presents him with an axe plaque and thanks him for his dedicated service. (Applause) (Brief photo session) Commissioner Hansen remarks how the District has changed and gives thanks for the acknowledgement and recognition. Chairman Mere calls for any other Chief's items and hearing none, calls for Commissioner Items.

Commissioner Items – With no Commissioner Items offered Chairman Mere calls for Public Input.

Public Input – None - Chairman Mere calls for Motion to adjourn.

Adjournment – Commissioner Hansen moves to adjourn and motion is seconded by Commissioner Griffin and with none opposed, meeting is adjourned 7:19p.m.