

**MINUTES  
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

**I. MEETING OPENED**

Chairman Page called to order the regular meeting of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners at 5:33 PM on February 9, 2016 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Chairman Page, Commissioners Cottiers, Hemping, Cross, Gerrity, Stedman and Boyer. Commissioner McMahon arrived at 5:54 PM. Executive staff in attendance: Chief Schuldt, Assistant Chief Sapp, Division Chief Hanson, Deputy Directors Bishop and Martin. Staff in attendance: Michele Packard, Nicole Chesser, Maria Mercedes Carrillo, Debbie Schwarz, Chris Tobin, Khris Klock, and Shar Hingson. Members of the public included; William & Peggy Cermak, Walter Kopka, Donna Dolan, George Danz, Jean Kungle and Chris Spencer. Others were in attendance but did not sign in.

**A. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Chairman Page opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation by Commissioner Gerrity.

**B. Line of Duty Deaths Reading and Moment of Silence**

Chief Schuldt reported that there were a total of 6 FF fatalities for the month of January, followed by a moment of silence.

**C. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

Director Bishop stated Commissioner Boyer requested item III.A removed from the agenda. Director Bishop requested that the year of the January minutes be changed to 2016 from 2015.

**D. Approval of the Agenda**

*Commissioner Gerrity moved to accept the agenda as amended. Commissioner Stedman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.*

**E. Approval of the GNFD Board Minutes for January 12, 2016**

*Commissioner Hemping moved to approve the board minutes for the January 12, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Commissioner Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.*

**F. Consent Agenda**

*Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.*

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Operations Section Report – Assistant Chief Sapp
3. Administration and Finance Section Report – Deputy Director Bishop
4. Planning Section Report – Deputy Chief Martin
5. Logistics Section Report – Deputy Chief Low
6. Investigations Section Report – Division Chief Hanson

**G. Awards and Recognition**

1. 10 Year Service Awards – Captain Khris Klock, LTs Matt Trent & Chris Rossi, DEs Brian Rasmussen, Jake Beckman, Scott Brewer & Acey Edgemon  
Chief Schuldt, along with Asst. Chief Sapp recognized and presented Captain Khris Klock a plaque and a GNFD Challenge Coin for his 10 years of service to the District.  
The other service award recipients were not in attendance.
2. 15 Year Service Award – Deputy Director Bishop  
Chief Schuldt, along with Asst. Chief Sapp recognized and presented a plaque and a GNFD Challenge Coin to Deputy Director Bishop for her 15 years of service.
3. Toy Drive Command Recognition  
Deputy Director Bishop, along with Chief Schuldt and Asst. Chief Sapp recognized and presented a certificate to William and Peggy Cermak for their generous toy donation to the 2015 GNFD Toy Drive Command.

**H. Fire Administration – Chief Schuldt**

1. Fire Chief's Board Update

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Chief Schuldt reported on the following:

- Presented the letter sent to Collier County Board Chair Donna Fiala requesting the Board not condone the sale and use of illegal fireworks and prohibit the tent sales of fireworks in Collier County.

Chairman Page updated the Board stating that the letter was read into the record at the BCC meeting. He went on to say that the County Attorney stated that it was not legal for the County to get involved; it is a law enforcement issue.

Chief Schuldt stated that at least everyone will know where GNFD stands on this issue.

- Everything continues to move along well with Isles of Capri.
- The District's Bills relating to the Isles of Capri MSTU and District One moved through the House Local Government Affairs Committee. The Fiddler's Creek referendum vote will be on the March primary and the Naples Reserve vote will be most likely a mail in ballot later in the year.
- All equipment has arrived for the new CAD system; soon to be operational.
- Tenzinga, the new performance management system, is up and running and will be officially turned on next week.

Commissioner Hemping requested a preview of the new system for all of the Commissioners.

- Delivery of the 107' aerial is expected this week. It will be ready for service when it arrives; all equipment and radios have been installed. Training on the truck will be the week of the February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The truck should be in service March 1. Chairman Page requested the training dates be sent to the Commissioners in the event any might want to attend.
- The First Annual Awards and Recognition Ceremony will be held at Station 73 on February 12, 2016 at 6:30 pm. Miami-Dade Fire Chief Dave Downey will be the keynote speaker. GNFD has secured \$4000 in sponsorship money for the event. The District expects 150 in attendance.
- The Chief added that it has been a pleasure working with Sheriff Rambosk through the new CAD implementation and would like to invite the Sheriff to a board meeting once the new system is complete to acknowledge him.

**I. Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan – Chairman Arroyo**

Director Bishop stated that there is nothing significant to report and the audit process is moving along, better than in previous years.

**J. Local 2396 Report**

Nothing significant to report.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Emergency Services Task Force Meeting – Commissioner Hemping**

Commissioner Hemping reported that the next scheduled meeting is Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 9:00 am at GNFD Administrative Headquarters. He went on to report that quite a few candidates running for office are showing up due to the upcoming elections. He went on to say that he sent a commentary into the Naples Daily News in regard to the straw ballot. Copies of the commentary were handed out. Members of the task force are out talking about the straw ballot; what it means and what it doesn't. There are some misconceptions that this will raise or change tax rates. This straw ballot is just to see how the voters feel about future consolidation of all emergency services. This straw ballot will be on the March 15<sup>th</sup> Presidential Preference Primary ballot. All voters, regardless of party affiliation, except for the City of Naples and Marco Island will be able to vote on this question.

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- B. AIW – Isles of Capri Marine Unit Cost and Needs Analysis Report – Director Martin**  
Chief Schuldt presented the Marine Unit Cost and Needs Analysis to the Board. Newly received information on response times for Isles Boat 90 were passed out. Under the MSTU with the County, GNFD is responsible for handling the assets of Isles and those assets lack a fire rescue boat. Boat 90 was deemed unserviceable and sold off. The constituents and Isles advisory members made it clear they want to maintain a boat operation on the island. Currently EMS Boat 80 is docked at Station 90 which is staffed with GNFD personnel. This boat has limited capabilities; no firefighting abilities. It is a recreational boat converted as an EMS rescue vessel. This boat is out of service for repairs quite frequently. The District is responsible for approximately 200 linear miles of coastline with approximately 3.8 billion in real estate and land. A committee was formed and has worked for two months to bring together this report. After 3 site visits looking at various watercrafts, the committee recommendation is a boat with rescue and fire capabilities and a boat that would not require the hiring of additional personnel. The approximate cost for this type of boat would be less than \$400,000 for the boat and assets with an additional cost of \$75,000 for operational items. With the ability to use impact fees to purchase the boat the District would still be able to maintain the current vehicle replacement plan without making any changes.
- Chairman Page requested a consensus from the Board on whether to move ahead or not. There was considerable discussion on the response times for marine units in the County, whether there is an actual need since other agencies already have marine units, and questioning the reason for doing this before Isles is completely under GNFD. Commissioner Stedman is not against the program but was hoping to see the return on investment comparing money being spent on a boat versus a fire engine. His job as commissioner is looking out for the taxpayer's money and how it's being spent. Commissioner Boyer's main concern is manpower; stripping personnel on land to be on the water. Money is his secondary concern. Commissioner McMahon believes that we are responsible for the program and we need to figure out how to bring it about. Commissioner Gerrity stated that the District needs to be in the program; but a cost needs to be determined in order to do it safely. He supports moving ahead with the program but would like to see more information before a boat is purchased. Commissioners Cottiers and Hemping support the program but Commissioner Hemping would like to see a full analysis. Commissioner Cross would like to see a boat more geared for rescue rather than fire due to the small response to fires. He went on to say that the cost of the boat seemed high and he would rather see the District purchase an older boat that could be outfitted with new motors and equipment. The District also needs to include the cost of insurance, maintenance and fuel; the complete cost to provide this service year after year. He also would like to see if there is a possibility to enter into an interlocal with another agency already with a program to share in the cost. Commissioner Boyer suggested moving ahead on Station 25 to increase manpower.
- The Commissioners gave permission to proceed with the program with staff providing updates.

**C. Fire Code Office – Deputy Director Bishop**

Director Bishop provided an update stating that the District is working with Len Price's office to get the executed document from the County before the disbursements can be processed.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. W-2's – Commissioner Boyer**

Removed from the agenda per Commissioner Boyer

**B. AIW – Facility Loan Refinance – Director Bishop**

Director Bishop stated that the Fifth Third Bank \$8 million dollar loan for Stations 73, 72 and Headquarters expires on February 20, 2016 with a balloon payment due of \$5,939,071.97. Staff has been working at securing a new loan since Fifth Third declined refinancing. Iberia Bank is currently working on a loan which is in the final underwriting process. Several options were presented to

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approve and finalize the loan since it needs to be done prior to the March board meeting. Commissioner Stedman moved to proceed with staff's recommendation to refinance the facility loan with Iberia Bank for a 10 year loan not to exceed \$6,000,000 and authorize Commissioner Cross to act on behalf of the District to finalize the loan documents. Commissioner Hemping seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.

**C. Topics Initiated by the Board of Fire Commissioners**

1. Chairman Page stated that Commissioner Hiller, at the BCC meeting, made comment stating that GNFD is \$18,000,000 in debt and are poor money managers. The District, in reality has \$6,530,000 of debt, with reserves of \$5,300,000 for an actual debt of \$1,200,000.  
*Commissioner Cross move to approve staff send a letter to the Board of County Commissioners to be read into the record clarifying the solvency of the District. Commissioner Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*
2. Chairman Page requested that the May 10<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup> board meeting dates be changed due to scheduling conflicts with other important events that some of the board and staff members will be attending.  
*Commissioner Stedman moved to approve moving the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting to May 17<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*  
*Commissioner Stedman moved to approve moving the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to July 19<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Gerrity seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*
3. Chairman Page stated that Commissioner Fiala will be holding a Town Hall meeting at the South Regional Park Library on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. The Isles Advisory Meeting is scheduled for 4:00 PM on the same day.
4. Chairman Page inquired on receiving any information on the Zika virus. Chief Kopka from EMS responded stating the guidelines and what to do will be sent to the Chief for distribution.
5. Commissioner Hemping requested an analysis on the use of Quick Response Vehicles and what might be applicable for the District moving forward.
6. Commissioner Hemping requested that the microphones be brought back since it can be hard for the audience members to hear.
7. Commissioner Cross asked for a recommended selling price from the realtor handling the Village Falls properties. Commissioner Hemping thought that a 30 day selling price would be in order.
8. Commissioner Gerrity would like to see the process begin for Station 25, beginning with a cost and needs analysis.
9. Commissioner Stedman requested the removal of either agenda item III.C Topics Initiated by the Board or III.E. Commissioner Comments, due to the similarity.
10. Commissioner McMahon thanked everyone for their hard work.
11. Commissioner Boyer would like staff to look at additional staffing for the entire district and with that, get Station 25 up and running.

**D. Public Comments**

1. George Danz had reservations funding a marine program since the District is under a management agreement with Isles. If there is going to be a program then some of the costs should come from Isles dollars. He also has concerns about the cost of the maintenance of the boat which was not addressed.
2. Chris Spencer President of the North Collier Professional Firefighters Union but was speaking as a resident of the Vineyards community. He requested the board packet to follow along in order to better formulate any questions. He went on to stress the importance of staffing in the fire service and keeping everyone safe. Utilize resources

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where needed. He suggested GNFD enter into a discussion on the marine program with North Collier Fire since they already have one in place.

**E. Commissioner Comments**  
Removed from the agenda.

**IV. SIGNATURE OF BOARD APPROVED ITEMS**

1. GNFD Regular Board Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2016

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

*Commissioner Stedman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34PM. Commissioner Hemping seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*

Duly passed with a vote of 8 to 0 and adopted in session on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2016.

  
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Chairman Jeff Page

  
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Commissioner Charles Cottiers

  
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Commissioner Kevin Gerrity

  
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Commissioner Chuck McMahon

  
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Commissioner Rob Boyer

  
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Commissioner Brian Cross

  
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Commissioner Steve Hemping

  
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Commissioner David Stedman