



JOINT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
July 8, 2014

I. MEETING OPENED

Chairman Hemping called to order the joint meeting of the East Naples and Golden Gate Fire Control & Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners at 6:07 PM on July 8, 2014 at the Fire Code Office. Present were Chairmen Gerrity and Hemping, Commissioners Stedman, Cross, Cottiers, Page and Boyer, Chief Schuldt, Asst. Chief Sapp, Director Bishop, Chief Biondo, Division Chief Hanson, Exe. Assistant Chesser and Admin. Assistant Packard. Commissioner McMahon was not in attendance. Also in attendance were Chief Stolts, Chief Anderson, Keith Perry, Craig Weinbaum, Chris Tobin, Leo Davis, Greg Speers, Walter Kopka, Grant Danskine, Charlotte Johnson, Eloy Ricardo, Linda Simmons, Maggie Jani, Jackie de la Osa and Steven Thigpen. Others were in attendance but did not sign in.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Hemping opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

Chairman Gerrity requested that Post Employment Healthcare Benefits be added under Topics Initiated by the Board.

Director Bishop stated that there is a handout for the post retirement medical and life GASB report that should have been included in I.D. Fire Code Office. ENFD Commissioner Cross moved to approve the amended agenda. ENFD Commissioner Page seconded the motion.

GGFD Commissioner Stedman stated the motion so moved.

Motion passed 7-0.

B. Approval of Minutes of May 14, 2014

ENFD Commissioner Page moved to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2014 joint meeting. ENFD Commissioner Boyer seconded the motion.

GGFD Commissioner Stedman stated the motion so moved.

Motion passed 7-0.

C. Fire Code Office (time specific 6:00 – 7:00 PM)

Chief Schuldt began by providing everyone an update on the current status of the Fire Code transition.

There were several commissioners and fire district personnel from other districts in attendance to discuss the recent modifications to the Fire Code Office. There was a very lengthy discussion on whether the office should remain open and whether there will be enough funds generated to keep the office operating. Commissioner Page clarified that East Naples, Golden Gate, Big Corkscrew and Immokalee have not pulled out of the Fire Code Office. There was discussion regarding if the office should close, how the remaining assets would be split. Those present were informed that the East Naples-Golden Gate staff is currently working with an attorney to consider options for a trust that would address legacy costs, dissolution of finances and assets and other consideration in the event that the Fire Code office was dissolved.



JOINT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
July 8, 2014

Direction was given by the Board to staff seek a legal opinion on how this dissolution should be done if it is done.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Consolidation- Golden Gate and East Naples

Chief Schuldts provided an update on the consolidation efforts. The HOA meetings are mostly complete, meeting with nearly 1500 people. The Chief continues to attend monthly civic association meetings working in mostly a maintenance mode, answering any questions that arise. The merger team and staff are working on the final stages of the 5 year financial projection for the joint district. The districts are working toward enhancements to the ALS services. Squad 72 will be placed at Station 72 for medical calls as part of a new deployment strategy to cut down on the use of Tower 72.

1. **AIW - Retirement Plan Options – Director Bishop**

Director Bishop updated the Board on the retirement options for the joint district. She explained the plans that ENFD and GGFD currently have for its employees. ENFD firefighters are either in FRS or in the Chapter 175 plan. ENFD civilian employees are in a 401(a) plan with Nationwide. All employees at Golden Gate are in FRS.

The first option for the new fire district to consider would be to enroll the newly merged entity into FRS and close Nationwide and the Chapter 175 plan to new participants. The new fire district would need to continue contributions to all three established retirement plans for current employees. There is a possible issue with Chapter 175 and the Insurance Premium Tax (IPT) revenue collection and the related geographic area. Would the Plan receive IPT revenue from the new geographic area or just the ENFD geographical area? The current FRS plan for GGFD would be considered closed but contributions would continue to be made.

The second option would be to enroll newly hired certified employees in the Chapter 175 pension plan and enroll any newly hired civilian employees in the same or similar Nationwide 401(a).

Staff's recommendation is to continue to work with the two Division of Retirement offices (Chapter 175 and FRS) to get clarified answers for the conversion into one retirement plan. The Commissioners directed staff to hold a labor management meeting to discuss the retirement options and bring back information to the Board and to get more some more answers from the Division of Retirement.

2. **Cost Savings Worksheet**

The Joint District has realized a net savings of \$612,998.74.



JOINT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

July 8, 2014

Commissioner Page did add that he and Chairmen Gerrity received a copy of a potential flyer to be mailed out or hand out. Commissioner Page would like the Chief to send out to everyone to review and provide comments.

Commissioner Stedman stated that it had been made clear not to take a position on a flyer and he felt that the statement, "Why consolidation makes sense" is taking a position. The voters should be provided the facts; there should be no endorsements of the consolidation. He wants to avoid bias. The Commissioners did request legal look over the flyer for any issues.

Commissioner Page requested that the Boards waive policy in order to not have to go out to bid and use the vendor that produced these flyers in order to get them done in time.

ENFD Commissioner Cross moved to, based on the timeframe and the importance of this matter, to suspend the practice of sealed competitive bids for the instance of this mailer and authorize Commissioner Page to enter into a contract with this particular vendor with an amount not to exceed \$10,000 and to come back to the Board if more money is needed. ENFD Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

GGFD Chairman Gerrity moved to make the same motion, using Commissioner Cross's language. GGFD Commissioner Stedman seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

B. Annexation - Isles of Capri and East Naples

This topic was discussed at the ENFD BOFC meeting earlier in the evening.

C. AIW - Closest Unit Response – Chief Sapp

Chief Sapp explained that the Sheriff's office is currently preparing to begin the process of provisioning the CAD that was recently purchased. As part of this upgrade, the Sheriff's office is designing the system to select the closest unit available unit for fire and EMS service calls which will then be programmed into the CAD which will then utilize Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) to select the closest available and appropriate unit. The Sheriff's office is requesting all participating agencies to express their formal position to participate or sustain their involvement in this program.

Commissioner Stedman requested that this item be placed on the GGFD agenda in order that Commissioner McMahon have the opportunity to vote.

ENFD Commissioner Cross moved to support the "closest unit response" concept and authorize the Fire Chief to confirm the fire district(s) position with CCSO in an effort to reduce response times within the joint fire district(s) and Greater Naples community. ENFD Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. AIW - PERC Recognition Petition – Chief Schuldt

Chief Schuldt presented the PERC Recognition Petition which would merge the two bargaining units into a single bargaining unit under the current IAFF Local 2396 with the anticipated merger of the two fire districts.



JOINT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

July 8, 2014

ENFD Commissioner Page moved to acknowledge the petition by the IAFF Local 2396 and execute the State of Florida Public Employers Relations Commission, Recognition-Acknowledgement Petition subsequent to a vote of the electorate in each fire district to become the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District. ENFD Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

GGFD Commissioner Stedman would like to amend the motion to include Commissioner Page's motion and approve the motion as he stated. GGFD Chairman Gerrity seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

B. AIW – Interchange of Personnel MOU – Chief Schuldt

Chief Schuldt presented the MOU that states that Local 2396 and the District(s) agree to work cooperatively together for the joint staffing at one or both of following fire station locations: EMS Station 75 and Collier County Municipal Taxing Unit Station 90 (as applicable). The Union and District also agree to work cooperatively for the joint staffing of additional apparatus, which may include the Engine, Tower, Ladder, Rescue or Squad companies. Additional apparatus shall be defined as meaning other units not daily or routinely in service at Fire District locations.

ENFD Commissioner Cross moved to approve staff's recommendation and approve the Interchange of Personnel MOU as ratified by the IAFF Local 2396. ENFD Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Commissioner Boyer urged the Board to wait and approve this after the vote in November. Motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Boyer opposed.

GGFD Commissioner Stedman made a like motion for Golden Gate. GGFD Chairman Gerrity seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-0.

IV. BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

(Topics initiated by the Board)

Chairman Gerrity requested an explanation of the post employment benefits offered by ENFD since GGFD does not have this type of benefit. Director Bishop explained that a vested employee receives one month of medical, dental, vision and life for every two months of service when they retire. All employees are eligible for this benefit, even the Commissioners. Chairman Gerrity does not see the need for Commissioners to be eligible for this benefit since the cost to sustain them is quite high.

ENFD Commissioner Page moved to direct staff to bring the policy for the post employment benefits with suggestions on wording for removing the Commissioners from the policy. Commissioner Page stated that this would be for current as well as former commissioners. Commissioner Cross seconded the motion and did state that he would like the motion amended to provide the former commissioners a grace period in order to get other insurance or they can remain on the plan but pay the full premium. Commissioner Page would not like to extend the grace period beyond October 1st. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Stedman stated that he wants to make sure that all properties are in the correct fire district before any percentages to the fire districts are given out with the dissolution of the Fire Code Office.



JOINT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

July 8, 2014

V. ADJOURNMENT

GGFD Commissioner Stedman moved to adjourn the joint meeting at 8:21 PM. Motion passed 2-0.

ENFD Commissioner Cross moved to adjourn the joint meeting at 8:21 PM. Motion passed 5-0.

GGFD BOFC


_____ Date 9-10-2014

Chairman Kevin Gerrity

_____ Date 9/10/14

Commissioner David Stedman

_____ Date 9/10/14

Commissioner Chuck McMahon _____ Date _____

ENFD BOFC


_____ Date _____

Chairman Steven E. Hemping

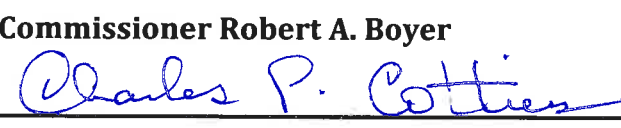
_____ Date 9/10/14

Commissioner Brian O. Cross

_____ Date _____

Commissioner Jeff Page

_____ Date 9/10/14

Commissioner Robert A. Boyer

_____ Date _____

Commissioner Charles P. Cottiers

_____ Date 9/10/14