



JOINT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
September 10, 2014

I. MEETING OPENED

Chairman Gerrity called to order the joint meeting of the East Naples and Golden Gate Fire Control & Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners at 6:06 PM on September 10, 2014 at Administration Headquarters, Station 73. Present were Chairmen Gerrity and Hemping, Commissioners Stedman, Cross, Cottiers, Page, Chief Schuldt, Asst. Chief Sapp, Director Bishop, Chief Biondo, Division Chief Hanson, Exe. Assistant Chesser, HR Specialist Debbie Schwarz and Admin. Assistant Packard. Commissioner Boyer was not in attendance. Also in attendance were Jim Burke, Dr. Horner, Bill Packard, Trenton Mading, Chris Tobin, Chris Rossi, Tony McGee, Greg Speers, Walter Kopka and Orly Stolts. Others were in attendance but did not sign in.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Gerrity opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance followed by the invocation by Commissioner Stedman.

B. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

Director Bishop requested the addition of a letter from the City of Naples City Manager Bill Moss as page 15 of the packet which is under III. B. The City of Naples Airport Authority Request for Proposal.

Also requested was the addition of a letter received from NNFD Board be added as an insert after page 8 under III. A. NNFD/BCIR Letter/Request Reference Fire Code.

Commissioner McMahon's requested a discussion on the informational mailers be added to the agenda.

GGFD Commissioner McMahon moved to accept the agenda as amended. Commissioner Stedman seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

ENFD Commissioner Cross moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

C. Approval of Minutes of July 8, 2014

GGFD Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2014 joint meeting as presented. Commissioner McMahon seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

ENFD Commissioner Cross moved to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2014 joint meeting. Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Consolidation- Golden Gate and East Naples

Chairman Hemping began the discussion informing the Board that the merger team continues to meet every other Thursday to discuss action items and issues. The merger team is focused totally on the ENFD/GGFD merger referendum which is the last question on the ballot. The information phase of the campaign is off and running. The mailings are almost ready to go and there will also be some signage to come. A PAC



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fund has been formed by Local 2396 which will be used for the campaign action items for the referendum.

Commissioner Cross stated he thought that some inaccurate information was given to the voters at the polls on the Isles vote and wondered if the \$20,000 the Districts agreed to spend on informational only mailers, flyers, etc. would be enough. He wants to make sure accurate information is provided to all the voters in the ENFD/GGFD districts.

Chairman Gerrity explained that each absentee and super voter would receive a mailer and then finally any registered voter household in each district would receive a mailer. Some homes may receive more than one mailer. This will be able to be done with the money that is already there.

Chairman Gerrity recommended that since this will probably be the last meeting of the joint board before the vote, to go ahead and add \$5000 more from each district in case it would be needed.

ENFD Commissioner Cross moved to approve up to an additional \$5000 to be spent on getting information to the public regarding the merger if needed. Commissioner Page seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

GGFD Commissioner Stedman moved to approve a similar motion. Motion passed 2-1, with Commissioner McMahan opposed.

Commissioner McMahan had a couple of points with regard to the mailers. There is some misleading information on them. The flyer states that there are seven fire districts in Collier County when actually there are five independent fire districts and two dependent fire districts under the County. This should be made clear. The second item of concern is the cost savings amount listed on the mailer which states a 13 month net cost savings of \$612,998. Commissioner McMahan would like to see that number broke out showing the savings of each district independently so the citizens can see what each district is saving. Commissioner Page responded stating that there was a timeline to which the Commissioners were given to provide input on the mailers and that time has passed. They are under a deadline to get these mailers out in time and they have already been ordered. Commissioner McMahan stated that he will get an attorney opinion on the number of fire districts. Commissioner Stedman thought it would be more confusing to the voters; most don't know the difference between a dependent and independent fire district. Chairman Gerrity concluded the conversation by telling Commissioner McMahan that he is welcome to get an attorney opinion but it would be at his own cost, not the District's.

1. Cost Savings Worksheet
The Joint District has realized a net savings of \$704,205.12.

B. Annexation - Isles of Capri and East Naples

Commissioner Stedman wanted to echo Commissioner Cross's statements and make sure that everyone provides accurate information to the voters so that the voters know exactly what they are voting on with ENFD/GGFD merger.



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Commissioner Cross stated that ENFD did not initialize the Isles merger. The County came to ENFD and we are not doing anything moving forward. Commissioner Page added that the focus now is on Fiddler's Creek.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. NNFD letter/Request Reference Fire Code Office

Chairman Gerrity began by stating that NNFD fire board sent a letter to all the fire districts requesting a meeting for mediation on the Fire Code Office. He feels that it would be premature to sell the building. Clearly by the comments he has heard, the NNFD Fire Commissioners are in favor of consolidation and he has not hidden his agenda that he intends, whether win, lose or draw, to sit down with all the fire districts in November to discuss all the fire districts in the county consolidating into one. If we were to consolidate with North after this election this building would be right in the middle of the District and the building could have some real potential for use. We need to hold off on the discussion of Fire Code until after the election and see how the consolidation talks go after that. Commissioner Cross stated that the building should not be sold right now because there is a \$150,000 post-retirement health benefit owed and promised to the former employees. The District has to make sure there is funding available for those benefits and if the building is sold and there is not enough cash to pay the benefits after all other obligations have been taken care of, the District can expect a lawsuit from the former employees. The District has hired an attorney who is looking at setting up a trust for these monies. He agrees to hold off as well. Chairman Hemping stated that this needs to wait and not interrupt the focus of the merger vote. He is not meeting with anyone on this right now. The other commissioners agreed. NNFD Chairman Burke stated that their Board is going to readdress the Fire Code Office at tomorrow's meeting after talks with Chairman Gerrity.

Chairman Hemping moved to not consider anything relative to the Fire Code operation or facility until at least November 5th or beyond. Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Page reminded everyone that there are still districts in Fire Code and making any decision to dissolve would be premature.

Chief Schuldt questioned whether it would be a good idea or not to send a letter back to avoid the formal dispute resolution proceedings from beginning and provide a position on attending a public meeting.

ENFD Commissioner Cross moved to have a letter drafted from the joint district stating that the Districts are accepting the 90 day window for Big Corkscrew to pull out of Fire Code and agree to meet sometime after November 5th. Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-0.

GGFD Commissioner Stedman so moved a similar motion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMahon for discussion. Commissioner McMahon thinks the Districts



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are being standoffish in not wanting to address this issue and the Commissioners are not doing their job. The consolidation issue is of no concern to Fire Code. There is no reason to put this off. Motion passed 2-1, with Commissioner McMahon opposed.

B. The City of Naples Airport Authority Request for a Proposal

Chief Schuldts informed the board of the RFP sent to the Districts for the City of Naples Airport Authority for aircraft rescue and firefighting services. In addition there was additional information received today from the City of Naples City Manager Bill Moss listing 12 points that he would like considered during discussion with the Boards. The letter appeared to be asking everyone not to bid on this and why. Commissioner Cross stated that the only item that interested him was that we don't have the legal authority to be the sole provider outside of our boundaries and should get a legal opinion on this because he thinks we do.

Commissioner Page thinks we should submit a proposal to the RFP and who is to say the Naples Airport Authority request that we annex the airport from the City of Naples.

After board discussion, it was decided that the ENFD board alone would decide to take action on the RFP.

ENFD Commissioner Cross moved to approve, pending legal opinion, the right to be a sole provider outside district boundaries for the Naples Airport and respond to the RFP timely to provide fire services. Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-1, with Chairman Hemping opposed because he doesn't want to divert away from the merger.

IV. BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

(Topics initiated by the Board)

None

V. ADJOURNMENT




GGFD Commissioner Stedman moved to adjourn the joint meeting at 6:54 PM. Commissioner McMahon seconded the motion. Motion passed 3-0.

ENFD Commissioner Cross moved to adjourn the joint meeting at 6:54 PM. Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.


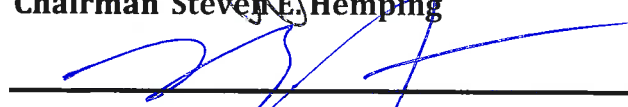
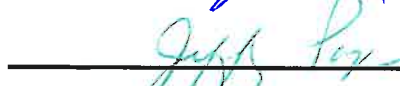
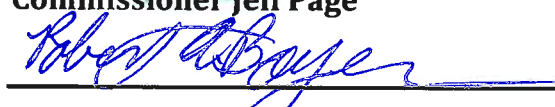



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GGFD BOFC

	11/18/14
Chairman Kevin Gerrity	Date
	11/18/14
Commissioner David Stedman	Date
	11/18/14
Commissioner Chuck McMahon	Date

ENFD BOFC

	11-18-14
Chairman Steven E. Hemping	Date
	11/18/14
Commissioner Brian O. Cross	Date
	11/18/14
Commissioner Jeff Page	Date
	11-18-14
Commissioner Robert A. Boyer	Date
	11/18/14
Commissioner Charles P. Cottiers	Date