

**MINUTES**  
**GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**February 14, 2017**

**MEETING OPENED**

Chairman Page called to order the regular meeting of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners at 5:34 p.m. on February 14, 2017 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Chairman Page, Commissioners Cross, Cottiers, Gerrity, Stedman, and Boyer. Commissioner Henning arrived at 6:05 pm. Commissioner Hemping attended via phone conference. Executive staff in attendance: Chief Schuldt, Chief McLaughlin, Deputy Chief Low, Deputy Directors Bishop and Martin. Staff in attendance: Suanne Woeste, Trenton Mading, Chris Tobin, Tom Szempruch, Brian Heath, Jason Sellers, Ken Moyer, Aaron Odum, Adam Orsolini, Craig Weinbaum. Members of the public included: Donna Dolan, George Danz, and Jim Burke. 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 there were a total 5 of Firefighter fatalities for the month of January bringing the total for 2017 to 5, followed by a moment of silence.

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

None were noted

**D. Approval of the Agenda**

*Commissioner Stedman moved to accept the agenda as presented. Commissioner Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. (Commissioner Henning Absent)*

**E. Approval of the GNFD Board Minutes for January 10, 2017**

*Commissioner Gerrity moved to approve the board minutes for the January 10, 2017 regular BOFC meeting. Commissioner Stedman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. (Commissioner Henning Absent)*

**F. Consent Agenda**

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

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
  - a. Deputy Chief Low
  - b. Deputy Chief McLaughlin
6. Investigation Section Report – Deputy Chief Hanson
7. At-A-Boys and Thank You Notes
  - a. EMS Customer Satisfaction Survey

**G. Awards and Recognition:**

Chief Schuldt congratulated the following personnel for their years of service:

- FF Contreras – 1 year service
- DE Santana – 5 years of service
- FF Dillard, DE's J. Borowski, Brown, J. Garcia, Krick, T. Mading, Moyer, Odum, Orsolini, Richard, and Youngsman, Lieutenants Forte, Jones, and Szempruch – 10 years of service
- FF Jenks & Deputy Chief McLaughlin – 15 years of service

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**H. Fire Administration – Chief Schuldt**

Chief Schuldt's reports on the following:

- Displayed on the front of the GNFD Headquarters along with the original Golden Gate Fire District plaque is a new dedication plaque memorializing the inception of Greater Naples Fire Rescue District. A similar plaque is hanging at Fire and Life Safety building.
- Chief Schuldt and Director Martin met with Florida Department of Transportation Grant Manager and other officials to facilitate transfer of Ochopee Grant to GNFD. FDOT has agreed to allow GNFD greater flexibility in the management of the operational components of the contract. FDOT would like to see all equipment transferred from Collier County to GNFD. FDOT is going to follow up on the transfer of assets and continue to work with director Martin on that.
- In regards to Isles of Capri, Director Bishop continues working with Collier County to finalize funding and transfer of assets; all should be resolved in the next couple months.
- March 6<sup>th</sup> we are scheduled to bring on 14 new Firefighters for a 3-4 week training session which will help bring up staffing needs due to: retirements, promotions and newly funded positions.

*Chairman Page suggested using an open position to bring on a Communication Specialist/ Public Information Officer. Chief Schuldt agrees that is a much needed position.*

- GNFD partnered with North Collier Fire District and the Florida Forest Service February 6<sup>th</sup> at Station 71 to continue the aggressive public relations campaign to educate citizens living in Golden Gate on the Wildland Urban Interface challenges in their area. Approximately 15 residents attended. On Saturdays, Chief Sapp and crews are busy handing out flyers and meeting people outside local stores & parks to help raise awareness.
- GNFD has started a program to accurately count our monthly interactions with the public. In January we had 765 interactions between the Crews, Chiefs and others.
- The District has placed 13 new light fleet vehicles in-service, including 11 for Fire and Life Safety. The Dossier platform is up and all our work request processes, inventory and vehicle maintenance is running on the new platform. The Training Branch has implemented numerous program and delivery changes. Orientation of changes and responsibilities was delivered in a series of meetings, outlining duties and setting goals for the year.
- The District is pushing forward with our CPSE Accreditation effort, we hosted a three-day workshop last month and are very organized. We have had several internal meetings and are very close to formally roll out our plans to the Board.
- Delivery of the Fire Rescue Boat is expect next week, we have scheduled several weeks of training before the vessel will be placed in service sometime in April/May.
- Chief Hanson was awarded Fire Marshal of the Year by the Florida Fire Chiefs Association. Chief Hanson may be the only person to have received this award from both the FFCA, FFMIA, and State Fire Marshal's Office.
- GNFD is officially a Blue Zone Organization.
- Efforts to up staff/utilize the squads is going well, we continue staffing 3 people at Station 60. Chief Schuldt thanked the Union for their support and cooperation.
- February 24<sup>th</sup> is GNFD's Second Annual Awards & Recognition Ceremony. We expect a great turn out and hope the Commissioners & family can attend.

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

1. AIW – Appointment of District Trustee Seat 2 – Director Bishop

*Commission Cottiers nominated Karl Potteiger to fill District Resident Trustee Seat #2 on the Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan Board of Trustees. Commissioner Page seconded the*

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*nomination. Commissioner Hemping nominated Richard Rumelt – there was no second. Motion passed 8-0.*

**J. Local 2396 Report – Trenton Mading**

- President Trenton Mading agreed with Chief Schuldt's earlier statement that the men and women are very happy to have more training.
- Having a PIO would be very beneficial, we like getting out there talking to people – it's just better & easier when we go out there if we know what we are expected to do and say.
- Merging Unions with North Collier is going very well, we are in process of changing by-laws so we can merge. Although it is not the Local's decision if the two District were to merge, but we are definitely in favor of that.
- After the Awards Ceremony we are renting out a room at Pelican Larry's for any Board Members or Staff that would like to attend.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

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

Commissioner Hemping reported next meeting February 16, 2017 at GNFD Headquarters @ 9:00 am - he will not be able to facilitate the meeting, so either Chairman Page or Commissioner Gerrity will have to step in. Chairman Page agreed. Commissioner Gerrity thanked Commissioner Hemping for setting up the framework and direction of the Task Force. He feels at this time the Task Force needs some direction from the Board. *Commissioner Gerrity made a motion that we as a Board support the Emergency Services Task Force and endorse continued exploration of consolidation and merger opportunities with North Collier Fire District. Commissioner Cottiers second the motion.*

Discussion ensued regarding questions of who makes up the Task Force and what about a countywide consolidation? Chairman Page stated it would be a distraction with our current Ochopee plan - we agreed to focus on getting Ochopee into GNFD, let North Collier work on merging with Immokalee and in the future merge the two Districts together. Chairman Page stated ESTF is not the right platform to discuss mergers. Commissioner Cross agreed with Chairman Page and added he is not fond of the differing millage rates. We need a public campaign to make an even 1.25 countywide millage rate. Commissioner Boyer supports a Countywide Fire District but not with EMS due to financial burden. Commissioner Gerrity stated the Task Forces mission would be to have books analyzed and come up with ideas to help the Board be prepared for another merger. Commissioner Stedman stated he would like to see compression #'s for people & vehicles since the merger, to ensure we are not doing things twice. He is in favor of the Task Force exploring the idea of merging with North Collier and also agrees in a flat millage rate. Commissioner Hemping stated he is very pro-consolidation of emergency services agencies where they increase efficiencies and reduce cost. We should have open discussions with North Collier about working together in areas where we can see common ground. This is the way we worked together with GGFD & ENFD under an interlocal agreement prior to considering and/or drafting a merger plan. Commissioner Cottiers thinks it's a good idea to keep the momentum going and supports the Task Force exploring consolidation and merger opportunities. *Chairman Page call for the vote. Motion passed 8-0.*

**B. Closet Unit Response Agreement – Commissioner Gerrity**

*Commissioner Gerrity made a motion to approve the amendments requested by North Collier Fire District in Closest Unit Response Agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Cottiers.*

- Commissioner Cross questioned that we already signed the agreement. Commissioner Gerrity explained the two changes that are made in the Amendment. The Commissioners continued to discuss different options and why an Amendment was added.
- North Collier Commissioner Burke stated he was ready to sign original Agreement, but their lawyer wanted to change certain language. He is concerned about public safety and would like everyone to sign so all can move forward.
- Commissioner Boyer stated that if one District drops out of Agreement a new Amendment can be made.

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*Commissioner Gerrity amended his original motion to add "If all other Districts sign, we will sign".  
Motion passed 7-1 (Stedman)*

**C. Future Fire Stations – Chief Schuldt**

Commissioner Gerrity stated that we need to give Chief Schuldt more direction on future stations; should the focus be response time or cost savings? Commissioner Stedman stated 4 minute response goal is important – if we can do that yes, if not go separate. Commissioner Cross agrees and wants Chief Schuldt to use his judgement to balance both interests and report to the Board. Commissioner Boyer asked what the Chief's opinion is in regards to building 1 station or 2 stations for the cost of 1 if we co-locate with EMS. Chief Schuldt responded he would follow the direction of the Board. That being said it would be great to share cost with EMS in the locations of our choice. That's probably not going to happen, their choice locations are a mile or two from ours. We need to decide if we want to compromise on response times or move forward to build for our needs at our cost. Chairman Page asked if EMS would co-locate at the locations of our choice. Chief Schuldt responded it is possible. Chairman Page wants GNFD to put together a more detailed analysis of response times and then bring back to the Board.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Disposition of Fixed Assets 17-001 (small equipment) – Chief McLaughlin**

*Motion to dispose of listed property offered by Commissioner Henning, seconded by Commissioner Stedman. Motion Passed 8-0.*

**B. Disposition of Fixed Assets 17-003 (IT equipment) – Chief McLaughlin**

*Motion to dispose of listed property offered by Commissioner Henning, seconded by Commissioner Stedman. Motion Passed 8-0.*

**C. Disposition of Fixed Assets 17-002 (vehicles) – Chief Low**

*Motion to dispose of listed property offered by Commissioner Henning, seconded by Commissioner Stedman. Motion Passed 8-0.*

**D. Resolution 2017-02 Authorization for State of Fl. Unclaimed Funds –Director Bishop**

*Commissioner Henning made a motion to approve staff's recommendation thereby offering Resolution 2017-02 authorizing District Chiefs Officers for adoption. Seconded by Commissioner Cottiers. Motion passed 8-0.*

**E. FDOT MM63 Assignment of Grant – Joint Resolution - Deputy Director Bishop**

*Commissioner Henning made a motion to approve FDOT MM63 Assignment of Grant- Joint Resolution 2017-25. Seconded by Commissioner Boyer. Motion passed 8-0.*

**F. AIW – Board of Fire Commissioners Pay and Benefit Policy Draft – Director Bishop**

*Commissioner Cross motioned to approve staff's recommendation to establish Policy # 903.5. Seconded by Commissioner Henning. Motion passed 8-0.*

**G. AIW – Logistics Facility Lease – Chief McLaughlin**

*Commissioner Henning moved to support Staff's recommendation and authorize the lease of 3900 Mannix Road, Unit 624, for Logistics storage for 7 months. Seconded by Commissioner Stedman. Motion passed 7-1 (Gerrity)*

**H. PILT Funding – Commissioner Henning**

Commissioner Henning gave a brief description of U.S. Code 31 Chapter 6907 – State legislation requiring reallocation or redistribution of payments to smaller units of general purpose government. Commissioner Henning made a motion through legislative action work towards moving funds to Ochopee. Seconded by Commissioner Boyer. Discussion continued on best way to handle. The plan

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decided is 3 year agreement with the Country, at merger time present legislatively to secure DOT & PILT funding. *Motion was withdrawn.*

**I. North Collier Merger Discussion – Commissioner Gerrity**  
Covered under Old Business II.A.

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

- Commissioner Stedman would like to see a report that compares the amount of Administrative/Chief staff and amount of vehicles pre-merger and post-merger and the budget broken down by percentages.
- Commissioner Boyer asked Chief Schuldt if any other Fire Districts have purchased land in our district and why. Chief Schuldt responded that it is his understanding that North Collier Fire District purchased a piece of land that borders our District. Commissioner Boyer is interested in the legality of them spending tax payers' money outside their District buying land.

**K. Public Comments**  
None were noted

**IV. SIGNATURE OF BOARD APPROVED ITEMS**

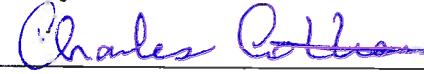
1. GNFD Regular Board Meeting Minutes January 10, 2016
2. Resolution 2017-02
3. Disposition of Fixed Assets 17-001, 17-002, and 17- 003


**V. ADJOURNMENT**

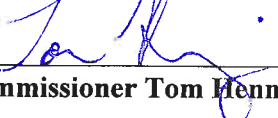
*Commissioner Stedman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 P.M. Commissioner Henning seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*

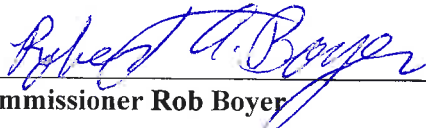
Duly passed with a vote of 6 to 0 and adopted in session on the 14th day of February.


  
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Chairman Jeff Page

  
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Commissioner Charles Cottiers

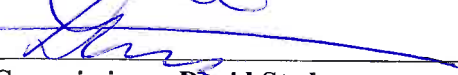
  
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Commissioner Kevin Gerrity

  
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Commissioner Tom Henning

  
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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