



**MINUTES**  
**GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**April 11, 2017**

**MEETING OPENED**

Chairman Page called to order the regular meeting of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners at 5:30 p.m. on April 11, 2017 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Chairman Page, Commissioners Cottiers, Gerrity, Stedman, Hemping and Boyer. Commissioner Cross attended via phone and Commissioner Henning arrived at 5:40 pm. Executive staff in attendance: Chief Schuldt, Assistant Chief Sapp, Deputy Chief Hanson, Chief Low, Chief McLaughlin, Deputy Directors Bishop and Martin. Staff in attendance: Suanne Woeste, Nicole Chesser, Trenton Mading, Chris Tobin, Charlie Heweker, Pastor Jack, Jarett Cotter, Tracey Caparrelli, Tom Purcell, Aldo Trujillo, Christopher Uz, Arifa Sikder, Ingrid Saenz, Jarrett Jimenez. Ryan Mathwich, Brandon Brody, Hunter Sims, Justin Humphrey, David Rotkovich, Jonathan Hamilton, Charles Pinchevsky, Arron Borowski, and Alexandra Blanco. Members of the public included: Donna Dolan and George Ganz, 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 Pastor Jack.

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

Chief Schuldt reported there were a total 9 of Firefighter fatalities for the month of March bringing the total for 2017 to 26, followed by a moment of silence.

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

Director Bishop noted the following addition:

Item I. Chapter 175 Pension Plan Report – Handout distributed

*Commissioner Gerrity made a motion to move III. New Business Items A, B, and C to Consent Agenda. Commissioner Stedman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0 (Commissioner Henning Absent).*

**D. Approval of the Agenda**

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

**E. Approval of the GNFD Board Minutes for March 14, 2017**

*Commissioner Hemping noted error in amount of acres burned in Lee Williams Brush fire should be 7,520 not 75,000. Commissioner Gerrity moved to approve the board minutes as amended for the March 14, 2017 regular BOFC meeting. Commissioner Stedman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. (Commissioner Henning Absent)*

**F. Consent Agenda**

*Commissioner Gerrity moved to approve the consent agenda. 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. Countywide Automatic Aid Agreement
8. Golden Gate Estates Bridge Project Response
9. At-A-Boys and Thank You Notes
  - a. Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District
  - b. Naples Children & Education Foundation
  - c. Governor Rick Scott

**MINUTES**  
**GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**April 11, 2017**

**G. Awards and Recognition:**

A reception was held before today's BOFC meeting to honor and acknowledge new employees: AA Tracey Caparrelli and Firefighters Aldo Trujillo, Christopher Uz, Arifa Sikder, Ingrid Saenz, Jarrett Jimenez. Ryan Mathwich, Brandon Brody, Hunter Sims, Justin Humphrey, David Rotkvich, Jonathan Hamilton, Charles Pinchevsky, Arron Borowski, and Alexandra Blanco. The Firefighters were sworn in and pinned with their GNFD badge.

Chief Schuldt congratulated Inspector Joel Glover on his 1 year anniversary and Assistant Chief Nolan Sapp on his 15 year service award.

**H. Fire Administration – Chief Schuldt**

Chief Schuldt reported on the following:

- There will be a formal Blue Zone “ribbon cutting” at 5:00 pm prior to the May 9<sup>th</sup> BOFC meeting.
- The move in date for Station 76 is May 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will be up and running no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Chief Schuldt has preliminary agreed to move MARC to GNFD. Once complete, GNFD will be one of seven agencies to host the MARC assets. The resource is deployable as part of the Statewide Emergency Response Plan and eligible for reimbursement funding. There will also be annual sustainment funding available for maintenance, training and equipment upgrades. The Board will be presented an agreement for consideration and acceptance in the near future.
- County Collected Fees – all documents from last meeting have been submitted and accepted, we are moving forward with collection of Impact fee for District 5. Chairman Page asked where we are with reviewing past fee schedules for accuracy. Director Bishop stated her and Chief Hanson are working on analysis. After analysis is done we will meet with legal to discuss the best way to handle. Chairman Page stated he would like to attend that meeting.
- Boat 90 has been sent back to the manufacturer in order to appropriately address a number of warranty issues.
- Chief Schuldt pointed out the Swamp Buggy banner displayed on the white board. It was signed by all the drivers as a thank you and to show their appreciation for the excellent work on the wildfires.
- The wildfire is 95% contained; GNFD's cost is around \$86,000. No reimbursement funding is available until a statewide 4.3 million deductible is met or 1.2 million for a single event. After deductible is met anything moving forward is eligible for a Fire Management Assistant Grant (FMAG).
- As of today there are 105 active wildfires currently burning in the state of Florida; 23 of those fires have each burned 100 acres or more. So far this year over 69,000 acres have burned across the state – this is triple the amount last year at this time.
- Earlier today Governor Scott has declared Florida a State of Emergency for wildfire season – moving forward federal funds will be available right away for an incident and Forestry will also have access to the Florida National Guard assets.
- The Cowbell wildfire is currently a Federal fire east of 29, north of 75. Chief Sapp has been attending daily briefings; Forestry is not currently involved. If fire reaches 29, Forestry will take a stand and make strike team available immediately.
- The Union and District through the Swamp Buggy races raised money to go towards rebuilding the 4 homes burned down in the Lee Williams wildfire. The goal is to rebuild the homes using volunteer services at minimum to little cost.

**MINUTES**  
**GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**April 11, 2017**

- I. Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan – Chairman Arroyo**  
Chairman Arroyo reported the 175 Pension Plan annual audit went well and was finished a month early. Next meeting is 9:00 am, May 12, 2017 at GNFD headquarters.
- J. Local 2396 Report – Trenton Mading**  
President Trenton Mading noted the Local 2396 met with Chief Schuldts and his staff last week for a Labor Management meeting where we continue to work out any issues. \$1,300 was raised during the Swamp Buggy Races which the Union evened to \$2,000 to help rebuild the 4 burned down homes.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Emergency Services Task Force Meeting – Commissioner Hemping**  
Commissioner Hemping reported next meeting is April 20th, 2017 at GNFD Headquarters @ 9:00 am. Discussions continue to focus on what recommendations can be made to the different Boards of our Fire Districts in the County relative to further mergers or collaborative efforts across the Fire Districts.
- B. Florida Forest Service and Collier County Fire Departments/Districts 2017 Operational Plan Renewal – Deputy Director Bishop**  
*Commissioner Stedman made a motion to approve the 2017 Operational Plan Renewal as presented by Director Bishop. Seconded by Commissioner Hemping. Motion Passed 8-0.*

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Disposition of Fixed Assets #17-005 SCBA Equipment and 2 Vehicles – Deputy Director Bishop**  
*Moved to Consent Agenda*
- B. Disposition of Fixed Assets #17-006 Misc. Small Equipment – Deputy Director Bishop**  
*Moved to Consent Agenda*
- C. Disposition of Fixed Assets #17-007 Computer Equipment – Deputy Director Bishop**  
*Moved to Consent Agenda*
- D. AIW - Disposition of Fixed Assets 2017-008 –Director Bishop**  
Deputy Director Bishop presented the 3 different requests for the 2 Military Brush trucks GNFD has available for donation. After discussion among the Board, *Commissioner Gerrity made a motion that North Collier Fire District would have first pick to choose one of the trucks. Forestry would have second pick and if a truck is still available the non-profit ministry will have final choice. Commissioner Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passes 8-0.*
- E. Health Care – Commissioner Boyer**  
Commissioner Boyer stated he is dissatisfied with United Health Care services and would like to investigate other providers or look into self-funded insurance. Commissioner Hemping noted there are complex issues that keep getting more complex and costly, there are a limited networks offering group health care. Even if we do go the self-insured route we still have to hook on with a network. Director Bishop noted that at renewal last year GNFD was at a loss ratio of 113% meaning for every dollar we spent - insurance was paying more. Commissioner Gerrity stated he does not think United Health Care is that bad compared to what is out there.
- F. AIW – Wildfire Donations – Deputy Director Bishop**

**MINUTES**  
**GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**April 11, 2017**

Deputy Director Bishop advised the Board of the generous donations and support GNFD has received from the public due to the Lee Williams Wildfire. GNFD is currently in process of setting up our 501 c (3) status for tax deductible contributions and once established the donated funds will be transferred. Commissioner Henning made a motion to accept the donated funds. Commissioner Hemping seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

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

- Commissioner Cottiers stated he had issues with command during the Lee Williams Wildfire, he believes Chief Schuldt should have been in town the whole time and should not have forced Chief Sapp to attend ESLI training with him under the circumstances. During a wildfire this big the Fire Chief should be here to take command. Chairman Page stated that he is the one that approves Chief Schuldt's travel, if that is something the Board wants to discuss. Commissioner Henning disagrees with Commissioner Cottiers stating he has full confidence in all the BCs. Chief Schuldt responded that he left town on Monday morning when things were under control and returned ASAP when the fire took a turn for the worse –he was back Tuesday by 4:00 pm. Commissioner Boyer and other Board members stated they would like a text to know when Chief Schuldt is out of town and who is in charge. Commissioner Cross stated too much is being made of the situation and that the Chief reports to Chairman Page. After much discussion Chief Schuldt will still continue to report travel to the Chairman and in cases of fire/conflict, updates will be passed onto Board members.
- Commissioner Henning stated that voters in the state of Florida have voted to purchase conservation land which could present a problem for Emergency Management. We need to make sure those lands are maintained and or have the ability for funding emergency services. There should be a policy to have funds set aside for controlled burns and things like that.
- Commissioner Boyer mentioned the problems Immokalee is having with their Fire Chief and would like to know what checks and balances we have in place other than Director Bishop, so that doesn't happen to us. Chief Schuldt stated how all checks need two signatures and that he never signs a check with his name on it. Chairman Page stated that he believes we have a well working checks and balance system.
- Commissioner Gerrity thanked Chief Sapp for his 15 years of service and noted what a great asset he is to Greater Naples Fire Rescue District, he is proud to work with him.

**J. Public Comments**

None were noted

**IV. SIGNATURE OF BOARD APPROVED ITEMS**

1. Board Minutes March 14, 2017 – Regular Meeting
2. Disposition of Fixed Assets 17-005
3. Disposition of Fixed Assets 17-006
4. Disposition of Fixed Assets 17-007
5. Disposition of Fixed Assets 17-008

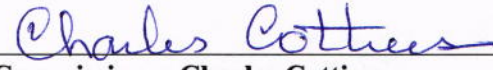
**V. ADJOURNMENT**

*Commissioner Boyer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Commissioner Stedman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.*

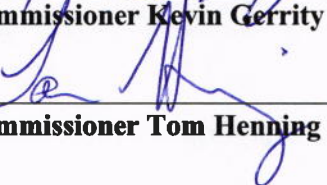
**MINUTES  
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
April 11, 2017**


Duly passed with a vote of 8 to 0 and adopted in session on the 11th day of April.

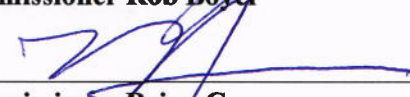
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman Jeff Page**

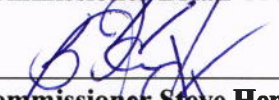
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner Charles Cottiers**

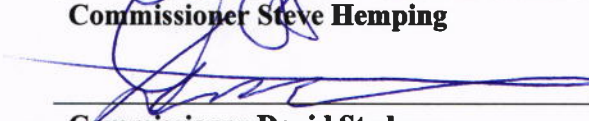
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner Kevin Gerrity**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner Tom Henning**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner Rob Boyer**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner Brian Cross**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner Steve Hemping**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Commissioner David Stedman**