



MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
June 13, 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 pm. On June 13, 2017 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Chairman Page, Commissioners Boyer, Cottiers, Cross, Gerrity, Hemping, Stedman and Henning (5:40). Executive staff in attendance: Chief Schuldt, Chief Sapp, Chief Low, Chief McLaughlin and Director Martin. Staff in attendance: Suanne Woeste, Nicole Chesser, Judy Schleiffer, Trenton Mading, Charlie Heweker, Jarett Cotter, Kevin Nelmes, Mark Records, William Douglass, Corey Nelson, Robert Oxar, Jason Seller, Justin Leal, Jose Garcia, Matt Trent, Ray Kilmer, Scott Wilson, Brandon Bunting, Daniel Sawyer and Jason Bright. Members of the public included: Pastor David Wildman, Dave MacGregor, Jim Burke, Eloy Ricardo, Tabatha Butcher and WINK news. 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 David Wildman.

B. Line of Duty Deaths Reading and Moment of Silence

Chief Schuldt reported there were a total of 9 Firefighter fatalities for the month of May bringing the total for 2017 to 44, followed by a moment of silence.

C. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Chief Schuldt noted the following: Agenda Item F. 5. b) a handout was given to replace page 35. Agenda Item F. 7. b) moved under Agenda Item G. Awards and Recognition.

D. Approval of the Agenda

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

E. Approval of the GNFD Special Board Minutes for May 9, 2017

Commissioner Hemping noted misspelling of name in attendance. Correction will be made. *Commissioner Stedman moved to accept the minutes as amended. Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. (Henning Absent).*

F. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the consent agenda as amended. Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. (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
 - a. Marco Island Senior Squadron Civil Air Patrol – Thank you
 - b. Recognition for Wildfire Assistance: Living Word Family Church, St. Agnes Catholic Church, Florida's Southern Gulf Chapter of the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army. *(Moved to Awards and Recognition)*

G. Awards and Recognition:

Chief Schuldt presented the following employees with Service Awards:

AAs: Judy Schleiffer and Suanne Woeste – 1 year anniversary

FFs: Justin Leal, Robert Oxar, Daniel Wilcox & Nick Taylor – 1 year anniversary

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Lead Mechanic Mark Records – 1 year anniversary
Not in attendance - FFs: Dennis DiSarro & Romain Favier – 1 year anniversary

Firefighter Scott Jacobs (not in attendance) – 5 year service award
Lieutenant Matthew Nixon – 15 year service award

Not in attendance: DEs Alan Bowers & Andrew Sanchez – 15 year service award
Chief Schuldt congratulated DE Jerry Hooks (not in attendance) on his promotion.

H. District Growth Projections – Director Martin

Special Guest Speaker Collier County's Chief Hearing Examiner Mark Strain presented a very informative slide show on the future growth projections in Collier County. Highlighted were future developments (commercial & residential), population increases, traffic patterns, and other changes that would directly affect Greater Naples Fire Rescue District.

I. Fire Administration – Chief Schuldt

Chief Schuldt reported on the following:

- The Fire District's 2016 Annual Report was completed and made public, a hard copy was presented to the Board.
- Deputy Chief Hanson was accepted into IAFC Diversity Executive Leadership Program. It is a two year program that aims to provide the tools necessary to become national leaders in the fire and emergency service and the IAFC.
- The week of June 18th – 24th is the International Association of Fire Chiefs national safety week. A week to focus on Firefighters Safety, Health and Survival, an opportunity to review important materials and discuss with crews how we will continue to strive and improve in these areas.
- Driver Engineer promotional testing will be in August, we currently have 2 vacancies.
- Boat 90 was placed in-service on May 8th, a formal dedication was held on May 26th at Fire Station 90 with approximately 80 people in attendance. Boat 90 responded to 5 incidents its first weekend out.
- Staff continues to work closely with local and State partners to secure available reimbursement funding for the 30th Ave. Wildfire.
- Collier County has lifted the burn ban.
- Greater Naples Fire Foundation has submitted the Foundation's Articles of Incorporation and has been issued a Federal EIN number. Last thing staff is waiting on is approval of its non-profit status by the IRS.
- GNFD and County Plans Review staff met to discuss current actions and future needs. County Plans Review turnaround time is approximately 5 to 6 business days and GNFD Fire Inspections are scheduled and completed within one to two business days.
- Official correspondence was distributed to North Collier Fire Control District regarding the Board's desire to enter into formal discussion regarding future joint

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staffing options. An invite was additionally extended to the City of Naples for consideration. A tentative meeting date has been scheduled for June 16th.

- Preparation for the 2017 -2018 Budget is underway. The District received preliminary ad valorem revenues for the upcoming year. Staff has developed an initial budget schedule and initiated preparation to identify projects in accordance with Board direction and established policies.
- *Commissioner Stedman asked Chief Schuldt why staffing at Rescue 72 is only at 16%. Chief Schuldt stated R-72 is staffed with different criteria of personnel qualifications than SQ- 21, R-72 needs a DE on staff. Once the DE promotional testing is complete we will be able to raise the numbers.*
- *Commissioner Gerrity questioned the overtime compensation that was paid to Chief Schuldt for the 30th Ave. Fire. He stated that the Chief has an employment agreement that supersedes any policy and he should not receive any extra pay. Commissioner Gerrity also expressed concern that the pay associated with Policy #902.3, should have been approved by the Board. Chief Schuldt responded that he was paid according to the policy approved by the Board. For the record Chief Schuldt stated – On 11/10 (15) the Board approved the Policy 902.3 State of Emergency – Employee Scheduling and Compensation- I wrote the policy which states “Any employee who is exempt from overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, *except* the District Fire Chief, will be compensated as follows...” The minutes from the 11/10/15 BOFC Meeting state “Director Bishop presented the State of Emergency Compensation – Exempt Employees Policy to the Board. Chairman Page had concerns over the Chief being exempt; it does not go along with other agencies, he would like clarification. Chief Schuldt recommended passage of this policy in the event there would be an emergency, management compensation would be covered. After discussion it was decided the policy could be amended at any time.*

11/10/2015 - Commissioner Cross moved to approve the State of Emergency Compensation – Exempt Employees Policy #902.3 as presented. Commissioner Hemping seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

*12/9/15 Director Bishop presented the revised Employee Scheduling and Compensation Policy #902.3. The concerns of the CBA have been addressed and the Fire Chief is *not* excluded in the provisions of pay during a State Emergency. Commissioner Gerrity moved to approve the revised Employee Scheduling and Compensation Policy #902.3. Commissioner Cottiers seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0.*

For the record Chief Schuldt read the Minutes from the 12/9/15 BOFC Meeting. More discussion about language in Policy #902.3 continued among the Board. Commissioner Cross made a motion to clarify that yes the Chief does have an employment agreement but the Board passed a Policy (#902.3) that during a State of Emergency nonexempt employees (Command Staff) and the Fire Chief will be compensated straight time during a State of Emergency. Commissioner Boyer seconded the motion.

After more discussion among the Board. Motion passed 7-1 (Gerrity).

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J. Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan – Chairman Arroyo
President Manny Arroyo reported in the second quarter of FY 16 – 17 the Chapter 175 Firefighter' Pension Plan earned \$960,000 or plus 3.8% net and ranked in the top 31st percentile. Next Quarterly Meeting is Friday August 11, 2017 at 9:00 am at GNFD's headquarters.

K. Local 2396 Report – Trenton Mading

- Article 57 - Station Assignments was ratified by the Union and they are looking forward to the Board's ratification tonight.
- President Mading and other Union board members attended the FPF Convention.
- Asked the Board if there can be a workshop to get action started on working with other local district in regards to prevention, maintenance and training as discussed in the ESTF Meetings.
- Meetings with North Collier's Union continue and merger is still moving forward.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Emergency Services Task Force Meeting – Commissioner Hemping

- Next meeting is Thursday, June 15th at 9:00am.
- Handout was distributed that provided areas that GNFD may yield benefit by working in collaboration with other fire rescue agencies. After discussion the list was prioritized to the following order: 1) Operational Staffing Strategies 2) Life Safety Management 3) Training and Professional Development 4) Information Technology 5) Fleet Maintenance 6) Facilities Management 7) Strategic Planning for long-term merger.
- Commissioner Gerrity stated we need to make staffing at Station 24/47 a priority, followed by Station 76.

B. AIW – Ochopee Budget Allocation Reporting – Director Bishop/ Chief Schuld

Chief Schuld presented the Ochopee Budget Summary as prepared by Director Bishop. The summary is a comparison of budgeted costs to actual cost through May 31, 2017. It was noted that personnel costs are the average cost of 24 people.

C. AIW – Fire Sparkler / Fire Work Tent Sales – Deputy Chief Hanson / Chief Schuld
Chief Schuld presented the Sparkler/ Fireworks Tent Sales worksheet as prepared by Chief Hanson.

- All tents selling seasonal sparklers will be inspected by Fire & Life Safety (FLS) staff for compliance with Florida Fire Prevention Code Tent requirements.
- Steps are in process to include Collier County Code Enforcement's assistance with enforcing Collier County's Land Development Code (LDC).
- All firework and sparkler tent applications will be reviewed by Chief Hanson, to ensure compliance with all the State Fire Marshal's (SFM) licensing requirements and review of the seller's product list to ensure all product is on the SFM approved sparkler list. If not compliant temporary permit will not be issued.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. CBA Station Assignment Article Ratification – Chief Schuld

Commissioner Stedman moved to ratify Article 57 as presented. Commissioner Gerrity seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. (Henning Absent).

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B. Florida Forest Service Mitigation Partnership – Chief Schuldt

Commissioner Cottiers made a motion to approve staff's recommendation to support the Florida Forest Service wildland mitigation efforts and authorize staff to commit up to \$6,000.00 for the procurement of fuels and lubricants for the purpose of fueling Forestry machinery operating within the jurisdictional boundaries of Greater Naples. Commissioner Stedman seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. (Henning Absent).

C. IAFC Media Project – Commissioner Gerrity / Commissioner Stedman

Commissioner Stedman asked what the larger payment of approximately \$19,000.00 to IAFC is for. Chief Schuldt responded that after being chosen by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) to be showcase at this year's annual conference, GNFD was made aware IAFC would be making a media presentation about GNFD. Part of the presentation would be a promotional video showcasing GNFD which we would pay for and have the rights to the video. It will be aired daily to the thousands of attendees, posted on the IAFC website and be an excellent marketing tool for GNFD to use for District promotion, recruiting, etc.

D. Board's Authority of the Fire Chief – Commissioner Gerrity

Commissioner Gerrity stated that all Commissioner on the Board have equal standing and no Commissioner alone can give direction to the Fire Chief. Commissioner Page agreed, but noted that he does sign off on Chief Schuldt's travel and expenditures.

E. Topics Initiated by the Board of Fire Commissioners

- Commissioner Cross stated his firm is representing a family member of the GNFD Command Staff.
- Commissioner Cross noted that he asked the gentleman from WINK news why he was here filming the Board meeting. He was told that they received an email saying there was going to be big news about Chief Schuldt accepting improper overtime payment for the wildfires. Commissioner Cross noted there was absolutely nothing improper about the Chief's payment which was made in accordance to the Policy signed by the Board.
- Commissioner Boyer stated he will be on vacation for next Board meeting but would like to attend via phone. There were no objections from the other Board members.
- Commissioner Stedman noted when he first became a Commissioner and was Treasurer he found out he doesn't have the authority not to sign a check even if he thought it was an improper use of funds, only thing he can do is make a note of it and bring before the Board to discuss.
- Chairman Page noted a rift at the recent Board meetings and hopes we can get past it. He is willing to do what he can to help facilitate us all working together.

F. Public Comments

- North Collier's Assistant Chief Eloy Ricardo stated he has been assigned by Chief Cunningham to work with GNFD in any way possible. He also stated there is no problem starting work on the list that was present by the Emergency Service Task Force.

IV. SIGNATURE OF BOARD APPROVED ITEMS


1. Board Minutes May 9, 2017
2. Article 57 – Station Assignments

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V. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Stedman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 pm. Commissioner Boyer seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. (Henning Absent).

Duly passed with a vote of 8 to 0 and adopted in session on the 13th day of June.



Chairman Jeff Page




Commissioner Charles Cottiers



Commissioner Kevin Gerrity



Commissioner Tom Henning




Commissioner Rob Boyer



Commissioner Brian Cross



Commissioner Steve Hemping



Commissioner David Stedman