



MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
April 9, 2019

I. MEETING OPENED

Chairman Henning called to order the regular meeting of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners meeting at 5:30pm., on April 9, 2019 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Commissioners Henning, Page, Cottiers, Gerrity, and Stedman. Executive Staff in attendance: Director Bishop, Deputy Chiefs Hanson, Low, and Martin. Staff in attendance: Suanne Woeste and Nicole Chesser. Public in attendance: Kevin Nelmes, George Danz, Chris Tobin, Matthew Trent, Joshua Grimm, Vaughn Palmateer, Jeff Davenport, Tommy Jordan, Jarett Cotter, Jeff Kern, Rusty Godette, Joey Brown and Justin Beasley. Others were in attendance but did not sign in.

A. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Chairman Henning 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

Deputy Chief Martin reported there were a total of 5 firefighter fatalities for the month of March, bringing the total for 2019 to 10, followed by a moment of silence.

C. Consent Agenda

Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

1. Treasurer's Report – Director Bishop
2. Policy 902.2 Meeting Room Usage by Outside Organizations (Revision)
3. Disposition of Fixed Assets 19-004

D. Approval, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

- Director Bishop requested III. New Business, Item D. Property Acquisition, be removed from Agenda.
- Chairman Henning requested a New Item: Battalion Chief's Allegations, be added to the agenda immediately following Awards and Recognition.

Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Commissioner Page seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

E. Approval of the GNFD Board Minutes for March 12, 2019

Commissioner Stedman moved to approved minutes as presented. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

F. Awards and Recognition

Deputy Chief Martin recognized the following employees:

- 15 Year Service Award: Lead Mechanic Popiol
- 5 Year Service Award: DE Palmateer
- 1 Year Service Award: FF's Frazier and Suarez-Murias
- Probation Completed: Mechanic Matthew Day

G. Battalion Chief's Allegations – Chairman Henning

- Chairman Henning asked the other Board members if they received a packet containing information alleging 2 separate incidents of improprieties by the District. All Commissioner confirmed.



MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
April 9, 2019

- This Board takes any report of alleged misappropriation of public funds seriously. To ensure that this matter is thoroughly investigated, Chairman Henning proposed that the District expand the scope of work with its existing auditor to review and investigate the claims.
- To ensure transparency, Chairman Henning proposed that the BOFC appoint a Fire Commissioner to work with the auditor and if necessary legal counsel, and be the liaison with the BOFC.
- The auditor's report will be presented to the BOFC upon its completion. I do not believe the report will show that District staff acted inappropriately, I believe that this review is necessary to validate their work and move this agency forward.
- Commissioner Page stated when people make serious allegations such as these; if allegations are not legitimate those making them should be held accountable if allegations were malicious intent.
- Commissioner Cottiers agreed we should have an outside agency look into allegations, so the Board can address immediately.
- Commissioner Gerrity stated he received these complaints and a similar packet from a citizen which he forwarded to the auditor. He believes these are serious allegations and feels the people bringing them forward are doing so in good faith. The Board should make a statement to encourage employees to bring forward any information and reassure them they will be protected from repercussions.

Commissioner Stedman made a motion to appoint a Commissioner to work with the auditor and if necessary legal counsel, and be the liaison with the Board of Fire Commissioners. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed.

Commissioner Page nominated Stedman. Cottiers seconded. Stedman declined. Henning nominated Page, Page declined. Page nominated Henning. Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

- Commissioner Gerrity wants the Board to make a statement that employees bringing forward information will not be retaliated against.
- District Attorney Rey Velazquez stated there are laws in place to protect employees who bring information forward in good faith.

Commissioner Gerrity made a motion that any employee who brings information forward and talks to the investigators will not suffer any adverse repercussions. Page seconded for discussion. Motion failed 2-3 (Page, Henning, and Stedman).

H. Fire Chief's Report

Deputy Chief Martin presented Chief Schuldt's report as submitted.

He also added that Linda Swisher will be retiring after 35 years; there will be a celebration on April 25, 2019 at noon in Everglades City.

I. Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan

No report submitted.

J. Local 2396 Report - President Kevin Nelmes

- Focusing on the positives, I would like to thank Deputy Chief Rob Low and Inspector Brian Mading for co-supporting and printing the PTSD and suicide



MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
April 9, 2019

prevention materials. Thanks to LT. Daniel Sawyer for his dedicated efforts in rolling out the Station Check Program.

- Positive movement and positive communication continue in negotiations and meetings with Chief Schuldt and Fire Commissioners.
- The Unions is in full support of MM 63 funding.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. 6:02 pm - Chair Henning announced scheduled time specific Attorney/Client Session.

Chairman Henning read the following statement: As requested by the District's Counsel, there will be a closed door attorney-client meeting to discuss settlement negotiations strategy related to litigation brought forward by Christian Tobin, Matthew Trent, Jeff Davenport, Andy Krajewski, Corey Nelson, and Forrest Campbell vs Greater Naples Fire Rescue District; that should last no more than three and a half hours.

The attendees of the session are: Governing Board Members, Executive Office: Fire Chief, Kingman Schuldt via telephone, District Counsel: Rey Velazquez, and a court reporter. The session will be closed to the public pursuant to Section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes. At the conclusion of the closed-door attorney-client session, I will reopen the public meeting and terminate the attorney-client session.

The public meeting is now recessed, the Board, Executive Officer, and District Counsel will now meet in the Command Post for the closed-door session.

6:58 pm – Chairman Henning stated the public meeting is reopened and the closed-door attorney-client session is terminated.

B. Storm Shutters – Chief Schuldt

Presented for information only.

C. Communication Chain of Command – Chairman Henning

Chairman Henning and Union President Nelmes met for discussion about the chain of command in the organization; here at GNFD there seems to a need to go beyond that. Chairman Henning is going to put together an agenda on the Communication Chain of Command and present at a future meeting. No action is needed at this time.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. AIW – Resolution 2019-03 Adoption of the County LMS Strategy

Commissioner Gerrity moved to approve staff's recommendation and move for adoption of Resolution 2019-03. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

B. AIW – Reserve Fund Investments

Commissioner Cottiers moved to approve staff's recommendation and place presentations on the May meeting Agenda. Commissioner Gerrity seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Stedman asked the Board if they could move to Item E. 1, as he has to leave and wants to vote on this item. The Board had no objections.

C. AIW – Collier Re-Fueling Agreement

Commissioner Cottiers moved to accept staff's recommendation thereby entering into a re-fueling Interlocal with Collier County. Commissioner Gerrity seconded. Motion passed 4-0.



MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
April 9, 2019

D. AIW – Property Acquisition
 Removed from agenda.

E. AIW – Cell tower Agreement
1. Station 71, 13th Street S.W.

Director Bishop stated the District has been contacted by several different agencies representing Verizon and T-Mobile in efforts to renegotiate the current contracts. The different options were presented.

- Commissioner Stedman opposed selling the tower as he has in the past. The math does not work and the District is not in dire financial difficulty where the money is needed. Commissioner Cottiers agreed.
- Director Bishop directed the Board a decision will still need to be made for when the current contract expires in 2020.

Commissioner Gerrity made a motion to accept staff's recommendation and authorize staff to continue to work with Vendors and seek legal review. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5 - 0.

Commissioner Stedman left meeting at 7:10pm

2. Proposed Cell Tower @ 40808 E. Tamiami Trail

Commissioner Gerrity made a motion to accept staff's recommendation authorizing staff to work with Collier County and AT&T on an agreement. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

F. Public Comment
 None,

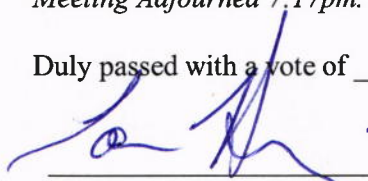
G. Comments by Commissioners

- Commissioner Cottiers thanked everyone for coming.
- Commissioner Henning referenced Policy #901.5/ Board of Fire Commissioner Rules of Procedure dated 1/12/2016. After discussion it is noted that is not the most updated Policy. Policy will be updated as soon as possible on website.

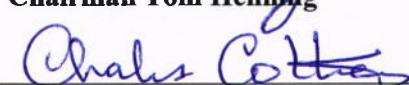
IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gerrity made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 4-0. Meeting Adjourned 7:17pm.

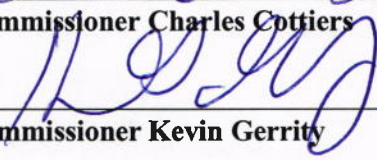
Duly passed with a vote of 4 to 0 and adopted in session on the 14th day May 2019.



Chairman Tom Henning



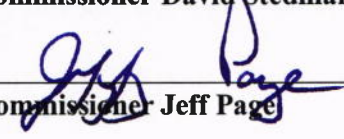
Commissioner Charles Cottiers



Commissioner Kevin Gerrity

Absent

Commissioner David Stedman



Commissioner Jeff Page