



**MINUTES  
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
July 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 July 9, 2019 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Commissioners Henning, Page, Cottiers, Gerrity, and Stedman. Executive Staff in attendance: Fire Chief Schuldt, Assistant Chief Sapp, Director Bishop, Deputy Chiefs Martin and Hanson. Staff in attendance: Suanne Woeste and Nicole Chesser. Public in attendance Rey Velazquez, Joey Brown, Jarett Cotter, Kevin Nelmes, George Danz, Khris Klock, Jeff Davenport, 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**

Chief Schuldt reported there were a total of 5 firefighter fatalities for the month of June, bringing the total for 2019 to 244, followed by a moment of silence.

**C. Request for Attorney/Client Closed Door Session**

Attorney Rey Velazquez stated Pursuant to section 286.011(8), Florida Statutes, I am advising the Governing Board that I desire advice regarding settlement negotiations strategy in the matter of Christian Tobin, Matthew Trent, Jeff Davenport, Andy Krajewski, Corey Nelson and Forrest Campbell v. Greater Naples Fire Rescue District, Middle District Court, Civil Action No. 2:18-cv-616-FtM-99MRM. The subject matter shall be confined to the pending litigation. Notice of the closed-door attorney/client session time specific July 9, 2019 at 6:00pm. has been published.

**D. Consent Agenda**

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

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Disposition of Fixed Assets 19-006

**E. Approval, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

Director Bishop added a handout titled Budget Comparison FY 2018-2019, to be added to the Treasurer's Report as page 15a. *Commissioner Page moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

**F. Approval of the GNFD Board Minutes for June 11, 2019**

*Commissioner Page moved to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

**G. Awards and Recognition**

None

**H. Fire Chief's Report**

Chief Schuldt presented report as submitted and added the following:

- The District has been working with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to develop an agreement for funding Fire Station 63. There is a verbal agreement that it will be retroactively approved to July 1, 2019.



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- The District has been working with several insurance industry professionals to secure an ancillary insurance plan to provide coverage to our firefighters as required under Senate Bill 426. There are several proposals currently under review of the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation however.
- The Investigative Section/Fire & Life Safety Branch continues to be very busy with overall increasing numbers. Currently the average wait time for an inspection is two days. Life Safety continues working hard to achieve a 24 hour turn around for an inspection.
- F&LS also did a great job this past Independence Day, monitoring the fire tent sales, ensuring only legal fireworks were sold. No injuries were reported.
- Fleet costs continue to rise due to corrosion repairs. This is an on-going issue with several of the Pierce trucks purchased over the recent years. Staff continues to challenge Ten-8 for repairs to be covered under the warranty.
- GNFD provided automatic aid 92 times in the month of June and received automatic aid 36 times.
- Station 20's HVAC costs \$3,000 to repair. *Page asked how old the unit is.* Schuldt – Approximately 25 years. Discussion continued about replacing versus repair. Chief Schuldt stated that Station 20 is totally being evaluated to bring up standards. *Henning- Due to our firefighters being in station 20, we need to budget for the life span of the air conditioners for replacement. It is cost of doing business, they cannot be without A/C in the summer time. Page – Is there a capital improvement plan where you look at life expectancy of capital replacement items?* Schuldt – Yes, it is identified in our capital reserves. Discussion about repairs and service contracts continued. *Gerrity- Per policy we are supposed to budget 50% of our increase into a capital reserve fund that would be used for items like A/C. Page – Requested meeting with DC McLaughlin on some of these issues.* Schuldt – Agreed and asked that DC Martin also be included.

**I. Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan**

No report submitted.

**J. Local 2396 Report - President Kevin Nelmes**

- During Labor Management special management services and on-going maintenance was discussed. This is something the Union would support and it would be a benefit to all.
- Last month's state convention was a good exchange of information from the state and insurance companies. Deputy Chief Low also participated
- Looking to meet with Director Bishop this week to work on the 175 Plan and the DROP.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Closed Door Attorney/Client Session**

Chairman Henning read the following statement at 6:00pm: As requested by the District's Counsel, there will be a closed door attorney-client meeting to discuss



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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, 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.

**6:53 pm – Chairman Henning stated the public meeting is reopened and the closed-door attorney-client session is terminated.**

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. AIW- Resolution 2019-04 Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement**

*Commissioner Gerrity made a motion to accept staff's recommendation thereby adopting the 2018 Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement and Resolution 2019-04. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

#### **B. AIW- MARC Unit Purchase Request**

*Commissioner Gerrity moved to authorize the purchase totaling \$63,082.80 with reimbursement from the FY 2017 SHSP grant agreement. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0*

#### **C. FDOT – MM63 Agreement**

Director Bishop stated the MM63 Agreement is still with the Florida Department of Transportation's legal team. There is a verbal agreement that it will be retroactively approved to July 1, 2019.

*Commissioner Gerrity asked if Collier County will be reimbursing GNFD on the 10% cost match and if not will we be obligated to pay it, if the County does not? Schuldt – Staff is currently working with the County for a new Interlocal Agreement for the Ochopee service area and language will be included in that to cover the 10%.*

#### **D. AIW – Acceptance of FY 17-18 Annual Budget**

*Commissioner Cottiers moved to accept staff's recommendation thereby accepting the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's Financial Report for Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2018 into official record as presented by Grau & Associates dated June 21, 2019. Commissioner Page seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

#### **E. AIW – 2018 SHSGP Grant – Marc Unit Region 6 Agreement**

*Commissioner Cottiers moved to authorize execution of the FY 2018 SHSGP grant agreement R001. Commissioner Gerrity seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

#### **F. AIW – Future Commissioner Election Process**

Chairman Henning stated the current language in the Special Act, Article IV Governing Board, Section 4.02 is not clear and can be seen as an equal representation issue.

One way to correct would be redistricting. Another way is ask the Legislators to change the



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language and make all District Seats, elected at-large. Stedman - We don't want to do redistricting. Page – We tried this before and spent \$11,000. Gerrity – During negotiations for the East Naples/Golden Gate merger, residents and community associations were adamant they wanted to maintain close representation. This was a key point for both Districts. Director Bishop clarified that in 2016, making all District Seats elected at-large was opposed at the State's Local Delegation Level by Representative Matt Hudson. Hudson stated the merger had just gone through and he was not going to support at-large language at this time. Chairman Henning asked how the Board would like to proceed. Discussion continued regarding options, costs, and opinions.

*Commissioner Page made a motion to revive the provisions Legislation attempt to make all Commissioner Positions at-large and direct Staff to meet with previous Attorney used and bring language up to date.* Director Bishop stated the motion made in September 2017 was: To proceed with Bill drafting for the 2018 Legislative Session to include at-large Commissioner seats and a codified enabling act to include all boundaries. *Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed 3-2 (Cottiers, Gerrity)*

**G. Public Comments items not listed on the Agenda**

None

**H. Comments by Commissioners**

- Commissioner Gerrity – Budget time is getting close – in this economy we should not be spending into reserves. We need to follow policy and put ½ of our increase into reserves for capital expenditures and debt reduction.
- Commissioner Gerrity – Great job to Chief Hanson and staff on controlling the fireworks in our District.
- Chairman Henning – Ochopee does not have to go to voters because it is a MSTU, However the funding source will need to be addressed.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

*Commission Page made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

Duly passed with a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and adopted in session on the 13<sup>th</sup> day August 2019.

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**Chairman Tom Henning**

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**Commissioner David Stedman**

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**Commissioner Charles Cottiers**

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**Commissioner Jeff Page**

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**Commissioner Kevin Gerrity**