



**MINUTES  
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
April 14, 2020**

**I. MEETING OPENED**

Chairman Page called to order the regular meeting of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners meeting at 5:30pm, on April 14, 2020 via teleconference on Zoom.us. Present on line were Commissioners Henning, Page, Cottiers, Stedman, and Gerrity. Executive Staff on line: Fire Chief Schuldt, Director Bishop, Assistant Chiefs Hanson, Low, and Martin. Staff on line: Suanne Woeste, Nicole Chesser, Kevin Nelmes and Caleb Morris. Public on line: George Danz.

**A. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

Chairman Page opened the meeting. Commissioner Gerrity led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation.

**Director Bishop read the State of Florida Executive Order Number 20-69 (Emergency Management – COVID-19 –Local Government Public Meetings) issued by the Office of the Governor, Ron DeSantis on March 1, 2020.**

**Chairman Page conducted a roll call of the Commissioners attending virtually. All Commissioner present.**

**Chief Schuldt stated he will facilitate the meeting with the help of Chairman Page and Director Bishop.**

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

Chief Schuldt reported there were a total of 4 firefighter fatalities for the month of March, bringing the total for 2020 to 17, followed by a moment of silence.

**C. Consent Agenda**

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

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Resolution 2020-07 Local Mitigation Strategy Adoption
3. Recorded Interlocal Agreement between Collier County and GNFD
4. Ratify Resolution 2020-06 State of Emergency (COVID-19)

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

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

**E. Approval of the GNFD Board Minutes for March 10, 2020**

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

**F. Fire Chief's Report**

Chief Schuldt presented report as submitted and added the following:

- Updated numbers of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths due to COVID-19
- Working with Sheriff's office and EMS to keep PPE in stock
- Working on in-house sanitization process to sanitize equipment in house as long as it was not in direct contact with COVID-19



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- ALS swap program has been suspended. The ALS credentialing was suspended; new terms were established and 10 of our 14 new paramedics have been credentialed as engine paramedics, the other 4 are in process.
- Civilian employees have been working remote approximately 50% of the time. No GNFD employees are out of work due to COVID-19
- Susan Morris and Pat Meulenberg recently retired after very long and established careers with the Fire District

*Chairman Page stated he would prefer new masks continue to be issued out of stock while available, instead of being sanitized.*

Chief Schuldt explained the masked would be sanitized after a shift and then be given back to same employee next shift after it has been sanitized.

*Commissioner Gerrity envisions it working well as the Chief described.*

*Commissioners Henning and Cottiers trust in Staff to use the best practice.*

Chief Schuldt stated discussions will continue with Staff and NCFD; there is no indication we will be receiving any more supplies.

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

- Director Bishop stated 2 applications were received for the open seat on the Pension Board. Both candidates and the 175 Pension Plan Administrator understand appointing someone is on hold due to COVID-19.
- Chairman Tim Sims provided a written report in BOFC packet.

**H. Local 2396 Report**

No written report provided.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. AIW- Emergency Accrued Leave Pay Out**

Director Bishop presented the different options offered in the COVID-19 Employee Relief Leave Buyback Program.

*Commissioner Henning made a motion to accept Option 2. Commissioner Cottiers seconded.*

Discussion followed regarding Retirees, Labor Attorney approval, Civilian Employees, Union approval and more.

*Commissioner Henning amended his motion for the Fire Chief to obtain acceptance of the program from the bargaining unit members. Commissioner Cottiers seconded motion passed. 5-0.*

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

- George Danz requested the names of the candidates for the 175 Pension Plan seat. Director Bishop responded that information will be send over.



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**C. Comments by Commissioners**

- Commissioner Henning thanked staff, employees and the Fire Chief for doing a fine job working to keep everyone safe.
- Commissioner Gerrity also thanked staff for reaching out and trying to help employees in this tough economical time. In the spirit of helping, I hope we can get the Union contract settled.
- Commissioner Cottiers thanked staff, the Fire Chief, and everyone for all they are doing.
- Chairman Page appreciates the operational restrictions that have been made in regard to “Status F” and nursing home calls.

Chief Schuldt thanked all for stepping up and working through these very challenging times. If anyone need cloth masks we have had many donations and they are available at HQ. If Executive Order 20-69 stands we will hold May’s BOFC meeting via Zoom.us.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

*Commissioner Cottiers made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gerrity seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned.*

Duly passed with a vote of 5 to 0 and adopted in session on the 12<sup>th</sup> day May 2020.

  
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Chairman Jeff Page

  
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Commissioner Tom Henning

  
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Commissioner Charles Cottiers

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Commissioner David Stedman

  
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Commissioner Kevin Gerrity

**Approved verbally during BOFC meeting held on Zoom.**