



**MINUTES**  
**GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**May 12, 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 May 12, 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 Josh Grimm. Public on line: George Danz.

**A. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

*Commissioner Gerrity made a motion to skip the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

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

Chief Schuldt reported there were a total 12 of firefighter fatalities for the month of April, bringing the total for 2020 to 30, 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

**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 April 14, 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.
- GNFD crews have responded to 398 Status "F" type incidents involving persons experiencing general flu like symptoms. The District continues to closely monitor employees who have been in potential contact with COVID-19 patients. To date the District has not experienced any work-related positive tests of employees.
- This month administrative staff remains a modified workforce.
- The District and Union reached tentative agreement on a new contract. Contract will be brought before the Board after Union ratification.
- *Commissioner Gerrity stated we need look at cutting spending now so we have future funds. We need to do something to build up reserves.*
  - Chief Schuldt replied municipalities seeing the effects now with sales tax revenue down. GNFD's concern is when tax bills go out and businesses and home values potential go down and effect Ad Valorem. FY21-22 could see challenges.
- Chief Schuldt met with EMS Chief Butch and NCFD Fire Chief Ricardo regarding station 74 in Golden Gate Estates. It is the first time that GNFD officially learned that NCFD is talking to EMS about also moving into the station which is located in



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GNFD's District. Chief Schuldt expects NCFD would be contributing money. Chief Ricardo also mentioned due to District growth, NCFD is moving forward to build a new station (14) which will be located 2.4 miles away from GNFD's station 73.

- *The Board discussed all information provided and directed Chief Schuldt to meet with the County manager.*

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

- Next meeting is Thursday, 5/14/20 at 9:00am via Zoom.us.

**H. Local 2396 Report**

No written report provided.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

None

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. AIW- FDOT MM63 FY20-21 Budget**

Director Bishop presented the Florida Department of Transportation annual budget. *Commissioner Cottiers moved to accept staff's recommendation and approve the FY 20-21 Florida Department of Transportation MM63 budget in the amount of \$1,555,555. Commissioner Gerrity seconded. Motion passed. 5-0.*

**B. Indemnity and Hold Harmless with Private Owners**

*Commissioner Henning moved to proceed with authorizing the execution of the presented Indemnity Agreement with Private Owners to use for the purpose of training at acquired structures. Individual agreements to be executed by the Fire Chief or designee at time of training. Commissioner Gerrity seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

**C. AIW-AFG COVID-19 Grant Application**

*Commissioner Gerrity moved to accept staff's recommendations and authorize staff to submit an AFG COVID-19 grant application. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

- Director Bishop apologized for adding to the agenda but requested the Board authorize staff to submit a FEMA Fire Prevention Safety grant (FPS) application, which has a submittal deadline of 5/30/20. *Commissioner Stedman made a motion to add above request to the Agenda as III. D. Commissioner Cottiers second. Motion passed 5-0.*

**D. FEMA Fire Prevention Safety grant (FPS)**

Director Bishop stated the FEMA FPS grant would supply funding to support the District's Annual Fire Inspection program including three additional fire inspectors. Discussion involved authority to submit the grant and bring back specifics prior to accepting it awarded. *Commissioner Gerrity moved to authorize Staff to submit a FEMA FPS grant application. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion pass 5-0.*



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**E. Public Comments items not listed on the Agenda**  
None

**F. Comments by Commissioners**


- Due to COVID-19, Commissioner Gerrity requested Chief Schuldt give us an idea of what he thinks is possible to do, to go to a bare bones budget. Eliminating any unnecessary spending until we can get more information on what is going on with GNFD's financial situation.
- Commissioner Gerrity also commended Assistant Chief McLaughlin on a job well done on station 20 and Assistant Chief Sapp & staff for handling everything going on in the District.
- Commissioner Cottiers thanked all the front line members for facing all the challenges of COVID-19.
- Chairman Page would like June BOFC meeting to be in person with appropriate social distancing, if possible.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

*Commissioner Gerrity made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned 6:21pm.*

Duly passed with a vote of 5 to 0 and adopted in session on the 9<sup>th</sup> day June 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.**