



**MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
November 10, 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 November 20, 2020. Present in person were Commissioners Page, Henning, Stedman and Gerrity. Executive Staff: Fire Chief Schuldt, Director Bishop and Assistant Chief Martin. Public in person: Al Duffy, Chris Tobin and Joey Brown. On line were Commissioner Cottiers and Executive Staff: Assistant Chief Hanson, Low, McLaughlin and Sapp. Staff on line: Suanne Woeste, Tim Sims and Joey Brown. Public on line: Manny Arroyo, Randy Ward, George Danz, and Tom Szempruch. Other were on line but not recognized.

A. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Chairman Page opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the invocation by Commissioner Gerrity. Commissioner Cottiers stated for the record he regrets not being able to attend meeting in person due to a family health issue.

B. Line of Duty Deaths Reading and Moment of Silence

Chief Schuldt reported there were a total 4 of firefighter fatalities for the month of October, bringing the total for 2020 to 73.

C. Consent Agenda

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

1. Treasurer's Report
2. CARES Act. Letter

D. Approval, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Director Bishop requested adding: FDOT MM63 as II. Old Business C., Memorandum of Understanding Battalion Commanders as III. New Business C. & Resolution 2020-22 State of Emergency Tropical Storm ETA as III. New Business D.

Commissioner Gerrity requested adding complaint against Greater Naples Fire Foundation as III. New Business E.

Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the Agenda as Amended. Commissioner Gerrity seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

E. Approval of the GNFD Board Minutes for October 13, 2020

Commissioner Henning moved to approve the September GNFD Board minutes as presented. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

F. Fire Chief's Report

Chief Schuldt presented report as submitted and added the following:

- Commissioner Gerrity presented a plaque to Chairman Page and Commissioner Henning for their service on the Board.
- Chief Schuldt thanked Chairman Page and Commissioner Henning on behalf of staff and the whole organization for their contributions and time on the Board.
- November 4, 2020 marked the 6th anniversary of the Fire District.



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- Captain Rusty Godette was awarded the Fire Educator of Excellence Award by the Collier County Fire and EMS Chiefs Association.
- Fire Inspector Aaron Stewart received the Fire Safety Commendation Award by the Sons of the American Revolution.
- Staff is working to location a new Logistics warehouse, the building has been sold and we must be out by March 1, 2021.
- During the October 20 Board of County Commissioners' meeting, the Board approved CARES Act reimbursement to fire, law enforcement and EMS. Staff worked diligently on getting all the necessary information together and submitted for over \$8,000,000.

G. Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan

- Chairman Sims reported the latest totals of the Plan.
- Next Hybrid Remote Quarterly Meeting is Thursday, November 12, 2020 at GNFD HQ and on line via Zoom.us @ 9:00am.

H. Local 2396 Report

- President Brown stated there are still a few outstanding grievance they are working on with Chief Schuldt.
- Have taken the contract back to the body to discuss disconnect.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. AIW – Ochopee Bill Draft

Director Bishop present the draft Bill, timeline, and details contained in the AIW. Discussion among the Board included millage rates, special elections, cost, and redistricting. *Commissioner Page made a motion to support staff's recommendation to approve the draft Bill and associated documentation supporting the submittal to the Local Delegation on November 20, 2020. Commissioner Gerrity seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

B. AIW – District Property Update

Assistant Chief Martin reported the property on County Barn Road may have environmental problems and may be wet according to information received from Collier County. With this information staff thought it appropriate to consider other options. Assistant Chief Martin presented 5 different properties for consideration. The Board agreed to postpone submittal of a Letter of Intent for the purchase of the County Barn Road property due to environmental concerns raised during the due diligence period. Several other options were discussed with direction given to continue vetting alternatives for future consideration.

C. FDOT MM63 Letter

Chief Schuldt presented the letter received from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) that confirms there will likely not be sufficient Excess Toll Revenues in the current fiscal year to provide the agreed upon funding for MM 63. The Board discussed the cost to keep Station 63 open, additional response times, and different ways to handle the situation. *Commissioner Gerrity made a motion to direct staff to develop a press release to inform the Public of the impending safety hazards if Fire Station 63 is closed. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*



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III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Chief Schuldt's Annual Review

Chairman Page stated it is time for Chief Schuldt's annual review. He has 4 of the 5 review sheets turned in and all are favorable.

Commissioner Henning made a motion for a 2% increase to Chief Schuldt's salary retroactive to October. Chairman Page seconded. Motion passed 4-1 (Gerrity).

B. AIW – Wildland Fire Mitigation

Assistant Chief Martin presented the details regarding the potential FEMA Grant opportunity and recommended the District choose not to participate in the Grant Mitigation project due to the cost the District would incur. *Commissioner Cottiers moved to notify Collier County that GNFD will not be participating in the Fire Mitigation project. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

C. Battalion Commander MOU

Commissioner Gerrity made a motion to approve the Battalion Commander MOU. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

D. Resolution 2020-22 State of Emergency Tropical Storm ETA

Commissioner Gerrity moved to authorize execution of Resolution 2020-22 State of Emergency tropical Storm ETA. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

E. Greater Naples Fire Foundation

Commissioner Gerrity stated there was an allegation the Foundation has violated the Sunshine Laws and has misappropriated funds.

Commissioner Gerrity made a motion that the Foundation to turn over records to the State's Attorney Office and get an unrelated 3rd parties opinion. Commissioner Cottiers seconded for discussion. The Board discussed how the Foundation is related to the District and the Board. The District's attorney stated the Greater Naples Fire Foundation is a separate 501 C 3. The District and the Foundation are separate entities. The lawsuit is against the Foundation not the District. *Chairman Page called the motion. Motion failed 4-1 (Page, Stedman, Cottiers, Henning).*

F. Public Comments on items not listed on Agenda

None

G. Comments by Commissioners

- Commissioner Henning thanked the other Board and Chief Schuldt. Staff is wonderful and professional. He is going to retire and travel.
- Commissioner Stedman said he was sorry to see Commissioners Page and Henning leave.
- Commissioners Cottiers and Gerrity thanked Commissioners Page and Henning for their years of service.
- Commissioner Page said it has been a great ride, great time and will miss all.



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IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 7:00pm.

Duly passed with a vote of 3 to 0 and adopted in session on the 8th day of December 2020.

Chairman Jeff Page

Commissioner Tom Henning

Charles Cottiers

Commissioner Charles Cottiers

David Stedman

Commissioner David Stedman

Kevin Gerrity

Commissioner Kevin Gerrity