



**MINUTES**  
**GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**September 12, 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 September 12, 2019 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Commissioners Henning, Page, Cottiers, Gerrity, and Stedman. Executive Staff in attendance: Fire Chief Schuldt, Director Bishop, Deputy Chiefs Hanson, Low, Martin and McLaughlin. Staff in attendance: Suanne Woeste and Nicole Chesser. Public in Khris Klock, Joey Brown, Jarett Cotter, Rey Velazquez 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 4 firefighter fatalities for the month of August bringing the total for 2019 to 33, 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 September 12, 2019 at 6:00pm has been published.

**D. Consent Agenda**

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

1. Treasurer's Report

2. Disposition of Fixed Assets 19-009 Revised - Honda Civic

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

As requested above, Attorney/Client Closed Door Session has been added to II. Old Business C. Director Bishop requested adding III. New Business B. Resolution 2019-14 and III. New Business C. December BOFC Meeting Date. *Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

**F. Approval of the GNFD Board Minutes for August 13, 2019**

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

**G. Approval of the FY 2019-20 Budget Workshop Minutes for August 13, 2019**

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



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**H. Awards and Recognition**

- 20 Year Service Award: Battalion Chief Chris Tobin
- 1 Year Service Award: Administrative Assistant Amanda Eberl
- Promotion of Lt. Nelmes to Division Chief of Emergency Medical Services
- Promotion of DE MacQuarrie to Lieutenant

**I. Fire Chief's Report**

Chief Schuldt presented report as submitted and added the following:

- Received \$5,000 PGIT grant applied towards ballistics gear.
- Ladder trucks 21 & 72 both passed aerial testing this week.
- Open enrollment for healthcare is currently open, all participants must renew.

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

No report submitted.

**K. Local 2396 Report**

- President Joey Brown introduced himself a new Union President.
- Major goal of the Union is to finish the contract.
- Currently 3 letters in with the District to bargain and 3 open grievances.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. AIW- Marco Island/Fleet Contract Renewal**

Commissioner Gerrity asked how the work is being tracked. Chief Martin responded this better reflect the actual cost of doing work for them and the return we get on those dollars. *Commissioner Cottiers moved to adopt the Services Agreement between the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District and the City of Marco Island effective October 1, 2019. Commissioner Page seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

**B. At-Large Commissioner Seats Update**

Chairman Henning and Chief Schuldt have been meeting with Representatives and Senator Passidomo about making all GNFD Commissioner Seats at large.

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

Chairman Henning read the following statement at 6:01pm: 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, 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.

**6:32 pm – Chairman Henning stated the public meeting is reopened and the closed-door attorney-client session is terminated.**



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**III. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Adopt Resolution 2019-13 State of Emergency Hurricane Dorian**  
*Commissioner Gerrity moved to adopt Resolution 2019-13 State of Emergency Hurricane Dorian. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*
- B. Adopt Resolution 2019-14 Section 125 Flexible Benefits Plan**  
*Commissioner Gerrity moved to adopt Resolution 2019-14 Section 125 Flexible Benefits Plan. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*
- C. December BOFC Meeting Date Change**  
*Commissioner Gerrity moved to change the December BOFC meeting from Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*
- D. Public Comments items not listed on the Agenda**  
 None
- E. Comments by Commissioners**
  - Commissioner Gerrity brought up the concept of going to the voters for a small millage rate raise (0.25) over a predetermined period of time, to be used strictly for facility improvement.
  - Commissioner Gerrity asked Chairman Henning if there is any update on the MM63 investigation.
  - Commissioner Page express concern about turn-over, as well as Commissioner Cottiers.
  - Commissioner Stedman agreed with Page, would like to see how the firefighters paid could be simplified.
  - Chairman Henning asked which GNFD fire stations are hardened. Chief- Stations 22, 24, 72, F&LS, and HQ.
  - Chairman Henning stated he will gather all the information from the auditor and have a report for next meeting.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Duly passed with a vote of 5 to 0 and adopted in session on the 8th day of October 2019.

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 Chairman Tom Henning

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 Commissioner Jeff Page

*Charles Cottiers*  
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 Commissioner Charles Cottiers

*David Stedman*  
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 Commissioner David Stedman

*Kevjn Gerrity*  
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 Commissioner Kevjn Gerrity