



**MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
May 11, 2021**

I. MEETING OPENED

Chairman Gerrity called to order the regular meeting of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners at 5:30 p.m., on May 11, 2021 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Commissioners Duffy, Biondo, Cottiers, Stedman, and Gerrity. Staff in attendance: Nicole Chesser, Christian Tobin, Alan McLaughlin, Sal D'Angelo, Sharon Sickels, Forrest Campbell, Jason Bright, Jamie Popiol, Corey Nelson, Brian Bower, Joey Brown, Tim Sims, Charles Heweker, Justin Beasley, Krissy Bright, Romain Favier, Aaron Arts-Kottke, Joshua Grimm, Jarett Cotter, Brad Buczko, and James West. Public in attendance: George Danz, Dottie Joiner. Others attended meeting but did not sign in.

A. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

Commissioner Gerrity opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation by Commissioner Stedman.

B. Consent Agenda

1. Treasurer Report

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

C. Approval, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

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

D. Approval of the GNFD Board Minutes for April 13, 2021

Commissioner Cottiers moved to approve the GNFD Board minutes for April 13, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

E. Fire Chief's Report

Fire Chief Sapp presented his report as submitted.

Commissioner Gerrity requested a letter from the Board to Verona Walk to express gratitude for the Pet Oxygen Masks.

Fire Chief Sapp introduced the new Associate Medical Director, Jim Augustine, MD and presented his career achievements. Dr. Augustine spoke about how proud he is to serve Greater Naples Fire Rescue District and his dedication to service, protocols, and quality assurance.

Fire Chief Sapp announced the following promotions:

- Firefighter's Mario Castaneda, Romain Favier, Manny Morales, and Justin Humphrey to Driver Engineer. FF Justin Humphrey was not able to attend.
- Lt. Jason Bright to Battalion Chief and BC Forrest Campbell to District Chief.

Fire Chief Sapp introduced his Executive Staff: Deputy Chief Chris Tobin, Deputy Chief Sal D'Angelo, and Chief of Staff Nicole Chesser.

Fire Chief Sapp announced the Service Awards for the month of April.

Commissioner Gerrity administered the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District Oath of Office and Fire Chief Sapp was officially pinned as Fire Chief.



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F. Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan

Chairman Tim Sims gave a verbal report on the pension plan performance. He explained the rollout of new website portal where members can go online to view past and future pension information.

G. Local 2396 Report

President Joey Brown gave a verbal report on Driver Engineer testing scores being cleared up with the testing company in Chief Low's absence. Attorney level grievances were discussed with Administrative Staff.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. AIW – Administrative Handbook/Job Descriptions – Fire Chief Sapp

Fire Chief Sapp advised the Administrative Handbook was reviewed by Legal Counsel for legal content and compliance with statutes. It was returned with required additions to be reviewed and no other problems were identified.

Commissioner Duffy made a motion to accept the revised Administrative Employee Handbook and Job Descriptions. Commissioner Cottiers seconded for discussion.

Discussion regarding Bill of Rights and At Will employees regarding Deputy Chief, District Chief, and Assistant Chief positions.

Commissioner Gerrity moved to approve the revised Administrative Employee Handbook effective May 31, 2021 and the new revised job descriptions, Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, District Chief, Assistant Chief and Chief of Staff. Motion failed 2 – 3. (Biondo, Stedman, Cottiers)

Fire Chief Sapp verbalized part of the language requirement is to meet the Exempt status. *Commissioner Biondo made a motion to table the item for the next meeting and have 30 days to review. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

B. AIW – Resolution 2021-004 Apparatus Lease/Purchase Escrow Agreement – Fire Chief Sapp

Fire Chief Sapp presented the follow up documents to be executed by the Board for the financing of Apparatus Lease/Purchase Escrow Agreement.

Commissioner Cottiers moved to adopt Resolution 2021-04 authorizing a 5-year Lease Purchase Agreement with Leasing 2, Inc. to finance the purchase of up to five new Fire Engines in the amount of \$2,828,245 purchased from Ten-8, and to designate the Fire Chief to execute necessary documents. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

C. AIW - Pierce Buyback Agreement – Fire Chief Sapp

Fire Chief Sapp explained at the end of five-year lease, the Fire District will be paid a sum of \$222,600 for each of the five leased Pierce Engines.

Commissioner Cottiers moved to approve the Deferred Purchase Value Agreement with Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus, LLC for the five newly approved Pierce Fire Engines. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.



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D. Aerial Operations Update – Fire Chief Sapp

Fire Chief Sapp reported North Collier Fire District realigned all the Ladders except for Station 24. Fire Chief Sapp will continue to work with Chief Eloy Ricardo.

E. Greater Naples Fire Foundation Update – Fire Chief Sapp

Fire Chief Sapp provided verbal update of pending depositions and anticipated mediation process.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Ochopee Financial Analysis – Finance Manager James West

Finance Manager James West presented the research of Ochopee financial analysis impact of 60, 61, and 63. Fire Chief Sapp has a meeting next Tuesday to discuss Ochopee Management Agreement with the County. Commissioner Gerrity to attend this meeting with Fire Chief Sapp. Commissioner Gerrity suggested to send letters to local political allies regarding Station 63 DOT. The Board agreed to not make a decision until next meeting.

B. Policy Manual Update – Deputy Chief Tobin

Deputy Chief Tobin presented policy update and advised 150 policies were sent out for review to the Board. To be reviewed and voted on at the next monthly meeting. He advised he is working on the Hurricane Plan and will start on procedures of policies.

C. Training Update – Deputy Chief Tobin

Deputy Chief Tobin reported there will have be a new Assistant Chief for Training. He expressed that Staff is committed to get this turned around and will be making improvements to Training for the District.

D. Public Comment for items not on the Agenda

None

E. Comments by Commissioners

Commissioner Biondo requested an update on the reserve truck. The committee reviewed trucks located in Texas and Ocala. They went over specification sheets and chose truck in Ocala. Truck is currently being outfitted and it will be here next month.

Commissioner Biondo asked about the FRS Audit for Holiday pay. Fire Chief Sapp explained Retirement contributions were not paid on Holiday pay from the District.

Commissioner Cottiers requested an update on the investigation of EMS Division Chief. Fire Chief Sapp responded the investigation is coming to an end and there will be more information by end of next week.



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IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Stedman made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0, meeting adjourned.

Duly passed with a vote of _____ to _____ and adopted in session on the 8th day June, 2021.

Chairman Kevin Gerrity

Commissioner Al Duffy

Commissioner Charles Cottiers

Commissioner David Stedman

Commissioner Nick Biondo



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IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Stedman made a motion to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 5-0, meeting adjourned.

Duly passed with a vote of 4 to 0 and adopted in session on the 8th day June, 2021.



Chairman Kevin Gerrity




Commissioner Al Duffy



Commissioner Charles Cottiers



Commissioner David Stedman



Commissioner Nick Biondo