



MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
August 10, 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 5:35 p.m., on August 10, 2021 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Commissioners Duffy, Cottiers, Stedman, Biondo and Gerrity. Staff in attendance: J. Nolan Sapp, Nicole Chesser, Christian Tobin, Forrest Campbell, Shar Beddow, Alan McLaughlin, Sal D'Angelo, Janice Monteagudo, Sharon Sickels, James West, Tim Sims, Joey Brown, Brian Bower, Charles Heweker, and Joshua Grimm. Public in attendance: Randy Ward, and Wayne Martin. 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
2. Disposition of Fixed Assets 20-005

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

C. Approval, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Commissioner Stedman requested to add discussion on Healthcare Insurance to the Agenda under New Business, E. Fire Chief Sapp requested addition of discussion on Bond by Deputy Chief Tobin to Agenda under New Business F. Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

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

Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the GNFD Board minutes for July 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.

F. Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan – Tim Sims

Tim Sims gave a verbal report on the last quarter results of the pension plan performance. The next 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan Quarterly will be held Thursday, August 12, 2021.

G. Local 2396 Report

President Joey Brown gave a verbal report to include topics such as negotiations, promotions, and the ongoing Foundation Lawsuit with Tara Bishop and Wayne Martin.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Greater Naples Fire Foundation Update – Fire Chief Sapp

Fire Chief Sapp reported the mediation was unsuccessful, and Board of Commissioners gave permission to Fire Chief Sapp to engage the District's Attorney to assist the Union Attorney to move the case forward and bring closure.



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C. Training Update – Assistant Chief Krajewski

Assistant Chief Krajewski gave a verbal update on the District’s Training Section to include the following topics: Rapid Rescue Training has been completed. Chief DiSarro completed all CPR, and ACLS in the District. All written portions for CPR and ACLS tests are done online along with hands on is done. Lieutenant promotional testing was completed in July and will be announcing promotions.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 19-20 Audit Presentation – Grau & Associates

David Caplivski from Grau & Associates presented the FY 19-20 audit via Zoom. Commissioner Stedman asked if there were recommendations or deficiencies. The auditor explained there were no findings or recommendations and they do not provide recommendations regarding efficiencies.

Commissioner Stedman motioned to accept the auditor’s report. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

B. Cell Tower Proposal Presentation – Vertical Bridge

Vertical Bridge presented two different proposal options for the District. Chief Sapp explained the District is interested in option two and will bring back a recommendation once Laura Donaldson, District Attorney reviews the agreements.

C. AIW – Approval of Local Bill Regarding Districtwide Elections – Laura Donaldson

Laura Donaldson, District Attorney, presented draft legislation to make the District Seats At-Large as requested by the Board of Commissioners at the July Board meeting.

Commissioner Duffy moved to approve the Local Bill regarding districtwide elections as drafted and authorize Staff and Laura Donaldson to take all actions necessary to seek approval from the Collier County Legislative Delegation and passage by the Florida Legislature. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Chairman Gerrity asked if there were any Public Comments. Leo Davis responded against this motion. Motion failed 2-3 (Gerrity, Cottiers, Biondo)

D. AIW – Policy 1220 Firefighter Cancer Benefits – Deputy Chief Tobin

Deputy Chief Tobin presented Policy 1220 Firefighter Cancer Benefits and it was legally reviewed by District Attorney, Laura Donaldson. The District has the insurance coverage policy in place. As the District gains experience, there may be guidelines to go along with the policy. Chairman Gerrity applauded Deputy Tobin and his team for undertaking this policy.

Commissioner Cottiers motioned to approve Policy 1220 Firefighter Cancer Benefits, and Procedural Documents. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

E. Discussion on Healthcare Insurance – Commissioner Stedman

Commissioner Stedman discussed he spoke with several Firefighters regarding the District’s healthcare plan stating while the benefits are good, the plan itself is too difficult to use. He explained the difficulty with deductibles, HRA and the plan is too complicated. He stated the District needs a more simplified plan procedure. Chief Sapp explained that Staff will work with Leading Edge and the new HR Manager to present a better educational tool and solution to help everyone.



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F. Discussion on Bond – Deputy Chief Tobin

Deputy Chief Tobin discussed the District's infrastructure, maintenance and repair problems. He communicated the advantages of the Limited Tax Obligation Bond. Laura Donaldson discussed the procedure. Chief Sapp expressed this was for informational purposes only. Commissioners directed Chief Sapp to present a plan at the next Board meeting.

G. Public Comment Requests for items not on Agenda

Former employee, Wayne Martin stated there was a plan in March for \$75 - \$80 million for District improvements. He questioned the status of Chief Sapp's contract and inquired if PEHP \$10,000 included. In addition, he wanted to know why Station 25 is not manned yet.

Union President Joey Brown thanked Deputy Chief Sal D'Angelo and his staff for their handling the \$1,000 Signed Pandemic bonuses to Florida's First responders signed by Governor DeSantis.

H. Comments by Commissioners

Commissioner Biondo requested clarification on lawsuits. Chief Sapp explained we are in the final stages of closure of Grievance lawsuit. He also explained mediation failed for the Foundation Lawsuit and per Board approval, the District's attorney will work with the other attorneys. Chief Tobin added that the Union attorneys will work together with District Attorney to work on closure. Lt. Brown responded he agreed we need to bring closure. Commissioner Stedman inquired why there is not an executive session for the Bunting case. Laura Donaldson explained it is a Grievance, not a Lawsuit. Commissioner Stedman acknowledged great job on the audit being completely clean.



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IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Stedman made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0, meeting adjourned.

Duly passed with a vote of _____ to _____ and adopted in session on the 14th day September, 2021.

Chairman Kevin Gerrity

Commissioner Al Duffy

Commissioner Charles Cottiers

Commissioner David Stedman

Commissioner Nick Biondo




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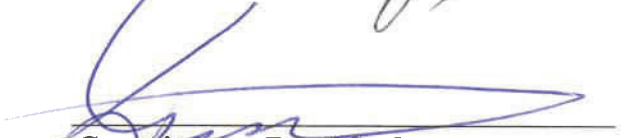
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