



**MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
September 14, 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 September 14, 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, Shawn Hanson, Alan McLaughlin, Sal D'Angelo (on Zoom), Janice Monteagudo, Sharon Sickels, James West, Tim Sims, Joey Brown, Brian Bower, and Charles Heweker. Public in attendance: George Danz, Richard Orrt, Wayne Martin, Robert Lang and Deborah Martin. District Attorney Laura Donaldson was in attendance. 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 21-007

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

C. Approval, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Fire Chief Sapp requested that Attorney Laura Donaldson make a statement during the Fire Chief's Report. *Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the agenda as amended.
Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

D. Approval of the GNFD Board Commissioner Workshop Minutes August 10, 2021

Commissioner Biondo moved to approve the GNFD Board minutes for August 10, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

E. Approval of the GNFD Board Public Budget Workshop Minutes August 10, 2021

Commissioner Cottiers moved to approve the GNFD Board minutes for August 10, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

F. Approval of the GNFD Board Minutes for August 10, 2021

Commissioner Cottiers moved to approve the GNFD Board minutes for August 10, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

G. Fire Chief's Report

Fire Chief Sapp presented his report as submitted. Chairman Gerrity requested a thank you letter to be done to personnel responding to the trench issue.

Attorney Laura Donaldson informed the Board of a pending lawsuit against the District and requested a closed door attorney client session. She advised the Board Executive Sessions are reserved only for certain topics in response to Commissioner Biondo's inquiry.



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Fire Chief Sapp announced the following promotions and were officially pinned with their GNFD Badge:

- LT. Inspector John Bigica to Captain Fire Inspector
- Inspector II Brian Mading to LT. Inspector
- Lieutenants: Brad Buczko, Erin Gill, David Borowski, Albert Anzualda, John Richard, Jay Crouse, Acey Edgemon, Adam Orsolini, and Trenton Mading.

H. Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan – Tim Sims

Tim Sims gave a verbal report on the pension plan performance and advised the last Quarterly meeting was on Thursday, August 12, 2021.

1. Reappoint Seat 4 District Resident Trustee George Danz.

Commissioner Duffy motioned to reappoint Trustee George Danz to Seat 4 District Resident Trustee. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

I. Local 2396 Report

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

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Greater Naples Fire Foundation Update – Fire Chief Sapp

Fire Chief Sapp reported the District attorney was not clear why the District would get involved in a lawsuit where the District is not the defendant or the Plaintiff. Discussion ensued and it was agreed to stay out of the process. *Commissioner Duffy motioned to follow legal counsel's advice pertaining to direction of Greater Naples Fire Foundation. Commissioner Stedman seconded.* Commissioner Biondo requested clarification of what transpired with the attorney and then spoke against the motion. It was clarified that there was no motion made in the August meeting. *The motion was rescinded.* The Chairman stated the District will stay out of it. Chief Sapp requested permission to remove this from future agendas and the Chairman agreed. Commissioner Biondo was opposed to removing the agenda item.

B. Training Update – Assistant Chief Krajewski

Assistant Chief Krajewski gave a verbal update on the District's Training Section including the following topics: Training events completed, improved relations between Training and Operations personnel, Home Depot Grant for \$1,175 to cover materials for live fire training, Acquired Structure Training and future structures provided by GL Homes. The Board acknowledged Chief Krajewski for doing a great job with training.

C. AIW – Vacant Land Update – Sabal Palm Rd. Property – Deputy Chief D'Angelo

Deputy Chief D'Angelo presented the background on the Sabal Palm Rd. property and discussed the offer on July 26, 2021 from HSD Real Estate Investments of \$335,000. The District countered with \$400,000 and the final counter offer was \$370,000 with the estimated net proceeds being \$337,300. *Commissioner Duffy moved to approve the vacant land contract to sell the District's surplus property located at 244 Sabal Palm Road, Naples, FL. 34114 for the \$370, 000.00 purchase price and to authorize the Fire Chief, or*



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his designee, having the authority to execute all necessary contracts and documents required to effectuate the sale and purchase of such properties. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Commissioner Biondo spoke against the motion citing it is too low. Commissioner Stedman also stated he would vote no. Deputy Chief D'Angelo explained that IPC was not getting any offers on the property and had planned to lower the price to \$350,000. Motion passed 3-2. (Stedman and Biondo)

- D. AIW – Vacant Land Update – Lake Park Blvd. Property – Deputy Chief D'Angelo**
Deputy Chief D'Angelo presented and discussed Lake Park Blvd. property and the 9 acres parcel on Tamiami Trail near Lake Park Blvd. for \$780,000. Richard Orrt, Collier County Storm Water Project Manager, addressed the Board regarding the properties, evaluations, and fewer development challenges this parcel would have compared with the current parcel. He stated Collier County would love to work with GNFD and they will pay Fair Market Value based on survey. Discussion followed regarding the difference in purchase price and current assessed value.

Commissioner Stedman moved to authorize and approve the District entering into an agreement with Collier County for Collier County to purchase the District property located at 12901 Lake Park Blvd. for fair market value, with the sale of the property contingent on the District's purchase of the replacement property owned by ELAH Holdings, LLC and the inability for Collier County to cancel the purchase once the District closes on the replacement property. He further moved to authorize the District to enter into an agreement with ELAH Holdings, LLC for the District to purchase approximately 9 acres on Tamiami Trail near Lake Park Blvd. for \$780,000, authorizing the District to perform its due diligence on the property, and if there are no issues identified and unresolved, purchase the property using the next proceeds from the Sabal Palm parcel, impact fees, and other District revenues; and further the Fire Chief, or his designee, having the authority to execute all necessary contracts and documents required to effectuate the sale and purchase of such properties. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Commissioner Biondo brought up the fact that the issues with the property were not identified in the previous due diligence process and spoke against the motion. Motion passed 4-1. (Biondo)

- E. AIW – Bunting Settlement Agreement – Fire Chief Sapp**

Chief Sapp presented the settlement agreement.

Commissioner Cottiers moved to approve the Settlement Agreement, Waiver, and General Release negotiated between the District's and Union's attorneys to resolve the Brandon Bunting Termination Grievance. Commissioner Gerrity seconded. Motion passed 4-1. (Stedman)

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Station 25 Update – Fire Chief Sapp**

Fire Chief Sapp presented handout analyzing call volume and discussed best options regarding Station 25 to include up staffing the Squads to offset the call load at busier stations. Discussion followed regarding best options on handling high volume nursing home medical calls, response times, and turnout times. Chairman Gerrity complimented Chief Sapp for innovative thinking and the Union for working together on solutions.



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B. Limited Tax GO Bond Plan – Deputy Chief Tobin

Deputy Chief Tobin explained he is working on resolution and referendum language with the Attorney to be reviewed and brought back to the Board in October. He advised Chief Sapp and Deputy Chief D'Angelo are working on the project list. Commissioner Duffy initiated discussion regarding the one cent sales tax and whether the District is entitled to a portion.

C. AIW – Updated Contractual Articles – Deputy Chief Tobin

Deputy Chief Tobin presented the updated Contractual Articles changes. Commissioners discussed being included in process, and questioned why there was not an Executive Session. *Commissioner Gerrity made motion to approve the agreed upon Union Contractual language changes as presented in the Action Item Worksheet and presented in accompanying documents. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Motion passed 3-2 (Cottiers, Stedman)* *Commissioner Gerrity made motion to approve the agreed upon MOUs for Fire Training Lieutenant and ALS Training Lieutenant as presented in this Action Item Worksheet and presented in accompanying documents. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

D. AIW – Policy Updates – Deputy Chief Tobin

Deputy Chief Tobin presented updated Policy 1206 Board of Commissioners Rules of Procedure and Policy 128 Drug-Free Workplace. Chief Tobin pointed out minor correction needed to Policy 1206. *Commissioner Gerrity made motion to approve the updated Policy 1206 Board of Fire Commissioners Rules of Procedure, and Policy 1218 Drug-Free Workplace. Commissioner Biondo seconded for discussion.* Deputy Chief Tobin explained updates on the Policy 1218 Drug-Free Workplace. *Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

E. AIW – Resolution 2021-12 IRS 2019 SECURE Act Compliance – Chief of Staff Chesser

Chief of Staff Chesser presented and recommended to adopt Resolution 2021-12 IRS 2019 SECURE Act Compliance to amend the 175 Pension Plan to comply with the SECURE Act. *Commissioner Cottiers moved to adopt Resolution 2021-12 IRS 2019 SECURE Act Compliance to amend the 175 Pension Plan to comply with the SECURE Act. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

F. AIW – Ameritas Deferred Compensation Plan – Fire Chief Sapp

Senior Vice President of Database Financial, Mitch Mann, presented the Ameritas Deferred Compensation Plan. *Commissioner Duffy moved to authorize the Ameritas Deferred Compensation 457b Plan to be offered to employees in addition to the State of Florida administered Plan. Commissioner Biondo seconded for discussion.* Chairman Gerrity requested feedback from the Staff on the workload and suggested tabling until next month. *Motion passed 3-2. (Cottiers, Stedman)*



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G. Public Comment Requests for items not on Agenda

Robert Lang, Wayne Martin, and Deborah Martin took turns reading a letter dated September 14, 2021 from Wayne Martin. Wayne Martin requested the letter be part of the official record.

H. Comments by Commissioners

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Stedman made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 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 12th day October, 2021.

Chairman Kevin Gerrity

Commissioner Al Duffy

Commissioner Charles Cottiers

Commissioner David Stedman

Commissioner Nick Biondo



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Chairman Kevin Gerrity




Commissioner Al Duffy



Commissioner Charles Cottiers



Commissioner David Stedman



Commissioner Nick Biondo