



**MINUTES**  
**GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**February 8, 2022**

**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 February 8, 2022 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Commissioners Duffy, Stedman, Biondo, Cottiers, and Gerrity. Staff in attendance: J. Nolan Sapp, Nicole Chesser, Shawn Hanson, Sal D'Angelo, Forrest Campbell, Janice Monteagudo, Sharon Sickels, Chris Diaz, Vaughn Palmateer, Jamie Popiol, Tim Sims, and Charles Heweker. Public in attendance: George Danz, Michael Ramsey and Jerry Taricska. District Attorney Laura Donaldson was in attendance on Zoom. 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 22-004

*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**

Commissioner Stedman requested addition of Span of Control under New Business. Commissioner Duffy requested moving forward to amend Awards and Recognition to be moved as number one to accommodate any official pinning of GNFD Badge for all future meetings. *Commissioner Duffy moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

**D. Approval of the GNFD Board Minutes for January 11, 2022**

*Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the GNFD Board minutes for January 11, 2022 as presented. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

**E. Fire Chief's District Report**

1. Awards and Recognition  
Fire Chief Sapp introduced Driver Engineer Mike Zmejkoski and officially pinned with GNFD badge.  
Chief Sapp announced the Service Awards for the month of February.
2. Chief Sapp presented Fire Chief's District Report as submitted.



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Commissioner Cottiers discussed the denying of COVID Workers' Compensation claims, Administrative Leave policy and asked if the District can go around the policy. HR Manager Janice Montegudo discussed the COVID Workers' Compensation policy. Commissioner Stedman mentioned items to be discussed should be placed on Agenda and Chairman Gerrity requested COVID Leave Policy to be put on Agenda for next month. Commissioner Biondo inquired about the Foundation settlement agreement missing signatures and the meeting scheduled for February 15. Commissioner Biondo stated he doesn't understand the lawsuit, he wants to see what the union has to say about it, and he doesn't support it.

**3. Line of Duty Deaths Moment of Silence**

Chief Sapp announced 13 firefighter line of duty deaths for the month of January.

**G. Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan – Chairman Tim Sims**

Tim Sims gave a verbal report on the pension plan performance and advised the next Quarterly meeting will be on Thursday, February 10, 2022.

**H. Local 2396 Report – President Chris Diaz**

President Chris Diaz gave a verbal report to include topics such as the Foundation Lawsuit being settled, Memorandum of Understanding, and COVID Administration Leave. There was a discussion on COVID Administration Leave with Commissioners, President Diaz and District Attorney Laura Donaldson. Commissioner Biondo requested Foundation Lawsuit information. President Diaz requested Commissioner Biondo email questions to him and he will forward to the former Union President to get answers from Attorney.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Election Referendum – Commissioner Duffy**

Chairman Gerrity stated the Election Referendum is a heavily financial issue and requested the Parliamentarian to rule on policy regarding motions made from December's meeting. There was discussion with District Attorney, Laura Donaldson on policy procedures, Robert's Rules of Order, and modifications of policies. Based on discussion, Chairman Gerrity allowed the agenda item to go forward. Commissioner Duffy presented and discussed Resolution 2022-003 regarding Millage Rate increase.

*Commissioner Duffy moved to adopt draft Resolution 2022-003 authorizing the District to increase the millage rate up to 0.5 mills with the language being stricken that relates to an 8-year termination date. Commissioner Cottiers seconded for discussion.*

There was discussion on funding of infrastructure, sales tax, moving too quickly, identifying problems, educating the Public, attending HOA meetings, Strategic Plan, and timing of referendum ballot. Commissioner Biondo spoke in favor of the motion. Local 2396 President Chris Diaz spoke in support of the referendum. Chairman Gerrity spoke about concerns about the timeline and suggested the creation of a task force. District Attorney, Laura Donaldson recommended bringing back the Resolution as there were substantial changes being made. Deputy Chief D'Angelo agreed with Laura Donaldson



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and recommended coming back with a clear Resolution. George Danz spoke regarding transparency on Resolution which was not in packet and spoke in favor of Commissioner Duffy attending HOA meetings. Commissioner Duffy suggested a special meeting to vote on Resolution 2022-003.

*Commissioner Duffy moved to table the original motion. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

*Commissioner Biondo moved to set up a special meeting in two weeks on February 22, 2022 at 5:30pm to discuss this issue. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

**B. ALS Update – Fire Chief Sapp**

Fire Chief Sapp explained he went to Tallahassee with Chairman Gerrity to meet with Laura Donaldson on a COPCN bill that passed through the Senate unanimously. It was scheduled to go through the house; and will not be presented for at least a year. Regarding the local COPCN application process; Deputy Chief D'Angelo just received the data needed and the application will be submitted within the next week for review/approval through the County. EMS has countered the ALS Agreement and it will be reviewed by legal counsel.

**C. Lake Park Blvd. Property Update – Deputy Chief D'Angelo**

Deputy Chief D'Angelo presented the agreement with the County contingent on the closing by the District property to replace the District's Lake Park Blvd. property. On January 19, 2022 the County provided the District with a Purchase Agreement for \$690,000 to acquire the Districts four (4) parcels on Lake Park Blvd.

*Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement by and between Greater Naples Fire Rescue District and Collier County, County Project: 60246 – Lake Park Flow Way, (with Contingency for Seller's purchase of Replacement Site).*

*Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

Chairman Gerrity recognized Commissioner Cottiers for his diligence for the District.

**D. District Policies – Attorney Laura Donaldson**

Laura Donaldson, District Attorney presented District Policies with recommended actions for each policy.

*Commissioner Stedman moved to support Staff and Legal Counsel's recommendations and approve:*

- 1. Deleting policy numbers 101, 102, 103, 104, 200, 201, 202, 203, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, and 210 from the policy manual;*
- 2. Adopting policy numbers 100, 204, and 211, which shall take effect on March 1, 2022;*
- 3. The continuance of the current Collective Bargaining Agreement and Administrative Handbook as separate documents;*
- 4. The retention of the above referenced Standard Operating Guidelines; and*
- 5. Directing staff to develop Standard Operating Guidelines related to liability claims, electronic mail, minimum staffing levels, and annual planning master calendar.*

*Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 4-1 (Biondo).*



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**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. MOU – ALS Training Lieutenant – Fire Chief Sapp**

Chief Sapp presented Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)-ALS Training Lieutenant- the position title was mutually agreed between the District and Union to be defined as “EMS Training Lieutenant.”

*Commissioner Cottiers moved to support Staff’s recommendation and approve the MOU-ALS Training Lieutenant as ratified by the IAFF Local 2396. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

**B. Baby Boxes – Commissioner Stedman**

Commissioner Stedman introduced Jerry Taricska, who discussed Action for Life “Safe Haven” Baby Boxes that are installed at local fire stations, and provide a safe place to surrender newborn babies. There was discussion on newborns being left at unattended fire stations for long periods of time. There was consensus by the Board to gather more information. District Attorney, Laura Donaldson explained the legislative effort to change the law on authorizing these Baby Boxes at Fire Stations failed and there may be legal issues to work through.

**C. Span of Control Issues– Commissioner Stedman**

Commissioner Stedman discussed Span of Control getting out of hand in regards to Battalion Chiefs and requested information for next meeting. Fire Chief Sapp explained he is in favor of adding another Battalion Chief position. District Chief Forrest Campbell explained scheduling and the need for another Battalion Chief position.

**D. Public Comment Requests for items not on Agenda**

George Danz complimented the Commissioners for leasing 5 new engines and asked to clarify what the status will be of the old engines. Fire Chief Sapp stated the District can either return them or can purchase the engines for \$160,000 each. Fire Chief Sapp explained the County could purchase two of the engines for Ochopee stations.

**D. Comments by Commissioners**

Commissioner Duffy discussed nursing home medical calls and the District researching options. Chairman Gerrity mentioned possibly meeting with Nursing Home Association. Commissioner Stedman mentioned he attended a large Church event with two to three thousand attendees. There was some type of permitting issue, and he wanted to recognize the three Fire and Life Safety Inspectors whom attended; Michael Cruz, Jared Taylor and Susanne Woeste who acted very professionally and did a wonderful job. Commissioner Gerrity explained the issue of Ochopee meetings with the County being rescheduled several times last year and there was discussion regarding the continuation of the Ochopee agreement.



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**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

*Commissioner Stedman made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 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 8<sup>th</sup> day March, 2022.

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**Chairman Kevin Gerrity**

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**Commissioner Al Duffy**

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**Commissioner Charles Cottiers**

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**Commissioner David Stedman**

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**Commissioner Nick Biondo**

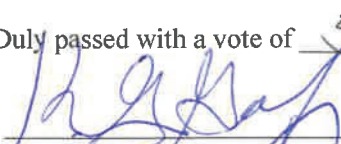


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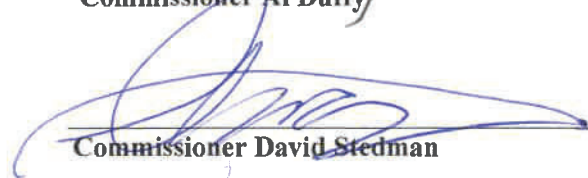
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Commissioner Al Duffy

  
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Commissioner Charles Cottiers

  
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Commissioner David Stedman

  
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Commissioner Nick Biondo