



**MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
February 22, 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 22, 2022 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Commissioners Duffy, Stedman, Cottiers, and Gerrity. Commissioner Biondo was not present. Staff in attendance: J. Nolan Sapp, Sal D'Angelo, James West, Sharon Sickels, Chris Diaz, Vaughn Palmateer, Jamie Popiol, Scott Wilson, Erin Gill, Jace Perkins, Corey Nelson, Chris Rossi, William Lehman, J. Cotter, Steve Lawrence, Justin Leal, Justin Beasley, Ryan McGinnis, Matthew Donovan, Daniel Rojas, Justin Graeve, Devin Piro, Robert Walczak, and Charles Heweker. Public in attendance: George Danz, Tom Henning, Wayne Martin, and Jack Graeve. 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.

II. AUGUST 23, 2022 (Primary Election Day) REFERENDUM

A. AIW – Resolution 2022-003 – Deputy Chief D'Angelo

Deputy Chief D'Angelo presented the AIW for Resolution 2022-003 and it is the same AIW presented at the Board meeting in December, 2021. Deputy Chief D'Angelo explained the three different versions of Resolution 2022-003. Staff recommended approving version three with the Project List/Exhibit "A", 8-year millage rate/sunset provision. District Attorney, Laura Donaldson explained how to amend the Project List before approving the Resolution 2022-003, which is listed under Section Eight.

Commissioner Duffy moved to amend Project List/Exhibit "A" to include Station 20 and Station 90. Commissioner Cottiers seconded.

Tom Henning spoke in opposition of increase of millage rate. Mr. Henning mentioned Station 70 is owned by the County and Greater Naples Fire Rescue District is managing Everglades City Station.

Motion failed 2-2. (Gerrity and Stedman)

Commissioner Duffy presented infrastructure funding research since 2017 for the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District. Commissioner Cottiers expressed support for Commissioner Duffy.

Commissioner Duffy moved to adopt version three of Resolution 2022-003 authorizing the District to increase Millage Rate up to 2.0 mills including Project List/Exhibit "A" as written with 8-year millage rate sunset provision. Commissioner Cottiers seconded for discussion.



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There was discussion on infrastructure funding for the last 10 years, impact fees, reserve funding, Ad Valorem tax and timeframe of August 23, 2022 Referendum.

Chairman Gerrity and Commissioner Stedman both spoke in opposition of the motion.

Fire Chief Sapp explained operating costs have always exceeded ad valorem dollars, the call load is continuing to go up, and the Staff is only going to present facts.

Local 2396 President Chris Diaz spoke in support of the District and expressed his disappointment if the Resolution does not pass.

Wayne Martin spoke regarding cost of living, sales of homes, impact fees, growth should be paid by growth, grants and repairs to infrastructure. Commissioner Duffy reminded Wayne Martin that he drove him to different Stations to look at the District's infrastructure problems and mentioned the need to raise the millage rate. Wayne Martin stated his plan was to raise the rate .25 mills for ten years.

Local 2396 President Chris Diaz spoke regarding the problems from the prior Administration. Local 2396 Vice President Matt Nixon explained infrastructure damage at Stations which are health and safety concerns for District personnel.

Commissioner Stedman spoke about inflation costs, setting the District up for failure, and there is not enough time to convince the Public to be successful.

Vaughn Palmateer spoke about these problems persisting for the last five years and nothing has been done about the infrastructure problems. He stated it is time to move forward and to approve the Resolution.

Chairman Gerrity stated there is not a developed plan, not enough time to meet with the Public, and he cannot support this Referendum.

Commissioner Cottiers explained there have been discussions on the infrastructure for the last 10 years, and the conditions are unlivable. He stated a decision needs to be made on another source of income, if the Referendum is not approved.

Motion passed 3-1. (Gerrity)

III. PUBLIC INPUT FOR ISSUES NOT LISTED ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA

None



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IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Duffy made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. Commissioner Stedman seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0, meeting adjourned.

Duly passed with a vote of _____ to _____ and adopted in session on the 8th day March, 2022.

Chairman Kevin Gerrity

Commissioner Al Duffy

Commissioner Charles Cottiers

Commissioner David Stedman

Commissioner Nick Biondo

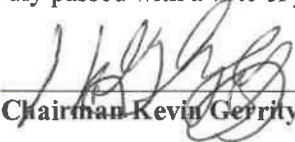


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Duly passed with a vote of 5 to 0 and adopted in session on the 8th day March, 2022.




Chairman Kevin Gerrity



Commissioner Al Duffy



Commissioner Charles Cottiers



Commissioner David Stedman



Commissioner Nick Biondo