



**MINUTES  
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
March 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 March 8, 2022 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Commissioners Duffy (left at 6:49 p.m.), Stedman, Biondo, Cottiers, and Gerrity. Staff in attendance: J. Nolan Sapp, Nicole Chesser, Shar Beddow, Forrest Campbell, Janice Monteagudo, Sharon Sickels, Chris Diaz, Jamie Popiol, Tim Sims, and Charles Heweker. Public in attendance: George Danz, 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 Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

**C. Approval, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda**

Commissioner Stedman requested to add the language and/or vote for the millage increase to the agenda. *Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the agenda as amended.  
Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed 4-1 (Biondo).*

Chairman Gerrity discussed the decorum of commissioners in previous meetings. He reminded Commissioners that meetings are conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order and he set the expectations for commissioner conduct in future meetings.

**D. Approval of the GNFD Board Minutes for February 8, 2022**

*Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the GNFD Board minutes for February 8, 2022 as presented. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

**E. Approval of GNFD Board Minutes February 22, 2022**

*Commissioner Duffy moved to approve the GNFD Board minutes for the Special Meeting on February 22, 2022. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0*

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

1. Awards and Recognition

Fire Chief Sapp introduced new firefighters, promoted Driver Engineers and Lieutenants and they were pinned with GNFD badge. FF of the Year Lt. McGee and Civilian Employee of the Year Brian Bower were recognized along with nominees. Fire Chief Sapp was presented his 20-year service award.

2. Chief Sapp presented the Fire Chief's District Report as submitted.
3. Line of Duty Deaths Moment of Silence



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Chief Sapp announced 9 firefighter line of duty deaths for the month of February. Commissioner Duffy requested moment of silence for retired LT. Terry Anderson who recently passed away.

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

Tim Sims gave a verbal report reviewing the AVR figures and reported the plan is currently 120% funded. Commissioner Duffy requested additional information regarding attaining 100% funding and the average years of service.

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

President Chris Diaz gave a verbal report to include topics such as re-establishing efforts with the MDA, the success of the promotional exam for training positions, and the establishment of a hiring committee.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

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

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

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

- 1. Deleting policy numbers 300 through 614 as referenced above from the policy manual;*
- 2. The retention of the above referenced Standard Operating Guidelines; and*
- 3. Directing staff to develop Standard Operating Guidelines as referenced above.*

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

**B. Span of Control – Fire Chief Sapp**

Chief Sapp presented information contained in the AIW regarding adding an additional Battalion. Chairman Gerrity stated it cost around \$800,000 to run a Battalion and Ochopee should pay 3/5 of the cost. He spoke in support of the Chief's recommendation.

*Commissioner Stedman moved to approve adding the positions immediately. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Chief Sapp explained the reason for waiting until July is to see how Station 25 and brush season affect the budget. Commissioner Biondo spoke in favor of the Chief's recommendation. Motion passed 3-2 (Gerrity, Biondo)*

**C. Millage Rate Increase- Commissioner Stedman**

Commissioner Stedman stated he had additional comments on the subject. Laura Donaldson clarified that there could be discussion but no action since this item was not advertised on the agenda. *Commissioner Stedman made a motion to rescind the last vote and stated he is in favor of a new motion to curtail future boards and administration from spending the funds on other things. Commissioner Cottiers seconded.* Commissioner Stedman stated the referendum would poison the well with the taxpayers and it doesn't compel the District to spend the money on what it's intended. Commissioner Cottiers stated that he heard from an enormous amount of constituents that they would never vote for this and he would like to rescind his support. Biondo spoke against the motion. Commissioner Duffy left the meeting at 6:49 p.m. Commissioner Biondo pointed out that one of the things the board controls is the budget. Chairman Gerrity stated he doesn't deny there are infrastructure problem, but there is not a plan. He advised he has been looking into using Ochopee funding to retire bonds that



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are spent for a purpose. *Motion passed 3/1 (Biondo).* Commissioner Stedman spoke in favor of a bond and there was discussion regarding the need to move quickly on finalizing the Ochopee agreement and developing a plan to address the capital funding needs. Laura Donaldson suggested directing her to get a bond team together while the Ochopee agreement is being worked on. Chairman Gerrity requested the issue be placed on next month's agenda.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Verizon Cell Tower Lease- Attorney Laura Donaldson**

*Commissioner Stedman moved to approve the equipment modification submitted on January 24, 2022, as subsequently amended to address identified discrepancies, and authorize the Fire Chief to execute the consent letter with the authority to make minor technical changes, if necessary. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.*

**B. COVID Leave Policy- HR Manager Janice Monteagudo**

HR Manager Janice Monteagudo presented information regarding the District's current COVID Leave Policy and recommended the policy stay in place. Commissioner Cottiers asked for Union input. President Diaz stated the Union has been working with the District to meet in the middle.

**C. Public Input for Issues Not Listed on the Published Agenda**

None

**D. Comments by Commissioners**

Commissioner Gerrity discussed concerns over the Board only approving \$900,000 for Station 74 and the cost being above that; in addition to it not being in an ideal location for the District. Commissioner Stedman requested Staff's response to Chairman Gerrity's concern. Chief of Staff Chesser advised the Board approved \$2.6 million in the budget for Station 74.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

*Commissioner Stedman made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 p.m. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0, meeting adjourned.*

Duly passed with a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ and adopted in session on the 12<sup>th</sup> day April, 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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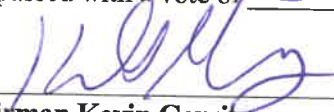
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