



**MINUTES  
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
April 12, 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 April 12, 2022 at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Commissioners Duffy, Stedman (arrived 5:32), Biondo, Cottiers, and Gerrity. Staff in attendance: J. Nolan Sapp, Sal D' Angelo, Chris Wolfe, Nicole Chesser, Forrest Campbell, Janice Monteagudo, James West, Chris Diaz, Jamie Popiol, Charlotte Johnson, and Jason Bright. Public in attendance: George Danz, Jerry Taricska, Krissy Bright, Hunter Bright, and District Attorney Laura Donaldson. 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 Duffy.

**B. Consent Agenda**

1. Treasurer Report

*Commissioner Biondo moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0. (Commissioner Stedman absent for vote)*

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

Chairman Gerrity added Foundation Resolution to Old Business A. and subsequently moved other agenda items down. Staff requested to delete Stormwater Management System Easement from the agenda. *Commissioner Duffy moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Motion passed 5-0.*

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

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

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

1. Awards and Recognition

Fire Chief Sapp announced service awards and pinned new Battalion Chiefs, Lieutenants and Deputy Chief. Charlotte Johnson was recognized for her upcoming retirement.

2. Chief Sapp presented the Fire Chief's District Report as submitted. Commissioner Biondo asked how anonymous letter was received. It was noted Commissioner Duffy did not receive the letter. Commissioner Cottiers asked about Treasurer Report being condensed and requested the previous month's reports once available in new accounting system. Chairman Gerrity requested information about Battalion Chiefs being in the Local and changes to their salaries.

3. Line of Duty Deaths Moment of Silence

Chief Sapp announced 9 firefighter line of duty deaths for the month of March.

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

No report



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

President Chris Diaz gave a verbal report to include topics such as acting positions, attorneys working on PERC issue, strategic planning, and success of MDA Boot Drive. President Diaz read the CBA language on calling back of Battalion Chiefs. Chairman Gerrity requested clarification on whether the Battalion Chiefs are a part of the CBA. President Diaz confirmed they are and they are working through the PERC administrative issue.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Foundation Resolution- Chairman Gerrity**

Tara Bishop addressed the Board advising the Greater Naples Fire Foundation lawsuit was resolved through the courts. She advised the Foundation has been dissolved and she presented a check for the remaining funds- \$21,962.21 to be used for charitable use only. *Commissioner Stedman made a motion to accept the money for charitable use only. Commissioner Cottiers seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

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

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

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

- 1. Deleting policy numbers 702, 705, 706, 707, 710, 800, 801, 802, 900, and 901 as referenced above from the policy manual;*
- 2. Adopting policy numbers 700, 701, 703, 704, 708, 709, and 803, as revised effective June 1, 2022 ;*
- 3. The retention, deletion, and revision of the above referenced Standard Operating Guidelines; and*
- 4. Directing staff to develop Standard Operating Guidelines as referenced above.*

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

**B. Safe Haven Baby Box – Fire Chief Sapp**

Fire Chief Sapp presented information in AIW regarding the Safe Haven Baby Box. Jerry Taricska addressed the Board and asked the Board to consider moving forward.

Commissioner Stedman supported moving forward despite legal opinion. Chairman Gerrity also spoke in support. Laura Donaldson gave legal opinion on the subject explaining the liability to the District. Commissioner Duffy advised he spoke to the Ocala PIO and received information and suggested the District wait. Jerry Taricska offered to fund the project for 10 years. The Board gave direction to continue working through the legal issues.

**C. Capital Funding Solutions- Chairman Gerrity**

Chairman Gerrity asked Laura Donaldson to provide information regarding securing a bond and the timeframe it would take. She advised the first step is to develop a bond team and the process takes approximately 6-8 months. *Chairman Gerrity made a motion to engage Laura to develop a bond team to pursue a bond using Ochopee funding to secure it. Commissioner*



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*Stedman seconded.* Commissioner Duffy requested information about whether the issue required a vote. Laura stated ad valorem can be used but not pledged. Chief Sapp advised he doesn't see any harm in gathering info. George Danz asked where the bond money comes from and stated he doesn't understand how the District can use Ochopee funds to pay for the bond. There was discussion regarding bringing agenda items back for reconsideration.  
*Motion passed 3-2 (Duffy, Biondo)*

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Commissioner/Administration Insurance Contribution- Fire Chief Sapp**

Fire Chief Sapp presented information contained in the AIW. Chairman Gerrity clarified the different insurance contribution amounts were intentionally done that way. Commissioners stated they want to keep their deduction amount and lower Commissioner Biondo's deduction.

**B. Fire and Life Safety Inspector Positions- Deputy Chief D'Angelo**

Chief D'Angelo presented information contained in the AIW explaining the need for additional inspectors.

*Commissioner Biondo moved to proceed with directing staff to hire two (2) additional fire & life safety inspectors. Stedman seconded.* Commissioner Stedman asked if inspection fees cover the cost of inspectors. Finance Manager James West provided financial information. *Motion passed unanimously 5-0*

**C. Station 74**

Chairman Gerrity spoke about the location for Station 74 not being ideal for the District and commented that the project keeps growing. Chief Sapp discussed the current situation with Station 74. Chief Butcher clarified how the land was acquired through the land trust and the plan was to co-locate from the beginning. Chief Sapp advised that Staff will provide costs at next meeting.

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

None

**E. Comments by Commissioners**

Commissioner Duffy stated he would like to look at hiring 1 or 2 more mechanics and more facilities personnel.

Commissioner Stedman wanted to thank all commissioners and commented that he appreciates their passion.

Commissioner Biondo asked what position Deputy Chief Wolfe took and asked about the contingency plan for arbitration.

Commissioner Cottiers thanked everyone for their hard work.

Chairman Gerrity stated he met with the union and let them know of three problems; compensation, apparatus, and facility issues and stated the facility issues still need addressed.



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**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

*Commissioner Stedman made a motion to adjourn at 7:53 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 10<sup>th</sup> day May, 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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**Commissioner Nick Biondo**