



FINAL APPROVED MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
April 11, 2023

I. MEETING OPENED

Chairman Duffy called to order the regular meeting of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners at 9:00 a.m., on April 11, 2023, at Administrative Headquarters. Present were Commissioners Duffy, Biondo, Cherney, Cross, and Dearborn.

A. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

B. Consent Agenda

1. Treasurer Report
2. GNFD Board Minutes March 14, 2023
3. GNFD Special Meeting Minutes March 31, 2023

Commissioner Cross moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Dearborn seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

C. Approval, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Fire Chief Sapp requested to pull item C from New Business and put it on next month's Agenda. Chairman Duffy requested to add HMPG Grant – Shanti Smith to item G under New Business.

Commissioner Cross moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

D. Fire Chief's District Report

1. Chairman Duffy recognized EMS-Division Chief DiSarro and EVT Jamie Popiol.
2. Fire Chief Sapp announced the service awards and badge pinnings for the month of March.
3. Fire Chief Sapp presented the report as submitted.
4. Fire Chief Sapp announced 8 firefighter line-of-duty deaths for the month of March.
5. Chairman Duffy requested the District be included in the new building construction for Station 60.
6. Fire Chief Sapp informed the Board that Boat 90 is in the process of receiving a new assessment.

E. Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan – Chairman Tim Sims

Chairman Tim Sims reported that they changed the administrator with a monthly cost savings of \$4,000.

F. Local 2396 Report – President Chris Diaz

President Chris Diaz discussed PFAS statement; stating the Fire Chief sent out a letter restricting employees from wearing the BDU shorts, only BDU pants. President Chris Diaz is requesting the Board to implement the BDU shorts back. The Union presented the Fire Chief with a grievance. The Board agreed that if the Union receives BDU shorts in their contract, the contract needs to be negotiated in order to be able to remove them. The Board agreed to let the Fire Chief's grievance run its course.

Commissioner Biondo moved to have staff meet with the Union to start negotiating the contract at least once a week. Commissioner Dearborn seconded. Motion passed 3-2. (Cherney, Dearborn)



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II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Fire Chief Hiring Process- Commissioner Cherney

The Board directed Attorney Donaldson to work with Commissioner Cherney to finalize the process.

B. Grant Writing- HR Director Janice Monteagudo

HR Director Janice Monteagudo stated there is a meeting with Lexipol to see what grant-writing tools are available to the District. Fire Chief Sapp reached out to several different resources for grant writers and is waiting for responses.

C. In-House Plan Review Cost Benefit Analysis-Assistant Chief Hanson

Assistant Chief Hanson presented a cost analysis PowerPoint. Commissioner Cherney stated that we need to change and update our fee schedule immediately. Commissioner Biondo stated he is in favor of bringing plan review back in-house.

Commissioner Cherney moved to direct staff to pursue what needs to be done to take plan review back in-house as well as, equalize our fees as soon as possible. Chairman Duffy requested this motion be made into two separate motions.

Commissioner Cherney moved to equalize our fees with those being charged in other departments within Collier County so that our fee structure is more in line with the rest of the Fire Districts. Commissioner Biondo seconded.

Commissioner Cherney withdrew his motion. Commissioner Cherney modified his motion to direct staff to evaluate our fee schedule to modify it to the maximum allowed that we need to do our operation. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Cherney moved to direct staff to determine what will officially need to be done to bring plan review back in-house. Commissioner Dearborn seconded.

Kathy Curatolo with the Collier County Building Industry Associates requested the Board have a task force of contractors and the county work through some of these concerns.

Motion passed 4-1. (Cross)

D. High Rise Buildings (Firefighter Air Replenishing System)-Chairman Duffy

Commissioner Cross moved to end any agenda items related to the High-Rise Fire Air Replenishing System and direct staff to not waste any more time on it. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Motion passed 4-1. (Duffy)

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. AIW- Administrative Handbook Revisions- HR Director Janice Monteagudo

Commissioner Cross moved to approve the AIW-Administrative Handbook Revisions, no financial impact. Commissioner Cherney seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

B. AIW- Commissioner Pay and Benefit Policy Revisions- HR Director Janice Monteagudo

HR Director Janice Monteagudo presented the proposed changes to the Board.

Commissioner Cross moved to direct staff to come up with alternative retirement proposals for Commissioners and or future employees that are exempt or disqualified from FRS.



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Commissioner Biondo seconded. Commissioner Cherney clarified to the Board that the District will incur additional costs for a supplemental plan.

Commissioner Cross restated his motion to direct staff to come up with an alternative retirement plan or solution for those Commissioners that are barred from participating in the FRS; and then in the future if we have a Fire Chief issue we can deal with him at that point, but for now let's just deal with the Commissioner issue. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

C. Hurricane Ian After Action Report- Chairman Duffy

Fire Chief Sapp will recognize the individuals that went above and beyond next month. There was a discussion on updating the District's hurricane plan.

D. Security for Fleet Services Property- Chairman Duffy

There was a discussion on the security at Fleet and Station 20, staff is looking into pricing and options for added security.

E. Vehicle Exhaust Removal System/Air Quality Monitor for Stations- Chairman Duffy

Chairman Duffy had no comments.

F. HMPG Grant – Shanti Smith - iParametrics

Breanne Yacono a multi-generational homeowner in Isles of Capri is requesting help submitting her land elevation application to the State and Federal Government. Shanti Smith explained that other entities have not been willing to submit her application.

Commissioner Cross moved to approve the District supporting the young lady's homeowner application. Commissioner Dearborn seconded.

Attorney Donaldson inquired if the District would be liable for anything during this process. Shanti explained that the District would enter the contract as a sub-applicant on behalf of Breanne. *Motion passed 5-0.*

G. Public Input for Issues Not Listed on the Published Agenda

None

H. Comments by Commissioners

There was a discussion to look into analyzing our contracts and agreements. There was a conversation on insurance premiums increasing and whether or not the District should self-insure. There was discussion on the amount of nursing home calls the District responds to and to add this topic to next month's agenda. The Board approved of adding Commissioner Bio's to the Districts website.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cross made a motion to adjourn at 11:35 p.m. Commissioner Dearborn seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0, meeting adjourned.