



APPROVED MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 9, 2025

I. MEETING OPENED

Chairman Biondo 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 9, 2025, at the Administrative Headquarters. Present were Commissioners Biondo, Cherney, Cross, Dearborn, and Duffy.

A. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

B. Approval, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

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

C. Awards & Recognition- Fire Chief Wolfe

1. Fire Chief Wolfe announced the service awards for March.

D. Consent Agenda

1. GNFD Board Minutes March 12, 2025

Commissioner Duffy moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Cherney seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

E. Treasurer's Report- Finance Director Newman

Finance Director Newman presented the Treasurer's Report as submitted. The Board instructed Director Newman to consult with Chairman Sims and the 175 Actuary to review and analyze projected contribution trends.

Commissioner Cherney moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner Cross seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

F. Fire Chief's District Report- Fire Chief Wolfe

1. Fire Chief Wolfe presented the Fire Chief's Report as submitted.
2. There was discussion regarding the letter sent to North Collier regarding consolidation. The District is coordinating a meeting with North Collier and extending an invitation to Immokalee Fire, to be held on either May 27 or 28.
3. There was discussion concerning the timeline for the Outer Drive project.
4. The budget meeting was scheduled to follow the June Board meeting, with plans to include the 175 pension plan on the agenda.
5. Attorney Donaldson provided an update on the local bill pertaining to Special Districts.
6. Commissioner Duffy recognized the personnel involved in a recent fire rescue.

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

No report, the next 175 Pension Plan meeting is scheduled on May 8th; the actuarial report will be presented.

H. Local 2396 Report – President Justin Humphrey

No Report. Commissioner Duffy announced that the actuarial report will be presented at the upcoming 175 Pension Plan meeting on May 8.



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II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Grant Update- Deputy Chief Bauer

Deputy Chief Bauer reported that the HMGP grant has been received and fully executed, and there is no update on the Yacono grant. Deputy Chief Bauer reported the District's HMGP grant is expected to move forward.

B. Fire Plan Review- Chairman Biondo

Amelia Vasquez of CBIA stated that the organization supports the County continuing to manage Fire Plan Review. The Board discussed the possibility of obtaining an informal ethics opinion. Commissioner Cross requested that the Fire Plan Review process remain unchanged, while Chairman Biondo stated he felt personally attacked by Commissioner Cross. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Duffy moved to advise Staff to look into taking plan review away from the County back into the District. Commissioner Cherney seconded. Motion passed 3-2. (Dearborn, Cross) Commissioner Cherney wants what's best for the community and best economically. Fire Chief Wolfe stated he will bring a fiscal Staffing plan for review back to the Board.

Ms. Vasquez requested that CBIA be involved in the process moving forward. Jamie French noted that the County serves solely as a service provider and confirmed that the District has the option to pursue an alternative path. Additional discussion included plan review fees across the County and the possibility of conducting another impact fee study.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. AIW- RFP 25-00R Owner Advisor Services- Deputy Chief Bauer

Deputy Chief Bauer presented the AIW as submitted.

Commissioner Cherney moved to accept the bid and authorize Staff to move forward with negotiations and bring the agreement back for approval. Commissioner Cross seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

B. AIW- Education Reimbursement Fund- Fire Chief Wolfe

Fire Chief Wolfe presented the AIW as submitted.

Commissioner Duffy moved to approve option two, to increase the educational reimbursement 50 percent by \$90,000. Commissioner Cross seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

C. AIW- Collier County Raw Water Agreement- Fire Chief Wolfe

Fire Chief Wolfe presented the AIW as submitted.

Commissioner Cherney moved to authorize the Fire Chief to execute the Collier County Raw Water Agreement on behalf of the District. Commissioner Cross seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0. There was discussion about the County's refusal to allow the District to tap into the Station 74 well for fire suppression during the planning phase.

D. AIW- Collective Bargaining MOU's- Fire Chief Wolfe

Fire Chief Wolfe presented the AIW as submitted.

Commissioner Cross moved to approve the Employee Educational Assistance MOU and the Promotional and Hiring Plan MOU. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.



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E. FLS Positions Update- Assistant Chief Hanson

Assistant Chief Hanson presented a staffing model for the Fire and Life Safety Division. Assistant Chief Hanson will present a cost analysis for in-house plan review, which will include salaries for all necessary positions and the reinstatement of the Chief's salary. The Board requested Chief Hanson meet with North Collier to evaluate the pros and cons of in-house plan review.

F. Public Input Not Listed on the Published Agenda

Fire Chief Wolfe and Local 2396 expressed their gratitude to the Board for approving the MOUs and increasing the education funding. There was discussion on agenda topics for the combined meeting with North Collier.

G. Comments by Commissioners

There was discussion regarding updates on projects, Fire Chief Wolfe agreed to expand the Fire Chief report to include more updates. Commissioner Dearborn announced an event to support the McGinnis Family.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cross moved to adjourn at 10:37 a.m. Commissioner Dearborn seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0. The meeting was adjourned.