



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**December 9, 2008**

**MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 11, 2008 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Commissioner Schweers opened the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

Silent Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Morris, Commissioner Sassano (via telephone), Commissioner Schweers, Commissioner Levy and Commissioner Akins

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No public comments were made.

**ITEMS TO BE PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

No items to be pulled for discussion.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*Commissioner Levy made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-4 as presented. Commissioner Akins seconded, all in favor, motion carried.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

1. **CONDUCT AN ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE BOARD; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE TO OCCUR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE NOVEMBER 11, 2008 BOARD MEETING.** *Commissioner Schweers asked the Board if they would like to move forward with this administrative item or wait until the December meeting when the newly elected commissioner will be in office. Commissioner Levy made a motion to table administrative agenda item 1 until the December Board Meeting. Commissioner Akins seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*

**WALK ON ITEMS**

No walk on items.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

- Review of EFR's organizational chart
- Plans Examiner position vacant due to the retirement of Gerald Van Gelder in November 2008; county wide plans examiner for all fire departments; Bonita Springs possibly handling plans examination for EFR which would be a savings to EFR. Memorandum of Understanding with Lee County and Bonita Springs needs to be prepared with direction by the Board; will address later in the meeting.
- EFR covers 56 square miles and provided information as to each station and the apparatus at each station.

- Tri-Data Study – conference phone call on January 14, 2009 and site visits will be January 20-23, 2009.
- Closest Unit Response – provides for the closest unit to respond to the call, increases the safety for our firefighters and citizens; utilizing CUR with Bonita Springs for the past six months; working with San Carlos Park on implementing CUR.
- Speed bumps & humps – It is the position of EFR to oppose any device that increases our response times to emergency incidents.
- EMBER – noted the arrival of Ember a 10 week old dalmatian puppy.
- Commissioner Morris – thanked Commissioner Morris for his many years of dedicated service to the District.
- Self Insured Plans – provided history and where we are today; Chief Vanderbrook provided options to the Board and asked for direction as to how to proceed. General Counsel provided his comments and further explanation of the options. *After much discussion, Commissioner Levy made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to request that SIP provide individual records of each employee and bring back to the Board for further direction as to whether or not to perform an internal audit to determine if and where overpayments have been made and the process for seeking repayment from employees. Commissioner Akins seconded. Commissioner Levy, Commissioner Akins, Commissioner Schweers and Commissioner Sassano were in favor, Commissioner Morris opposed. Motion carried by a vote of 4-1.*
- *Commissioner Levy made a motion to authorize the Fire Chief to move forward with the appropriate documentation for plans review, terminating the plans review with the county and creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Bonita Springs and EFR. Commissioner Akins seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Goodrich of 20877 Pinehurst Greens Drive, Estero, Florida thanked the EFR staff for the assistance in providing the SIP information for his review to better understand the situation with SIP and suggested the Board move forward, concurrently with the request to SIP, with an inquiry and send to the Office of Insurance Regulation and make sure SIP is in compliance. General Counsel noted that a motion is not needed; can be handled administratively.

### **COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

- Commissioner Levy thanked EFR for their professionalism in response to a recent incident.
- Commissioner Levy also noted the change in commissioners in a neighboring district and noted his expectations of EFR: to follow the mission statement, be fiscally responsible to the community and to fairly and adequately compensate the employees of EFR through salary, benefits and working conditions.

*Commissioner Schweers called for a recess at 6:05 p.m. General Counsel was dismissed from the meeting. The meeting reconvened at 6:10 p.m.*

### **PROMOTIONS, NEW FIREFIGHTERS AND AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Fire Chief Scott Vanderbrook, promoted from Interim Fire Chief/Operations Chief  
 Assistant Chief Mark Wahlig, promoted from Battalion Chief, 10 years of  
 Battalion Chief Jeannine Horton, promoted from Lieutenant

#### **Engineers**

Greg Escarra  
 Ryan Evanson

Dan Hardman  
 Terry Lindgren

Michael Maradona  
 David Murray

Laura Occhipinti  
Matthew Pagnutti

Jason Richards  
Schyler Smith

Thad Stevens

New Firefighters

Mark Diaz  
William Kinked  
Adam Rambo

Awards

Chief Vanderbrook, 10 years of service  
Lieutenant Grant Schwalbe, 5 years of service and bachelors degree  
Firefighter Fred Gonzalez, 5 years of service

Commissioner Schweers performed the swearing in of all promoted and new employees.

*Commissioner Morris made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Akins seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Gayle M. Sassano, Secretary**