



R46  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
April 8, 2008**

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

Commissioner Schweers opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Silent Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Akins, Commissioner Schweers, Commissioner Sassano, Commissioner Morris. Commissioner Levy arrived approximately ten minutes late and expressed his apologies.

**PRESENTATION TO ESTERO COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND**

Orlando Sorrento and Mary Jo Sorrento from Tijuana Flatts presented Chief Lindsey with a check for \$800 for the Estero Community Safety Fund.

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING**

Shane Williams of Deangelis Diamond provided an update on the progress of the administration building. Commissioner Morris inquired as to whether or not the stairwell issue had been resolved. Chief Lindsey noted the issue had been resolved. Discussion on options for floor in entry/lobby: terrazzo tile with EFR logo/patch, light that displays logo/patch on floor or nothing at all. *After discussion, Commissioner Sassano made a motion to approve the light to reflect EFR patch at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. Commissioner Levy seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

John Goodrich of 20877 Pinehurst Greens Drive, Estero, Florida, addressed the Board regarding Administrative Agenda Item 2 and reiterated his support on the matter of consolidation or merger and strongly urged the commissioners to move forward with the RFP and also encourage citizen participation.

**ITEMS TO BE PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

No items to be pulled for discussion.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*Commissioner Sassano made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-6 as presented. Commissioner Morris seconded, all in favor, motion carried.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

1. **ADOPT BY RESOLUTION A BILLING POLICY FOR EFR RESPONSE TO VEHICLE ACCIDENTS INVOLVING NON TAXPAYING RESIDENTS OF ESTERO.** Chief Lindsey provided a brief explanation and noted this is brought back before the Board as requested at a previous meeting. *After much discussion, Commissioner Sassano made a motion to approve Administrative Agenda item 1 as presented. No second was made, the motion failed. Direction was given to Chief Lindsey to discuss with the fire chiefs of Bonita Springs and San Carlos Park regarding their feelings and whether this could be included with consolidation efforts. Suggestion was also made for Chief Lindsey to put this item on the agenda for a Lee County Fire Chiefs meeting.*

2. **APPROVE RFP FOR THE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR MERGER CONSOLIDATION OF BONITA SPRINGS FIRE DISTRICT, ESTERO FIRE RESCUE AND SAN CARLOS PARK FIRE DISTRICT.** Chief Lindsey provided a brief explanation. Commissioner Akins noted changes that need to be made to the RFP; said changes do not take away from the RFP and can move forward. *Commissioner Akins made a motion to approve Administrative Agenda Item 2 with noted changes. Commissioner Morris seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Frank Messana of 9896 Colonial Walk S, Estero, Florida, applauded the Board in going forward with the RFP. Mr. Messana would also like to see the Board move forward and not drop the ball with regard to the MVC issue.

### **COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

- Commissioner Morris presented a challenge to Chief Lindsey and personnel to do budget cutting on their own and look for possibilities of saving monies. Commissioner Morris suggested the big rigs be used only for emergency calls and maintenance. Chief Lindsey noted this had already been done with the rollback of 3% and the opportunities of good PR involved with the large apparatus being seen in the community, not excessively but on occasion other than in response to calls.

### **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT**

- February Monthly Report –February was the busiest month on record for Estero; new rescue responded to most calls (29% of call volume)
- Two fires this past week – home of an EFR CERT member in Breckenridge and a mobile home fire
- Working with Bonita Springs with regard to automatic aid to abolish the district line and provide the best service to those in the area
- Introduced Acting Fire Marshal Phillip Green – working on changes to make our community safer
- Station 4 (Firehouse Lane) March 12 Open House cancelled
- Impact Fees – nothing with fire district this year; nothing determined
- CERT program recognized and certificate presented to Mr. Vangelder
- North Naples Grant Writing program w/ FGCU attended by Ms. Lindenmuth today
- Extended an invitation to the Board to tour the administration building immediately following the meeting
- Chief Lindsey then asked Finance Director April White to discuss the budget and to seek direction with regard to updating the financial plan. Ms. White noted the audit will be presented at the April Board Meeting. Due to the unusual and unforeseen circumstances for the upcoming budget year, Ms. White sought direction as to the Board's preference as to the use of the financial planner and whether or not to utilize him during the budget process for 2008/2009 or to move forward with unknown numbers to update the financial plan. *Consensus among the Board to utilize the financial planner different than originally intended. Accept and move forward for this year. Commissioner Levy would like to see the financial plan become independent from the budget for February 2009.*

*Commissioner Akins made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Commissioner Sassano, all were in favor.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Gayle M. Sassano, Secretary