

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT

911 North County Highway 393, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459

"Prompt, Competent, Caring Response in Time of Need"



The Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District will hold a regular meeting on **January 8, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.** at the South Walton Fire District logistics building - third floor.

The agenda will include, but not be limited to the following:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment*
- III. Approval of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting: 12.11.2023
- IV. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- V. Attorney's Report
Trademark Update
- VI. Chief's Report
- VII. Committee Reports
- VIII. Unfinished/Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Public Comment*
- XI. Adjournment

***Note:** Persons who wish to be placed on the agenda must contact the Administrative Assistant within five days of any meeting and provide the name of the person who will be speaking and the subject to be addressed. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District concerning any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2024

*****PENDING APPROVAL*****

Commissioners Present: Mark Foley, Phil Friday, Maurice Gilbert, Roger Hall, Mike Stange

Commissioners Absent: Brian Christenson and Charlotte Flynt

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment: Members of the public were invited to comment. There was no public comment.

Commissioner Gilbert announced that a quorum was present.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Foley and seconded by Commissioner Hall, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the December 11, 2023, Board of Fire Commissioners' regular meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: In Commissioner Flynt's absence, Fiscal Officer Martin read the November 2023 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Youell reported that SWFD's Trademark application continues progressing. Attorney Youell reported that there had been no contact from the Title Insurance Company regarding SWFD's request for reimbursement due to the title company's lack of due diligence in researching the St 5, Geronimo Street property. Attorney Youell will provide the board with a status via email or present her findings at the February regular Fire Commissioners meeting.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Friday and seconded by Commissioner Hall, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's December 2023 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Crawford attended the regular board meeting via Zoom as he was in Orlando attending the Florida Fire Conference and state committee meetings. In addition, Chief Crawford is scheduled to attend a Southeastern Assoc of Fire Chiefs Board of Directors meeting in Atlanta at the end of the week.

In addition, the following Staff members were at The Florida Fire Conference in the following roles:

- PIO McClintock – attended the PIO symposium and assisted the FFCA staff with managing social media platforms and media outreach for the Florida Fire Conference.
- District Chief Kuehner attended the State Light Technical Rescue Team and Urban Search and Rescue Team Committee Meetings
- EMS Division Director Coker and Clinical Coordinator Lawrence Smith served as judges for the highly competitive Advanced Life Support competition.

Chief Crawford reviewed the Emergency Response Activity Report which included Beach Safety Responses.

SWFD hosted its 10th Annual Polar Plunge Event New Year's Day event. The event netted \$6,650. All funds raised help support SWFD's community education and risk reduction programs.

Chief Crawford stated that the Short-Term Rental Interlocal Agreement for revenue sharing that the Fire Board approved during its regular December 2023 meeting was pulled from the BCC's agenda just before their December board meeting at the direction of County Administration. SWFD Staff are prepared to address any remaining concerns that the County Administration may have. Chief Crawford will keep the Fire Board informed and report any revisions for their consideration.

Chief Crawford announced that EMS Director Magnum Coker graduated from the Northwest Florida State College Fire Academy in December. Director Coker came to SWFD with an extensive background in both prehospital EMS and Nursing. However, as a condition of employment, Coker was required to obtain the Florida Firefighter certification and is now a Florida-certified firefighter.

Chief Crawford reminded the Fire Board to schedule their appointments for profile portraits which will be used to create SWFD's 40th Anniversary album.

The 2024 legislative session begins on January 9, 2024. Chief Crawford will begin providing updates on bills related to SWFD's interest as they begin to move through the committee. In addition, Chief Crawford plans to attend the Florida Association of Special Districts' Legislative Forum in Tallahassee on January 23 -24, 2024, where he will have an opportunity to meet with the local delegation.

SWFD's Honor Guard is scheduled to present colors at the opening ceremony for the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association's annual conference at Sandestin in January 2024 for State and County Emergency Management officials. Additionally, Chief Crawford has been asked to participate in a panel discussion on disaster resource typing, ordering, logistics, and the general coordinated statewide response of all fire rescue, USAR, and HAZMAT assets for Hurricanes Ian and Idalia. The panel will include Chief Crawford, Director of State Fire Marshal's Office Joanne Rice, State Emergency Response Committee Chair TJ Lyons, Walton County Emergency Management Director Jeff Goldberg, and Fire Chief Marcos De La Rosa of the City of Coral Gables Fire Department.

Chief Crawford shared previously that SWFD had been selected to participate in the Ground Ambulance Data Collection Survey for Medicare. This comprehensive survey is used to collect cost, revenue, utilization, and other information from ground ambulance organizations. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is required to collect and deliver this data to an Advisory Commission which will then develop a report to Congress. The overall program's goal is to determine whether CMS rates are adequate to support the actual costs incurred by ambulance services providing care to CMS beneficiaries. We will be reporting data for calendar year 2023 and all agency data must be submitted by the end of May 2024.

SWFD's Annual SWFD Awards Banquet is scheduled for 5 pm on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at the Sandestin Hilton. Chief Crawford encouraged the Fire Commissioners to attend as SWFD members are recognized for the extraordinary work they performed throughout the year.

Chief Crawford reminded the Fire Commissioners of the new 4-hour Ethics Training requirement which now applies to special district elected officials. This training must be completed each calendar year.

Chief Crawford announced that the Florida Association of Special Districts is working to produce a platform exclusive for FASD members that meets the continuing education requirement that applies to elected officials. Chief Crawford will forward web links for the online education portals to the Fire Commissioners.

SWFD Administrative Offices will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Day.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2024, at 4 p.m. in SWFD's Logistics Building Board Room.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comment: Members of the public were invited to comment. There was no public comment.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.