

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 **November 14, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.** at the South Walton Fire District Administration building.

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: 10.10.2022
- IV. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- V. Attorney's Report
- 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 – November 14, 2022

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

Commissioners Present: David A.C. Bailey, Brian Christenson, Charlotte Flynt, Phil Friday, Maurice Gilbert, Mike Stange

Commissioners Absent: Mark B. Foley

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

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

Chairman Gilbert announced that there was a quorum present.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 10, 2022, Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Flynt read the September 2022 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report:

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's October 2022 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

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

Beginning November 1, 2022, SWFD deployed a total of twenty-one SWFD personnel to areas impacted by Hurricane Ian. More specifically, to Sanibel Island and Fort Meyers Beach areas which resulted in a 33-day deployment period. Chief Crawford stated that he was very proud of the humanitarian work and contributions SWFD members provided toward the recovery efforts in these communities.

During October, SWFD's Fire & Life Safety Division conducted Fire Prevention and Education activities in all our schools and daycares. This year included a poster coloring contest for students in grades 3-5 at Dune Lakes Elementary and Butler Elementary Schools. The Dune Lakes 1st place winner was fifth grade student Harper Merz, and the Butler Elementary 1st place winner was fifth grade student Alexander Ciko. Both 1st place winners will receive a pizza party for their class and will be driven to school in a fire engine. This year's fire prevention month campaign has been a huge success.

SWFD received three of four new UAV drone aircraft. UAV platforms provide expanded capabilities including the ability to live stream video in real-time as well as thermal imaging capabilities. Hands-on training through the drone vendor has been scheduled for December 14th and 15th for all SWFD UAV pilots.

SWFD's Department Relations Committee planned and hosted SWFD's 1st Family Fall Festival for employees, retirees, and their families. The event provided several competitive family-friendly activities with events such as corn hole, a youth firefighter combat challenge, tug of war, an inflatable bounce firehouse, and many other activities. The highlight of the day included a chili competition. The people's choice award for this year's grand champion chili went to Beach Safety Officer Meece. SWFD intends to make this an annual event for our members moving forward.

October 20, 2022, marked the 18th anniversary of the loss of the Airheart 1 crew. SWFD members and retirees, along with former AirHeart flight crew members, and family gathered along the southeast shoulder of Highway 331 to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Robert Heighton, Jack Chase, and Tom Palcic. SWFD's honor guard conducted a brief ceremonial detail along with a special solo tribute on the bagpipes by Paramedic Laura Kerr. Commissioner Flynt arranged to have the solemn anniversary acknowledged by Dr. Stephenson with Northwest Florida State College to have flowers placed at the Airheart memorial site on the Niceville campus.

Empire Builders has commenced work on the 3rd floor buildout of the logistics building which is scheduled for completion in mid-March 2023. This project will provide for a larger board meeting and multi-purpose training room, several additional office spaces, and a small kitchen.

All six new firefighters have completed their 80-hour orientation and are in the final portion of their clinical precepting process before being assigned to their respective shifts.

Assistant Chief LaTour, Communications Director Perez, and several members of the SWFD communications division's leadership team attended the Florida NENA Conference at Sandestin Hilton. NENA is an organization focused on improving 9-1-1 communications through best practices, advocacy for the development of standards with 9-1-1 technology, and education for emergency telecommunicators.

The 2022 Beach Safety season concluded on October 31, 2022. SWFD continues to provide coverage through a roving model utilizing the nineteen full-time beach safety employees. This scaled-back model will continue through March 1st. and are already preparing strategies to begin marketing and recruitment for lifeguard applicants for the 2023 beach season.

SWFD's current Beach Safety agreement with Walton County will conclude on February 28, 2023. Chief Crawford and Beach Safety Director Vaughan are continuing to meet with Walton County's Tourist Development leadership to create a proposal for a renewal agreement. Chief Crawford will keep the board updated as these discussions continue.

For the 22nd consecutive year, SWFD received Christmas wishes from approximately 200 Walton County children. Individuals choosing to participate through the adoption of angels are asked to return gifts before Thursday, December 1, 2022.

SWFD's 1st Annual Heroes Against Hunger program was created to provide meals for those less fortunate in its community. Canned and non-perishable goods are being collected at each SWFD location through November 18, 2022. SWFD partnered with Food for Thought to distribute the food items.

SWFD received federal reimbursement of approximately \$9,000 for SWFD's direct support in responding to the Chipola Complex fires in Bay County.

The Public Emergency Medical Transportation (PEMT) program has been in place for governmental EMS providers in Florida since 2016 and SWFD has been participating since 2019. Chief Crawford shared that SWFD recently received approximately \$50,000 through its PEMT participation. Since 2019, SWFD's participation in the Fee for Service (FFS) and Managed Care (MCO) portions of the PEMT reimbursement program has netted over \$200,000 in additional revenues.

Coastal Seniors of South Walton partnered with area health organizations for the Walton County Healthy Aging Fair which showcased local resources and services available to Walton County seniors. SWFD's Beach Safety and EMS Division members participated.

In November, the Florida Department of Health - Bureau of Emergency Medical Services regulators conducted a site compliance survey and inspection of SWFD's EMS Division. Chief Crawford shared that no deficiencies were identified. The Compliance Officer concluded that all vehicles and service records were found to be in outstanding condition and acknowledged the District for being a role model of excellence as an EMS provider in the State of Florida. A copy of the compliance monitoring disposition letter was included in the board's packet. Chief Crawford stated that he was very proud of the entire EMS Division which falls under the leadership of Assistant Chief Hughes, EMS Quality Control Officer Coker, and support provided by EMS Logistics Coordinator Wells.

SWFD's administrative offices will be closed on November 24-25, 2022, in observance of Thanksgiving.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting will be on Monday, December 12, 2022, at 4 p.m. at SWFD's Administrative Office.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comment: Chief Crawford presented Commissioner Bailey with a plaque for his dedicated service to the South Walton Fire District.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.