

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 **June 17, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.** on the third floor of the South Walton Fire District Logistics Building.

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

Special Item: Fire Commissioner Swearing in Ceremony – David A. C. Bailey
Attorney Rene Youell

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment*
- III. Approval of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting: 05.13.2024
- IV. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- V. Attorney's Report
Title Insurance Claim Update
- VI. Chief's Report
- VII. Committee Reports
Pension Board Quarterly Update
Roger Hall, Commissioner
- VIII. Unfinished/Old Business
- IX. New Business
Board Action: Request to Reschedule the September 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District
Fiscal Officer Carole Martin

Board Action: Capital Purchase Request – Fire Station Alerting System
Assistant Chief Daniel LaTour
- 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 – June 17, 2024

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

Special Item: Swearing-In Ceremony – David A. C. Bailey was sworn in as Fire Commissioner, Seat 7.

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

Commissioners Absent: Roger Hall

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Gilbert announced that a quorum was present.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Flynt, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 13, 2024, Board of Fire Commissioners' regular meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Flynt read the April 2024 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Youell reported receiving an email from the US Trademark Office requesting additional documentation before approving SWFD's Trademark application.

Youell also reported that there continues to be no response on the Notice of Title Defect for SWFD's Geronimo Street property.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's May 2024 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

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

Chief Crawford reported on noteworthy incidents including fires on June 1, 2024 - Dune Breeze Lane, June 10 - Windward Lane, and June 10 - N. Holiday Road as well as the shark attacks on June 7, 2024.

District Chief Chris Kidder was selected for a technical panel in support of a national research project titled: Fire Dynamics and Firefighting Tactics in Multi-Story Residential Structures. Chief Crawford is incredibly proud of Chief Kidder's passion and selection to participate in this prestigious research panel.

On May 17, 2024, SWFD hosted a NWFL Regional FFCA Chief's meeting that included updates from the FFCA Executive Director, the FFCA President, the Assistant Director

from SFMO, and the Director of the 2nd Alarm Project. There were approximately 90 in attendance.

On May 31, 2024, SWFD conducted a swearing-in ceremony for Firefighters Reed and Fears. This ceremony signifies successfully completing their yearlong probationary process by being pinned as career firefighters by friends and family.

SWFD's Junior Lifeguard Program kicked off June 4, 2024, with more than 200 registrants. As an enhanced benefit, 15 to 16-year-old juniors will be allowed to obtain the required certifications to become employed as a lifeguard once they reach 17 years of age. The three (3) week Junior program is being offered in two sessions: June 4 – 20, 2024, and July 9 – 25, 2024.

The Fire District attended the grand opening of the new McDonalds in Santa Rosa Beach this past week. Chief Crawford thanked Costa Enterprises and the Costa family, for their benevolent donation of \$500. These funds will be used to assist SWFD's Peer Support Team efforts in providing mental wellness and resiliency resources for SWFD members.

Fire Chief Crawford, Assistant Chief LaTour, Fiscal Officer Martin, and Accountant Brunza attended the Florida Association of Special District's annual conference. The conference provided the latest in AI and cybersecurity trends, an economic outlook, HR and labor law updates, as well as a legislative and elections update.

Firefighter candidate testing was conducted in May creating an eligibility list for 2024/25. Interviews will be scheduled for mid-July.

SWFD will host a quarterly Walton Fire Council meeting with the leadership of all fire rescue agencies within Walton County on June 26, 2024.

SWFD's Administrative Offices will be closed on July 4, 2024, in observance of Independence Day.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting will be held July 8, 2024, at 4 p.m. in SWFD's Logistics Building Board Room.

Committee Reports: Fiscal Officer Martin reported in Fire Commissioner Hall's absence. The pension board met on June 3, 2024, where it was reported the fund earned 14.55% for the six months ended March 31, 2024. The pension fund had a higher share of its investments than targeted in Domestic Equity for a good reason as the earnings in that category have been high. Therefore, the pension board voted to rebalance some of that money into international equity and some into domestic fixed income.

The pension board also voted to diversify their real estate investments. They will invest funds into Harrison Street which is a large fund with medical offices, senior housing, student housing, and self-storage buildings. The current real estate investment, which they will keep but not add to, is more invested in office buildings.

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: Fiscal Officer Martin presented a Board Action Request to Reschedule the September 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board unanimously approved to move the regular September board meeting from Monday, September 9th to Tuesday, September 10th to coincide with the date of the First Public Budget Hearing.

Assistant Chief LaTour presented a Board Action recommending Fire Board approval for the Fire Chief or his designee to proceed with the purchase of the US Digital Designs Phoenix G2 Fire Station Alerting System within the approved budgeted amount.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the Fire Chief or his designee to proceed with the purchase of the US Digital Designs Phoenix G2 Fire Station Alerting System within the approved budgeted amount.

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

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.