

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 **February 10, 2025, 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:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment*
- III. Approval of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting: 01.13.2025
- IV. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- V. Attorney's Report
Trademark Update
Title Insurance Claim Update
- VI. Chief's Report
- VII. Committee Reports
- VIII. Unfinished/Old Business
- IX. New Business
Board Action: Alys Beach Neighborhood Association. Inc.
Beach Safety and Education Program Contract
David Vaughan
- 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 – February 10, 2025

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

Commissioners Present: David Bailey, Brian Christenson, Charlotte Flynt, Mark Foley, Maurice Gilbert

Commissioners Absent: Roger Hall, Mike Stange

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 Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Foley, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 13, 2025, Board of Fire Commissioners' regular meeting.

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

Attorney's Report: Attorney Youell reported there was no change from the previous Board meeting regarding the Notice of Title Defect for SWFD's Geronimo Street property.

Attorney Youell reported that the Trademark was published for opposition on January 28, 2025, to provide a 30-day opportunity for the public to oppose its registration.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's January 2025 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

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

SWFD's service area experienced a rather unusual winter weather event, bringing ice and several inches of snow. SWFD crews responded to 91 incidents over the 48-hour period, many of which were attributed to alarm system activations, waterflow alarms, and sprinkler activations due to systems freezing and thawing.

SWFD extended conditional offers to nine firefighters that are scheduled to begin new hire orientation the week of February 24, 2025. Most of this hiring will provide for the expanded staffing for a secondary engine scheduled to be assigned to the Inlet Beach Fire Station beginning in April. This will provide a critical resource throughout the eastern portion of the Fire District. As a result of this planned expansion of services, SWFD is scheduled to promote six firefighters to Sergeant and three Sergeants to Lieutenant.

Chief Crawford introduced two new staff members, Training Captain Sean Tolar and Assistant Communications Director Amanda Williamson.

Chief Crawford announced that Firefighter/Paramedic Conner Fears was selected as SWFD's 2024 Firefighter of the 4th Quarter.

SWFD's Annual Awards Banquet was held February 8, 2025, at Hotel Effie. Chief Crawford thanked the Commissioners who were able to attend the special evening. Elizabeth Foley graciously participated in recognizing the personnel who were involved with her prehospital care for her nearly fatal encounter with a shark last summer.

SWFD's 2024 highest honors are as follows:

Telecommunicator of the Year – Communications Lieutenant Autumn Hanks

Lifeguard of the Year – Lifeguard Jerred Pyles

Firefighter of the Year - Firefighter/Paramedic John Bitler

Fire Officer of the Year - Lieutenant Luke Lewis

Fire Chiefs Award – PIO Mackenzie McClintock

SWFD's Training Division hosted a training cadre from Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and Holley-Navarre Fire District for a multi-day "Search Culture," class in which SWFD firefighters took part in both classroom and hands-on search training. Firefighters drilled on three search scenarios including: Vent/Enter/Search (VES), searching with a thermal imaging camera (TIC), and searching from a hose line.

Several staff members completed a final inspection of two new ambulances on order with Braun Ambulance manufacturing plant in Ohio. After receiving these ambulances, they will undergo final upfitting by SWFD's Fleet Division. These ambulances are scheduled to replace Rescue 1, assigned to the Inlet Beach Station, and Rescue 4, assigned to Mack Bayou Station, as part of SWFD's scheduled vehicle replacement plan.

SWFD's Beach Safety Division has begun preparing for the seasonal return to Walton County's beaches. Seasonal lifeguard coverage will begin March 1, 2025, with daily staffing from 10am – 6pm at each of the Regional Beach Accesses.

The rebuild of SWFD's Miramar Beach Fire Station continues its evolution toward a newly expanded facility.

SWFD received RFP submittals for the solicitation of an architectural firm for engineering and design of fire station #6. The first evaluation committee meeting will take place on February 18, 2025. Staff anticipate presenting a recommendation for the selection of a firm along with a negotiated contract to the April board meeting.

Chief Crawford is scheduled to attend the Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI) 35th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Symposium and Dinner in Washington, DC. Chief Crawford will have the opportunity to attend educational tracts on emerging fire service technologies, best practices with managing large outdoor events, the forthcoming transition from NFIRS to the new National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS), emerging trends with challenges to codes and standards across the country, and enhancing recruitment and retention in the fire service.

SWFD's Administrative Offices will be closed Monday February 17, 2025, in observation of President's Day.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: Beach Safety Director Vaughan presented a Board Action whereas Staff recommended Chairman Gilbert execute a negotiated contract with Alys Beach Neighborhood Association for Beach Safety Services.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Foley, the Board unanimously approved Chairman Gilbert to execute the negotiated contract with Alys Beach Neighborhood Association for Beach Safety Services.

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

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.