

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 9, 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: 05.12.2025
- IV. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- V. Attorney's Report
Trademark Update
Title Insurance Claim Update
- VI. Chief's Report
- VII. Committee Reports
Pension Board Quarterly Update
Brian Christenson, Commissioner
- VIII. Unfinished/Old Business
- IX. New Business
Board Action: St. Joe Resort Operations, LLC Beach Safety and Education Program Contract
Beach Safety Director David Vaughan

Board Action: Request to Reschedule the September 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District
Carole Martin, Fiscal Officer
- 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 9, 2025

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

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

Commissioners Absent: None

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 Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of May 12, 2025, Board of Fire Commissioners' regular meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Bailey read the April 2025 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Youell reported no change in the Trademark status. Attorney Youell stated that a settlement amount regarding the Notice of Title Defect for SWFD's Geronimo Street property is expected to be presented at July's regular meeting.

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

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Crawford reviewed the Emergency Response Activity Report which included Beach Safety Responses. Chief Crawford also presented an overview of SWFD's major incidents since the regular meeting in May.

Chief Crawford announced that South Walton Fire District's EMS Division had received the Mission: Lifeline EMS Gold Achievement Award for its ongoing commitment to high-quality prehospital care for heart attack and stroke patients. This prestigious award honors EMS agencies nationwide that demonstrate excellence in implementing evidence-based care for cardiac and stroke emergencies. Chief Crawford congratulated SWFD's EMS Division's leadership as well as its EMT and Paramedic providers who contribute daily making this recognition a reality.

Chief Crawford announced the soft launch of PulsePoint, a mobile application designed to increase cardiac arrest survival rates through improved bystander notification and active citizen support. Once fully functional, when a 911 dispatcher receives a call related to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), the information on the CAD system will automatically trigger a PulsePoint push notification to subscribers who are trained individuals to respond, perform lifesaving CPR, and AED assistance until first responders arrive.

The first session of SWFD's Junior Lifeguard Program will be June 10-26, 2025. The last session will take place July 8-24, 2025.

In partnership with Walton County Emergency Management, SWFD will host the 2025 HERRricane Leadership Camp beginning July 29, 2025, through August 1, 2025. The program introduces young women to emergency management careers through hands-on learning and leadership development. Activities will include drone operations, land navigation, CPR certification, basic first aid, fire safety, a mock-EOC activation and more.

In April, Assistant Chiefs LaTour and Hughes attended the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association NWFL Regional Meeting. Attendees were provided updates from the various Divisions within the Office of the State Fire Marshal as well as legislative and organizational updates from the FFCA President and staff.

Battalion Chief Usher represented SWFD at the Northwest Florida State College's Annual Public Safety Memorial Day service on May 12, 2025. As a tribute in their memory, Chief Usher shared a few personal stories about the three AirHeart 1 crew members who perished in the line of duty in 2004.

SWFD's Communications Division Director Perez and Assistant Director Williamson attended the Annual Motorola User Conference on May 12-16, 2025. The conference provided extensive product training, networking opportunities, and an opportunity to connect with experts and peers to maximize the use of SWFD's CAD technology.

On June 6, 2025, in collaboration with Florida Department of Health, Walton County, and other county stakeholders who serve on the Overdose Prevention Task Force, hosted a Revive Awareness Day event in both northern Walton County and at SWFD's Logistics Facility. June 6th was designated by Governor DeSantis as Revive Awareness Day across Florida and intended to highlight the importance of access to the medication Naloxone or Narcan which can reverse overdoses from substances such as fentanyl.

The Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) will be undergoing SLERS 2.0 radio upgrades during June 16-27, 2025, bringing the antiquated radio system to full P-25 compliance. This will provide improved radio coverage and over the air programming for the 800 Mhz radio system.

Staff continues to work with Florida Power & Light (FP&L) to obtain an access and utility easement across the high-tension powerline parcel as the St. Joe easement align and traverse adjacent this location. FP&L has requested several items related to the roadway design to include a site plan, grading, weight rating of the roadway, landscaping, lighting, and utility plans. Title commitment is tied to SWFD, showing access to the parcel through granted easements. SWFD has engaged its civil engineer to proceed with providing the requested information in order to get the easement approved. Once recorded SWFD will be able to proceed with title commitment and closing on the parcel.

Staff continues development of the FY26 budget proposal. While we are early in the

process it remains to be seen what fiscal impacts state legislation, and/or the state budget may have on property tax revenues. We have included a preliminary budget calendar in your board packets for planning purposes.

Chief Crawford highlighted a few pieces of legislation which will have varying impacts on the Fire District moving forward.

SB 180 - Emergencies HB 551 Fire Prevention

SB 700 - Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

HB 929 – Firefighter Health and Safety

SB 1202 – Benefits for Firefighters Injured During Training Exercises

In May 2025, Assistant Chief LaTour attended the Station Design Conference in Glendale, AZ. The conference featured workshops by industry leaders, architects, and consultants providing valuable insights and guidance on various aspects of fire station design, including building materials, operational needs, and long-term planning.

On June 16 – 19, 2025, Fire Chief Crawford, Fiscal Officer Martin, and Assistant Chief LaTour are scheduled to attend the Florida Association of Special Districts Annual Conference. The annual meeting provides educational sessions and workshops, current and upcoming legislative and regulatory issues affecting special districts and an opportunity to connect with fellow special district leaders from around the state.

On June 5, 2025, SWFD celebrated the retirement of Lt. Eric Lang along with many friends, family, and colleagues. Lt Lang is SWFD's first retiree having accumulated a total of 30 years' service with the Fire District.

On June 30, 2025, SWFD will honor Firefighter Coy Surprise as he celebrates retirement after serving a total of 21 years with SWFD.

Battalion Chief Mike Thomas is retiring after serving 24 years with SWFD. Chief Thomas served in the positions of Firefighter/Paramedic, Flight Medic, Division Chief of EMS, District Chief, and Battalion Chief.

SWFD has tentatively scheduled an Insurance Service Organization (ISO) assessment for late August 2025. This evaluation is completed every 8 - 10 years on behalf of the insurance industry which evaluates a fire department's capacity and capability to protect their community from fire using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) assigning an overall score based on a 1- 10 scale. A lower numerical score indicates a higher level of fire protection. At last evaluation, SWFD was recognized with a 3/3X FSRS rating. Fire Suppression Ratings are important as they assess and classify a community's fire protection capabilities, which directly impact homeowner insurance premiums.

Chief Crawford reminded the Fire Commissioners that FORM-1 Financial Reporting must be completed by July 1, 2025.

The South Walton Fire District (SWFD) Board of Fire Commissioners will hold an Executive Session on Monday, July 7, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of the Executive Session is for the Board to discuss labor negotiations.

The following were included in the board packet:

- 1) A Fire Engineering article by SWFD District Chief Chris Kidder on transitioning from Company Officer to Chief Officer roles.
- 2) A flyer from the 2024 Surf Life Saving Awards Banquet where Chief Glen Kuehner and Beach Safety Lieutenants Colin Perlaky and Luke Turner were recognized with the USLA Award of Merit for their roles training hundreds of personal rescue watercraft (PRWC) operators across the Southeast dating back to 2008.
- 3) Letters highlighting positive interactions with SWFD members.

SWFD's Administrative Offices will be closed Friday, July 4, 2025, in observation of Independence Day.

Committee Reports: Commissioner Christenson presented a Pension Board Quarterly Report. The pension fund lost .53% for the quarter ended 3/31/25 and has lost 1.54% for the first half of FY2025. Over the past 12 months, the fund has earned 4.78%.

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: Beach Safety Director David Vaughan presented a Board Action whereas Staff recommended to proceed with entering a negotiated contract for Beach Safety Services with St Joe's Resort Operations, LLC, for the Watersound Community. A copy of the contract was included in the packet.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Foley, the Board unanimously approved execution of the contract for Beach Safety Services with St Joe's Resort Operations, LLC, for the Watersound Community.

Fiscal Officer Martin presented a Board Action Request to Reschedule the September 2025 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 Bailey, the Board unanimously approved to move the regular September board meeting from Monday, September 8, 2025, to Tuesday, September 9, 2025, to coincide with the date of the First Public Budget Hearing.

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

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.