

*South Walton* **FIRE DISTRICT**  
**SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 26, 2015**

**\*\*\*PENDING APPROVAL\*\*\***

**Commissioners Present:** Jack Abbit, Charlotte Flynt, Maurice Gilbert, Thomas McGee, Mike Stange

**Commissioners Absent:** Donna Crawford, Brian Christenson

**Call to Order:** 4:04 p.m.

**Quasi-Judicial Ordinance:** The second reading of SWFD Ordinance 15-01, Florida Fire Prevention Code Adoption was read into the record by Fire Marshal Sanchez.

**Public Comment:** At the conclusion of the reading, members of the public were invited to comment.

Mary Nielsen commended the SWFD for their efforts in the creation of SWFD Ordinance 15-01. Ms. Nielsen further stated that the ordinance is long overdue. Ms. Nielsen stated that in lieu of a Walton County Business/Occupational license, she feels the SWFD has taken the first step toward what has become necessary and that the ordinance is the best thing that has happened to South Walton.

Bob Brooke commended the SWFD for taking action to proceed in this direction. Mr. Brooke stated that Walton County needs this type of oversight to address life safety hazards as well as prevent them. Mr. Brooke presented the Fire Board with several questions regarding the fee structure, implementation cost and the definition of commercial. Chief Talbert explained that Mr. Brook's questions will be defined in a future resolution.

Bob Hudson, Executive Director of the Walton County Taxpayers Association (WCTPA), state their support of SWFD Ordinance 15-01 and that it is the hope of the WCTPA that a building housing 30 people that is rented on a continuing basis is identified as a commercial business. Mr. Hudson further stated that the WCTPA will be closely following the process of SWFD Ordinance 15-01 as well as its future resolution.

Betty Letcher stated that she supports SWFD Ordinance 15-01. Ms. Letcher further stated her concern for the safety of the people attending event houses as well as the neighborhoods they are located in in regard to access for responding emergency personnel.

Suzanne Harris stated that SWFD is taking a major step with SWFD Ordinance 15-01. Ms. Harris further stated that anyone collecting money from the public is operating as a business.

Commissioner Flynt stated that SWFD had approached Walton County as well as local utility companies for a database of Walton County businesses to assist with the process of life safety inspections. Commissioner Flynt further stated that Walton County does not have a database of Walton County businesses and the utility companies are unwilling to share their information with SWFD.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:29 p.m.