

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2016

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

Commissioners Present: Jack Abbit, Brian Christenson, Tom Cooper, Charlotte Flynt, Maurice Gilbert, Thomas McGee

Commissioners Absent: Mike Stange

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Abbit, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 8, 2016 Board of Fire Commissioners regular meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Commissioner Flynt read the February 29, 2016 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report: Rene Youell

Attorney Youell reported that she continues to correspond with Walton County Attorney Davis regarding a significant number of building permits issued without verification that South Walton Fire District impact fees had been paid. After lengthy discussion among the Fire Commissioners, Commissioner Cooper reminded Attorney Youell that in a previous Fire Board meeting the Fire Board authorized her to issue a demand letter for payment of the uncollected fire impact fees if necessary.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Abbit and seconded by Commissioner Flynt, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's February 2016 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Crawford reported in the absence of Chief Talbert.

Chief Crawford reviewed the 2016 Emergency Response Report which included Beach Safety Response and the False Alarm Fee History Report.

SWFD held its Annual Award Ceremony on February 13, 2016, at Sandestin. Chief Crawford thanked Commissioners McGee, Cooper and Christenson for attending.

SWFD's Beach Safety Division completed lifeguard orientation. Lifeguards began the 2016 season on March 1, 2016.

SWFD welcomed two new Lifeguard Supervisors; Brad Stewart, SWFD 11 year veteran lifeguard and Luke Turner, formally of Destin Beach Safety.

SWFD extended an offer to Sterling Strickland for the Communications Director position. Mr. Strickland will join SWFD in April 2016.

SWFD provided planning and support for both the Destin Ultra Race and the Seaside Half Marathon.

SWFD Command Staff and Training Committee members met to discuss SWFD's maintenance facility and training tower with the architect and his team.

SWFD command staff attended and participated in the Walton County Sheriff's spring break kickoff meeting with local business and resort managers.

An appreciation letter regarding the great work and excellent service provided by SWFD members was included in the Board packet.

Chief Talbert and Chief Crawford are working with Walton County staff to renew SWFD's EMS contract that expires in September 2016. The contract is currently being reviewed by Attorney Youell.

Chief Talbert attended two Public Space Design meetings hosted by the Walton County Tourist Development Council.

Chief Talbert is currently at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland attending a Fire Service Financial Management class.

Staff continues to monitor as well as work on County programs and projects that have an impact on the Fire District such as Business Registration, Event Management, Beach Activities, Beach Vending Ordinance and the Parking Ordinance.

The next SWFD Board of Fire Commissioners meeting will be held Monday, April 11, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Committee Reports:

Firefighter Pension Board Quarterly Report

Commissioner Flynt reported that the fund continues to be in good standing. Commissioner Gilbert thanked Commissioner Flynt for serving on the Pension Board Committee.

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business:

Commissioner Gilbert advised the Fire Board that he and Chief Talbert met with members of the Chair and Fire Chief of the Destin Fire Control District to explore ways to better serve each other in addition to the current mutual aid agreement.

Commissioner Gilbert directed Staff to conduct a current Impact Fee Analysis and report to the Fire Board at its May 9, 2016 regular meeting.

Public Comment:

Commissioner Christenson commended Staff for their work regarding the recent arson charge.

Commissioner Cooper commended SWFD's Beach Safety Division for their efforts to place an additional lifeguard tower at Sandestin.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.