

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2017

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

Commissioners Present: Jack Abbit, Tom Cooper, Charlotte Flynt, Maurice Gilbert, Mike Stange

Commissioners Absent: Brian Christenson, Thomas McGee

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

Maurice Gilbert, Jack Abbit, Charlotte Flynt and Thomas Cooper were sworn in as re-elected Fire Commissioners.

Commissioner Gilbert announced a change in the agenda order and invited Walton County Sheriff Michael Adkinson to give an update regarding the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) designation. Sheriff Adkinson stated there was great synergy between SWFD and WCSO and suggested the Fire Commissioners send a letter to the County Commissioners stating their desire for SWFD to become the secondary PSAP for Walton County.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Abbit and seconded by Commissioner Flynt, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 9, 2017 Board of Fire Commissioners regular meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Commissioner Flynt read the December 31, 2016 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report: Rene Youell

Attorney Youell updated the Fire Board regarding uncollected impact fees. A request for payment will be placed on the February 28, 2017 agenda of Walton County Board of County Commissioners regular meeting.

Attorney Youell presented a revised billing statement. On a motion duly made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Abbit, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's January 2017 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Talbert reviewed the 2017 Emergency Response Report which included Beach Safety Response and the False Alarm Fee History Report.

SWFD's newly refurbished rescue was on display for the Fire Commissioners.

SWFD's Non-Emergency van will be placed in service February 15, 2017.

SWFD hosted its Annual Award Ceremony at Sandestin on February 11, 2017.

SWFD staff met with Walton County Commissioners, Nipper and Anderson, and were given an overview of SWFD as well as contact points.

Fire Chief Talbert and Beach Safety Director Vaughan met with Walton County Tourist Development Counsel Director (TDC) Jay Tusa to finalize a proposal to add an additional guard tower and extension of our 2017 season through October. The proposal was approved by the TDC Advisory Council and will be presented to the BCC.

SWFD finalized an agreement with the Rosemary Beach Town Council to provide beach safety services on their property through 2018.

During Jan 17- 21, 2017, several SWFD officers and command staff attended Fire Rescue East which included state meetings and educational programs.

SWFD staff attended a Spring Break 2017 meeting hosted by WCSO to educate many of the lodging agencies as well as interested parties regarding our role, partnerships and mission.

SWFD staff met with Walton County Sherriff Adkinson and separately with Major Joe Preston to answer questions and inquiries regarding fire and rescue services as they continue to research consolidation with Walton County Fire Rescue.

Included in the Fire Board packet were recognitions from citizens and visitors complimenting the excellent services they received from SWFD members.

Chief Talbert provided the Fire Board with a copy of a proclamation from Governor Rick Scott proclaiming January 9 – 13, 2017 as Florida First Responder Appreciation Week.

Staff continues to monitor as well as work on County programs and projects that have an impact on the Fire District such as Event/Special Event Management, Beach Activities and the Parking/Traffic plans.

SWFD Lifeguard season begins March 1, 2017.

SWFD Administrative offices will be closed Presidents Day, February 20, 2017.

The next SWFD Board of Fire Commissioners meeting will be held Monday, March 13, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Committee Reports: Commissioner Flynt requested an update from Attorney Youell regarding changes to SWFD By-laws to reflect statutory law revisions. Attorney Youell will present the verbiage to be amended to the current by-laws at the next regular meeting of the Fire Board on March 13, 2017.

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business:

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Flynt, the Board unanimously approved to move forward with requesting Secondary PSAP status for SWFD. Staff was directed to send a letter to the Walton County Board of Commissioners stating their desire for SWFD to become the secondary PSAP for Walton County.

Impact Fee Waiver Request

A letter from Walton County Administration requesting an impact fee waiver was included in the Board packet.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Stange, the Board unanimously tabled the request for discussion at the next regular meeting of Fire Commissioners.

Commissioner Gilbert announced the City of Destin has discussed seceding from Okaloosa County and joining Walton County. Discussion followed.

Public Comment: None

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.