

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2017

PENDING APPROVAL

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

Commissioners Absent: none

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

EMS Captain Jason Cotton read into the record the National Emergency Medical Services Week Proclamation, proclaiming May 21 – 27, 2017 as Emergency Medical Services Week in South Walton in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep the community, citizens and visitors safe.

During a special presentation, Fire Chief Richard Talbert presented Gulf Power employees, Brett Sterman and Jim Karczewski, with Citizen Lifesaving Awards and SWFD Challenge Coins. In June 2016, SWFD crews arrived at a scene to find a contractor in an elevated platform truck had been shocked two separate times by close proximity to a power line which was supplying 150,000 volts. Without regard for themselves, Sterman and Karczewski, secured the power from the powerline then used their special safety equipment to retrieve the patient from his disabled platform and brought him to the ground where SWFD responders could provide advanced life support treatment and then transport him to a burn center for care. Without the actions of Sterman and Karczewski that day, there might have been a very different outcome in this situation.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Abbit and seconded by Commissioner Stange, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 10, 2017, Board of Fire Commissioners regular meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Commissioner Flynt read the March 31, 2017, cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report: Rene Youell

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Abbit and seconded by Commissioner Stange, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's March 31, 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.

Chief Talbert reported that staff completed a mid-year assessment of SWFD's current fiscal year budget and currently have no reportable issues or requests.

SWFD sent one Lieutenant and one Sergeant to Gainesville Fire Rescue and Ocala Fire Rescue to assist them with their promotional testing process.

SWFD hosted a Florida Fire Chiefs Association, Northwest Region meeting in Inlet Beach that included over fifty Chief Officers as well as a visit from the State Fire Marshal and his staff.

SWFD Department Relations Committee hosted its annual spring fling for our members and families at Rocket Lanes in Panama City Beach.

Chief Crawford attended a Walton County Board of County Commissioners public hearing regarding the potential merger of Walton County Sheriff's Office and Walton County Fire Rescue. The merger was approved at that hearing.

Chief Talbert attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis and shared information and material with SWFD members.

SWFD participated in Walton County Emergency Management's hurricane exercise.

Chief Crawford participated in the State's hurricane exercise at the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee, Florida as Chair of the Emergency Services Function Firefighting/Search and Rescue component for this statewide exercise.

SWFD's Fire Marshal and Operations Chief are communicating with Walton County Public Works to address several access issues in the Seagrove area as well as in Blue Mountain Beach and Santa Rosa Beach.

Included in the Fire Board packet was a recognition from a visitor complimenting the excellent services they witnessed by SWFD lifeguards.

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.

The next SWFD Board of Fire Commissioners meeting will be held Monday, June 12, 2017, at 4:00 p.m.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished/Old Business: Habitat for Humanity currently leases SWFD's property located at 110 S County Highway 393, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. Included in the Board packet was an appraisal of said property presented by Habitat for Humanity. Teresa Imdieke, Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity, presented the Fire Board with a purchase proposal equaling the appraised value of \$340,000. After much discussion, the Fire Board respectfully declined the offer.

As the Board requested at the April Board Meeting, Fiscal Officer Martin presented estimated cash flow projections of impact fee receipts and construction expenditures for the approved SWFD Fleet Maintenance and Training facility. By utilizing all available impact fees first, the projection showed no loan draws expected to be needed until approximately October 2018 with an estimated total loan draw of \$900,000. The Board agreed that their question was answered.

New Business: None

Public Comment: R. E. McKenna expressed his frustration with the public's abuse of fire lanes at local businesses. McKenna suggested that SWFD coordinate with Walton County Sheriff's office to develop a program where citations are issued and corresponding revenue is shared with the Fire District.

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