

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2020

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

Commissioners Present: Tom Cooper, Charlotte Flynt, Maurice Gilbert, Mike Stange, Rick Talbert

Commissioners Absent: Brian Christenson, Mark B. Foley

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Gilbert announced a quorum was present.

Fire Chief Crawford presented SWFD's Fire Commissioner, Mike Stange, with a plaque in recognition and appreciation of his twenty years of service to South Walton Fire District.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Talbert, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 13, 2020, Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Commissioner Flynt read the December 2019 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report:

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Stange and seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's January 2020 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Crawford reviewed the Emergency Response Report which included Beach Safety Responses.

Chief Crawford stated that members of SWFD staff had attended Fire Rescue East in Daytona Beach, Florida on January 21-25, 2020. Staff attended educational tracts and state committee meetings while there.

District Chief LaTour and five (5) SWFD firefighters competed in the Rapid Intervention Team statewide competition at Fire Rescue East. SWFD firefighters placed 8th overall out of 30 teams. Chief Crawford stated that the team embraced this competition by compiling hours of training on their own to sharpen their skills and gain any competitive edge possible. These firefighters continue to represent SWFD well and to date are the only team from Northwest Florida competing in this event.

On January 29, 2020, Chief Crawford, Commissioner Flynt and Commissioner Talbert traveled to Tallahassee to attend the Florida Association of Special Districts Legislative Forum. Following the Association's update on bills of interest they spent the afternoon at the Capitol meeting with legislators.

On February 3-4, 2020, Chief Crawford attended the Florida Fire Service of the Year awards reception and cabinet recognition at the State Capitol.

SWFD hosted the Florida Fire Chiefs Associations annual NWFL Regional meeting on February 4, 2020. The meeting provided organizational updates from the Division of State Fire Marshal's Office and the Bureau of Standards and Training, an update on proposed revisions for Florida's Statewide Emergency Response Plan from the Chair of the FFCA's Emergency Response Committee, and association updates from the FFCA Executive Director. In attendance were approximately thirty Chief Officers from agencies across Northwest Florida.

Employee selection and training process for SWFD's 2020 Beach Safety Season continues. Lifeguards will be completing initial training and orientation in February and will resume seasonal beach operations on Sunday March 1, 2020.

Chief Crawford introduced SWFD's newest member, Fire Inspector Dexter Peyton.

SWFD celebrated employee recognition and personal accomplishments at its Annual Awards Ceremony on February 8, 2020, at Sandestin Resort. There were nearly two hundred attendees at the ceremony. The event included the promotion of two fire officers, the swearing in of five new firefighters that had completed probationary requirements and featured retired NCAA Division 1 Head Football Coach Mark Richt as guest speaker. Chief Crawford thanked the commissioners who were able to attend.

SWFD's annual employee benefits showcase is scheduled for February 20-21, 2020. The showcase is an opportunity for SWFD employees to meet with representatives from financial institutions, SWFD's health insurance broker, and other vendors as well as update their employee profiles including emergency contact info as well as beneficiary and dependent information.

The Firefighter Pension Plan participants held an election on February 3-5, 2020, to fill the vacant Pension Board trustee position created when Daniel LaTour was appointed by the Board as a Resident Trustee. Firefighter Travis Spencer was elected to serve as the plan participant elected trustee. Chief Crawford reminded the Fire Board that a quarterly Pension Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2020, at 2:30pm at South Walton Fire District Headquarters located at 911 N County Highway 393, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida.

SWFD's Administrative Office will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2020, in observation of Presidents Day.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2020 at 4pm.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished/Old Business: Chief Crawford presented a Board Action whereas Staff recommended that the Board consider "accepting" the Master Planning document presented by Emergency Services Consulting, International at a workshop held on January 16, 2020.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Stange, the Board unanimously accepted ESCI's Master Planning document as recommended by Staff and taking the consultant's recommendations under

consideration. Commissioner Talbert recused himself from voting due to a conflict of interest as an ESCI consultant.

New Business: None

Public Comment: Commissioner Cooper expressed his appreciation for the dedication in making the Annual Awards Ceremony a success. Commissioner Cooper also stated that, he would like to see the ceremony evolve into an even better event for the members and their families.

Commissioner Gilbert commended Fire Marshal Sanchez for his efforts in securing Mark Richt as guest speaker for the Annual Awards Ceremony.

Commissioner Flynt stated that she had received a letter from the president at Northwest Florida State College expressing his appreciation for professionalism and hard work performed by the SWFD firefighters that are adjunct professors at the college.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.