

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2020

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

Commissioners Present (via video conference): Tom Cooper, Charlotte Flynt, Mark B. Foley, Maurice Gilbert, Mike Stange, Rick Talbert

Commissioners Absent: Brian Christenson

Call to Order: 4:06 p.m.

Commissioner Gilbert announced a quorum was present.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Flynt, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 8, 2020, Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Flynt read the May 2020 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report:

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

Fire Chief's Report:

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

On June 9, 2020, Chief Crawford met with DeFuniak Springs Fire Chief Ross Sheffield to discuss future joint training opportunities. A tour of SWFD's Fleet Maintenance and Logistic Facility and Training Tower was provided.

On June 10, 2020, SWFD conducted a swearing in ceremony for Firefighter Richie Frank and Communications Operators Angela Gilluly and Lonnie Gower.

Chief Crawford addressed the Walton County Board of County Commissioners at their June 23, 2020, meeting to ask for support in directing county staff to work with SWFD and Florida Forest Service to review and recommend changes to the current Land Development Code for improved wildfire mitigation. The County Commissioners affirmed their support.

On July 7, 2020, Chief Crawford and Fire Marshal Sanchez met with County Planning Department staff to begin these discussions. Following a consensus, the final recommendations will be submitted to the Walton County Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

On June 24, 2020, several SWFD staff attended Mr. Jeff Skipper's funeral services.

During the month of June, SWFD hired two (2) new firefighters to fill vacancies related to retirements. Firefighter/EMT Jason Haynes and Firefighter/EMT Ryan Jensen both come to SWFD from Destin Fire Control District.

On July 2, 2020, SWFD facilitated a formal after-action review of the Mussett Bayou wildfire incident with Florida Forestry. The purpose of the review was to identify strengths and weaknesses. SWFD will be conducting a more detailed internal review with all SWFD personnel soon.

Firefighter Tim Parker will assume trustee responsibilities beginning with the August 31, 2020, Pension Board meeting.

SWFD's command staff has been working with the Walton County Sheriff's Office and Walton School District officials to complete annual site security assessments of all South Walton public schools. Most assessments were completed in June with the remaining charter and private schools being completed July 13, 2020. These assessments identify facility vulnerabilities and physical site hardening recommendations.

In June, SWFD advertised a Request for Proposal for architectural firms to provide conceptual designs for future fire station facilities. SWFD received one response and staff decided to advertise again in hopes of identifying additional interested firms. The goal is to have the conceptual design phase completed within this FY's budget.

In June, SWFD assisted Midway Fire District in Santa Rosa County with their internal promotional testing process. This testing occurred over several days and was for both driver/operator and company officer positions.

SWFD Sergeant Promotional testing began on July 13, 2020, with a written exam for fourteen (14) candidates. The practical portion is scheduled for July 28-29, 2020.

During July, SWFD will be supporting several Department of Health drive thru Covid testing sites; July 14, 2020, 4-7pm at South Walton High School and July 21, 2020, 4-7pm at Gene Hurley Park in DeFuniak Springs. No appointment or pre-registration is required.

Staff continues to meet daily with the Department of Health, County Emergency Management and Sacred Heart Hospital to discuss COVID related protective actions.

Chief Crawford acknowledged the ongoing efforts of staff to maintain the health of our workforce. Chief Crawford acknowledged SWFD's interim Operations Chief Daniel LaTour, Human Resources Coordinator Lois LaBarreare, and Division Chief of EMS Tim Orenic for their diligence and continued efforts to track exposures and maintain the safety of SWFD employees.

Chief Crawford reported that SWFD received payment of \$132,951.92 from the Agency for Health Care Administration which is related to SWFD's FY19 participation in the Medicaid Public Emergency Medical Transportation Program allowing public agencies to obtain a federal match up to their costs for providing EMS services to Medicaid recipients.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2020, at 4pm.

Chief Crawford reminded the board that the FY21 Proposed Budget Public Workshop is scheduled for 2pm on August 25, 2020.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: Fiscal Officer Carole Martin presented a Board Action Item for a Proposed Millage and First Public Hearing Date. Staff recommended that a millage rate of 1.0000 be set by the Board for inclusion in the required Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice. Staff also recommended a First Public Hearing be held Tuesday, September 8 at 5:01 pm.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved a tentative millage rate of 1.0000 for inclusion in the required Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice with a First Public Hearing to be held at 5:01 pm on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Chief Crawford asked the Fire Board to consider moving their regular meeting in September from 4pm on September 14, 2020 to September 21, 2020, to coincide with the Final Public hearing scheduled for September 21 at 5:01pm.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Talbert, the Board unanimously approved to move their regular meeting to September 21, 2020 at 4pm.

Public Comment: Mike O'Grady with Lord & Son Construction requested the Fire Board consider a penalty waiver regarding the Fleet Maintenance and Training Facility Close-out and discussed items listed in a letter to the Board in support of his request. After a lengthy discussion, Chairman Gilbert requested a line by line itemization to include a summary and the exact work loss dates be presented to Staff for review prior to being presented to the Board at a later date. Mr. O'Grady agreed.

Roll call votes were practiced during this meeting.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.