

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2020

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

Commissioners Present: Brian Christenson, Tom Cooper, Charlotte Flynt, Mark B. Foley, Maurice Gilbert, Rick Talbert

Commissioners Absent: Mike Stange

Call to Order: 4:04 p.m.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 12, 2020, Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.

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

Attorney's Report:

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Talbert and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's October 2020 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

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

Firefighter candidate testing and selection interviews have been conducted to maintain an eligibility list for any vacancies which may occur over the coming year.

On November 2, 2020, SWFD hosted the Pierce / Ten 8 Road Rally. SWFD's Fleet Maintenance, Logistics, and Training Facility accommodated fifteen fire apparatus and approximately one hundred fire service leaders from various NW Florida agencies.

On October 31, 2020, the 2020 Beach Safety season concluded. Staff continues to work with Walton County partner agencies to improve beach flag compliance to include SWFD's recommendation to increase double red flag violation penalties. SWFD has initiated a scaled back operational presence along South Walton beaches until March 1st when the 2021 season begins.

Chief Crawford and Fire Marshal Sanchez attended the October 27, 2020, Walton County Board of County Commissioners meeting. Items tabled until the WCBCC December 8, 2020, meeting included increasing vendor permitting fees, increase in beach bonfire permitting fees, increasing fines for violation of the Beach Activities Code, and provisions to suspend or revoke vendor permits for multiple violations of the Code.

Late November, Lieutenant Mike Griggs will retire from SWFD after serving for 21 years. As a result of the Lieutenant Grigg's retirement, Sgt. Matt Cramer will be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant at a small ceremony scheduled November 19, 2020.

Chief Crawford announced that the new Braun ambulance approved in FY20 had been delivered and will be placed in service at the Inlet Beach Fire Station following final upfitting.

Chief Crawford shared that he was nominated to serve on the Board of Directors with the Florida Association of Special Districts.

For the 20th consecutive year, SWFD has sponsored the Caring and Sharing “Angel Tree” and received approximately 300 angel names for selection. Individuals choosing to participate through the adoption of angels are asked to return gifts no later than December 2, 2020.

SWFD’s annual “Elf Ride” has been cancelled due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic.

Scheduling annual life-scan physicals for all SWFD firefighter personnel has begun. Preliminary lab work is scheduled during the first few weeks of December 2020 with the balance of the physicals to occur in January 2021.

SWFD’s combat personnel conducted multiple days of Live Fire Training with all crews. The drills are focused primarily on the deployment of short handline stretches, proper deployment and operation of newly acquired fire hose and nozzles, and interior search operations using Thermal Imaging Cameras – all within the live fire environment.

SWFD Administrative Offices will be closed this November 11, 2020, in observation of Veterans Day and November 26-27, 2020, in observation of the Thanksgiving holiday.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting will be at 4pm on Monday, December 14, 2020. Chief Crawford reminded the Fire Board that all board appointed officers and committees will be placed on the December agenda. A copy of all current board appointments was included in the board packet.

Committee Reports: Fiscal Officer Martin informed the Fire Board that the Audit Committee met with representatives from Warren Averett Certified Public Accountants on November 2, 2020. The FY19/20 Audit Report is scheduled to be presented to the Board in January 2021. The Audit Committee’s next meeting will be January 7, 2021.

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business:

Board Advisory: Miramar Beach (Station 5) Concept Design

Assistant Chief Anderson presented a Board Advisory whereas Staff recommended to move the Miramar Beach (Station 5) project into the Schematic Design phase. From these designs, the cost of construction will become more evident and presented back to the Board. The estimated cost for this phase of the project has already been included in the current fiscal year budget.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board unanimously approved to move forward into the Schematic and Final Design Phase.

Board Action: Board Action Item Pension Cancer Presumption Resolution 20-07
Fiscal Officer Martin presented a Board Action whereas Staff recommended the Board to approve Resolution 20-07, amending the South Walton Fire District Firefighters' Retirement System as adopted by Resolution 11-02.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved to accept Resolution 20-07 as presented.

Public Comment: Mike O'Grady, Lord and Son Project Manager, asked the Fire Board to reconsider their previous decision against reimbursing Lord and Son Construction, Inc. the imposed liquidated and adjusted damages for 219 days past the original May 15, 2019. After polling the Fire Board, Chairman Gilbert stated that there was no change in the Fire Board's decision.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.