

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT

911 North County Highway 393, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459

"Prompt, Competent, Caring Response in Time of Need"



The Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District will hold a regular meeting on **March 8, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.** at the South Walton Fire District Administration building.

The agenda will include, but not be limited to the following:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting: 02.08.2021
- III. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- IV. Attorney's Report
- V. Chief's Report
- VI. Committee Reports
Pension Board Quarterly Report
Commissioner Charlotte Flynt
- VII. Unfinished/Old Business
- VIII. New Business
**Board Action: Interlocal Agreement with Walton County
Emergency Medical Services**
Fire Chief Ryan Crawford

**Board Action: Interlocal Agreement with Walton County
Bonfire Permitting and Bonfire Fee Collection and
Remittance**
Fire Chief Ryan Crawford

Board Action: 393 South Property Lease Extension
Assistant Chief Daniel LaTour
- IX. Public Comment*
- X. Adjournment

***Note:** Persons who wish to be placed on the agenda must contact the Administrative Assistant within five days of any meeting and provide the name of the person who will be speaking and the subject to be addressed. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2021

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

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

Special Presentation: Fire Chief Crawford presented Human Resources Manager LaBarre and Division Chief of EMS Orenic with the 2020 Fire Chief's Award for their significant roles supporting SWFD employees while dealing with public health issues from the global pandemic.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 8, 2021, Board of Fire Commissioners regular meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Flynt read the January 2021 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report:

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Talbert, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's February 2021 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

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

Chief Crawford and Fire Marshal Sanchez met with Walton County Commissioners to discuss issues related to access / egress, life safety, beach safety, and emergency operations issues within SWFD's service area.

Chief Crawford introduced SWFD's new Public Information Officer – Mackenzie McClintock.

Chief Crawford announced that District Chief Daniel LaTour has been selected to assume the responsibilities of Assistant Chief of Support Services. A formal promotional pinning ceremony for Chief LaTour shall be announced at a later date.

SWFD held promotional pinning ceremonies for Communications Supervisor Angela Gilluly and Firefighters Silvino Moura and Patrick Pitts.

Promotional assessment centers for the positions of District Chief and Lieutenant are scheduled to be held April 27-29, 2021. Seven SWFD Sergeants will participate in the upcoming Lieutenant testing and three SWFD Lieutenants in the District Chief testing process.

SWFD submitted a claim to DEM / FEMA for eligible costs associated with SWFD's response to Hurricane Sally.

Chief Crawford informed the Fire Board that Vision Church at Christian International donated \$1,500 for the benefit of SWFD members to fund an annual subscription for a virtual on-line employee behavioral health resource for SWFD employees and their families. SWFD is extremely grateful for the generosity of Vision Church at Christian International.

Chief Crawford is scheduled to attend a Florida Association of Special District's quarterly meeting in Tallahassee April 7-8, 2021.

Chief Crawford reported that all 800Mhz replacement radios have been deployed into field operation. All personnel have completed in-service training and SWFD is well underway toward completing this capital project. Chief Crawford commended SWFD's Communications Division and Communications Director Sterling Strickland for keeping this project on track with minimal implementation or rollout issues.

On March 1, 2021, SWFD's Beach Safety Division began its 16th year of seasonal daily lifeguard staffing. Currently, SWFD lifeguards are operating from fifteen tower locations and have received notice that the Walton County TDC intends to add two additional towers within the coming year.

Staff is scheduled to present a Beach Safety staffing plan for your consideration at the regular Fire Board meeting in April.

Beach Safety Director Vaughan is working with WCSO staff to obtain formal de-escalation training for all SWFD lifeguard personnel. The goal is to better equip beach safety employees with tools to defuse hostile or aggressive situations.

Chief Crawford reported that the Fleet Maintenance, Logistics and Training Facility project had been paid off earlier than anticipated.

Staff received formal notice from labor requesting to begin contract negotiations. An Executive Session was scheduled for April 5, 2021, at 9am to provide the Fire Board an opportunity to meet with SWFD's negotiations consultant and share any strategic priorities they wish to address in the upcoming negotiations process.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting will be at 4pm on Monday, April 12, 2021.

Committee Reports: Commissioner Flynt asked Fiscal Officer Martin to present the pension board quarterly report. Martin reported that the fund earned a net of 9.21% for the first quarter of FY2021. The Pension Board discussed lowering the assumed rate of return from 7.25% to 7% which would increase the District's required contribution in FY2023 by approximately \$250,000. The additional .25% decrease can be spread over a few years if the Pension Board so desires.

Martin further stated that as more firefighters retire, SWFD annual pension payouts are currently up to \$1.292 million per year.

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: Chief Crawford presented a Board Action whereas staff recommended to proceed with approval of an interlocal EMS transport agreement with Walton County.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Talbert, the Board unanimously voted to renew the interlocal EMS transport agreement with Walton County for the period of October 1, 2021 thru September 30, 2026.

Chief Crawford presented a Board Action whereas staff recommended board approval of the interlocal agreement with Walton County for SWFD to collect and remit beach bonfire permitting fees.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board voted to execute an interlocal agreement with Walton County for SWFD to collect and remit beach bonfire permitting fees. Commissioner Foley was not present during this vote, Commissioner Talbert was opposed, and all remaining Commissioners were in favor. Chairman Gilbert signed the agreement.

Chief LaTour presented a Board Action whereas staff recommended the board waive a 120-day notice and grant final approval of Habitat for Humanity's request to enter into an additional lease term of May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022 with the understanding Habitat for Humanity has provided notice to terminate this option July 31, 2021. Staff also recommended an abatement of 50% of the monthly lease amount for the 30 days following Hurricane Sally be prorated in the amount of \$1,650 and applied to the July 2021 rent.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Talbert and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board unanimously approved to waive the 120-day notice and grant final approval of Habitat for Humanity's request to enter into an additional term and a prorated amount of \$1,650 be applied to the July 2021 rent.

Public Comment: None

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.