

# 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 **July 12, 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: 06.14.2021**
- III. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- IV. Attorney's Report
- V. Chief's Report
- VI. Committee Reports
- VII. Unfinished/Old Business  
**Board Action: Fire Commissioner Seat 3 Vacancy**  
Fire Chief Ryan Crawford
- VIII. New Business  
**Board Action Item: Proposed Millage Rate and First Public Hearing Date for FY2021/2022**  
Fiscal Officer Carole Martin  
  
**Board Action Item: Request to Reschedule the September 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District**  
Fire Chief Ryan Crawford
- 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 – July 12, 2021**

**\*\*\*PENDING APPROVAL\*\*\***

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

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**Call to Order:** 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Gilbert announced that there was a quorum present.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Foley, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 14, 2021, Board of Fire Commissioners regular meeting.

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report:** Commissioner Flynt read the May 2021 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 2021 billing statement.

### **Fire Chief's Report:**

Chief Crawford reviewed the Emergency Response Activity Report which included Beach Safety Responses. Chief Crawford reported that the District saw a 15% increase in response activity when comparing June 2021 to June 2020. There is a 23% increase in YTD total response activity compared to this same time last year.

- Beach flags for June; 14 days of Yellow, 11 days of Single Red, and 5 days of Double Red conditions resulting in half the month being under dangerous surf conditions.
- March 1<sup>st</sup> thru June 30<sup>th</sup> resulted in 55%, or 66 of the 122 days, of the beach season, have been either single red or double red conditions.

There were thirty-six water rescues in June; two drownings that occurred the last week of June were with both patients in full cardiac arrest. Chief Crawford shared that following the administration of CPR, and Advanced Life Support interventions by lifeguards and firefighters, both patients were successfully resuscitated. Chief Crawford highlighted the extraordinary lifesaving efforts of those assigned on these incidents and stated a job well done by all.

SWFD's Beach Safety Division began the second three-week Junior Lifeguard session that will run through July 22, 2021. Chief Crawford stated he is very proud of the junior program's success in reaching the youth of our community on beach safety education and water safety.

In June, staff attended the Florida Association of Special District's Annual Conference in Orlando where they attended presentations on sunshine law, financial reporting,

economic and investment updates, emerging cyber-security issues, a human resources and labor law update, and a legislative update.

SWFD staff has extended a conditional offer to Lou Jones to fill the position of Division Chief of Training. Chief Jones was previously employed as a Battalion Chief with Midway Fire District and comes to SWFD with a great deal of training experience. Chief Jones is scheduled to begin new hire orientation on July 19, 2021.

Chief Crawford reported that the kitchen and bathroom retrofit project on the Station 3 crew quarters is nearing completion. This project included the replacement and upgrade of bathroom shower stall inserts, kitchen granite countertop upgrade, and a natural gas commercial stove upgrade. Chief Crawford commended Chief LaTour for inheriting this project and working through all the hurdles that presented themselves along the way. These upgrades will serve the district well for many years and are very much appreciated by all our employees.

Replacement of Station 3's 20-year-old generator was a budgeted project carryover from the previous FY that was delayed during the pandemic shutdown. Delivery of the generator is expected by July 14, 2021. The generator replacement allows SWFD to transition from diesel to natural gas fuel.

Chief Crawford continues to meet with TDC Director Jason Cutshaw and county staff to consolidate creative ideas on beach safety improvements and public input received through the beach safety committee as well as from the two (2) public meetings held in May. Chief Crawford and Mr. Cutshaw plan to present recommendations at the BCC July 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chief Crawford informed the Fire Board that discussions have begun with Sandestin Owners Association regarding renewal terms for contractual lifeguard services. The current agreement with SOA is set to expire on October 31, 2021.

SWFD conducted a swearing-in and pinning ceremony for firefighters Jason Haynes and Ryan Jenson as they completed their one-year probationary process. Congratulations to both on their efforts in meeting the SWFD standard and joining our team.

Members of SWFD will attend a dedication and ribbon cutting for the new Public Safety Memorial that will be held on the Northwest Florida State College Niceville campus at 9 am on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. Chief Crawford thanked Commissioner Flynt as a trustee for the college for her support in these efforts.

Chief Crawford will be attending the Florida Fire Chiefs Associations Executive Development Conference in Panama City Beach on July 16- 21, 2021. The SWFD Honor Guard will be presenting colors for both the opening ceremony as well as the prayer breakfast and memorial service.

Staff continues to meet with labor leadership toward negotiating a collective bargaining agreement. An executive session was set for August 11, 2021, to provide an update and highlight remaining outlying issues so the board can provide staff with direction on the economic package.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting will be at 4 pm on Monday, August 9, 2021.

A public budget workshop has been tentatively scheduled for 2 pm on Tuesday, August 31, 2021.

**Committee Reports:** None

**Unfinished/Old Business: Board Action Item: Fire Commissioner Seat 3 Vacancy**

Chief Crawford presented a Board Action Item whereas Commissioner Talbert provided written notice to Chairman Gilbert of his intent to resign his Seat 3 Fire Commissioner position on June 14, 2021. At Chairman Gilbert's direction, Staff advertised the vacancy in the DeFuniak Herald on May 26, 2021, with a submission deadline of June 4, 2021. No submittals were received. However, two submittals were received after the deadline and were vetted with the Walton County Supervisor of Elections.

Chairman Gilbert invited both candidates to speak. Michael Carter and David A.C. Bailey each spoke of their desire to fill the vacant seat. After some discussion, the Board agreed they would select a Seat 3 successor by paper ballot with each Commissioner writing the name of their choice. Attorney Youell received and counted the ballots. David Bailey was selected by a 4/2 vote. Attorney Youell conducted the swearing-in of Fire Commissioner Bailey.

**New Business:**

Chief Crawford presented a Board Action whereas Staff recommended that a millage rate of 1.0000 be set by the Board for inclusion in the required Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice. The DR-420 must be submitted with the proposed millage rate and a First Public Hearing date prior to the August board meeting. Staff recommended a First Public Hearing be held Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 5:01 pm.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson 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 7, 2021.

Chief Crawford presented a Board Action for the Fire Board to consider moving their regular meeting from 4 pm on September 13, 2021, to September 20, 2021, to coincide with the Final Public hearing scheduled for September 21 at 5:01 pm.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Cooper and seconded by Commissioner Christenson, the Board unanimously approved to move their regular meeting to September 20, 2021, at 4 pm.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.