

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 **April 11, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.** at the South Walton Fire District Administration building.

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

**Special Item: National Public Safety Telecommunications Week
April 10 – 16, 2022 Proclamation
Commissioner Maurice Gilbert**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting: 03.14.2022
- III. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- IV. Attorney's Report
- V. Chief's Report
- VI. Committee Reports
- VII. Unfinished/Old Business
- VIII. New Business
- 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 – April 11, 2022

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

Commissioners Present: David A.C. Bailey, 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.

Chairman Gilbert read into the record the National Public Telecommunications Week Proclamation, proclaiming April 10 – 16, 2022, as Public Telecommunications Week in South Walton in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep the community, citizens, and visitors safe.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Cooper, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of March 14, 2022, Board of Fire Commissioners' regular meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Flynt read the February 2022 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report:

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's March 2022 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

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

Chief Crawford reported a total of 737 incidents representing a decrease of 9.5% in total responses when comparing March 2022 to March 2021. YTD responses have increased by nearly 5% in total response activity. Contributing factors are a reduction in the number of Water Rescues and beach-related Public Assists. In addition, impacts observed from treating and transporting a rather significant number of COVID patients last year are all likely contributing to the overall reduction in response activity for the month.

Chief Crawford reported that crews responded to a significant structure fire caused by lightning on the evening of March 18, 2022, at Beachfront Trail. The incident was immediately escalated to a second alarm triggering a response from Walton County Fire Rescue, Destin Fire Control District, and Panama City Beach Fire Department. Complicating suppression efforts were extremely poor radio communications as a result of the Peach Creek radio tower being struck by lightning during the same thunderstorm.

Chief Crawford provided a copy of the 2021 Annual Report for each board member. Chief Crawford acknowledged Staff's time and effort to present the Fire District's annual report, more specifically, SWFD's Public Information Officer for the creative graphics, layout, and illustrations reflecting 2021 activities.

SWFD recognized the retirements of two tenured firefighters. Firefighter/Paramedic Kate Christenson and Firefighter/Paramedic Derek Smith were each presented with a personalized shadow box reflective of their time serving SWFD and a ceremonial fire axe by the Firefighters Union.

Chief Crawford announced that an SWFD Retiree Breakfast has been scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2022.

On March 15, 2022, Chief Crawford attended a Walton County Board of County Commissioners meeting along with Sheriff Adkinson, Walton County Fire Chief Vause, and Forestry Supervisor Bowers to formally recommend a rescission to the county-wide burn ban.

The roof replacement project for the SWFD headquarters facility has been completed.

Chief Crawford notified Walton County Tourist Development Council leadership of SWFD's desire to expedite the RFP bid process for the Beach Safety program contract renewal as time is of the essence for continuity of operations. Chief Crawford will keep the board apprised as to where these discussions are headed.

SWFD's Training Division facilitated the written exam portion of its promotional assessment process for the position of Sergeant this past week. All eleven (11) candidates obtained passing scores and are advancing to the practical portion of the assessment scheduled for next week. Chief Crawford expressed how proud he is of each candidate for competing in the assessment center.

On March 30 and 31, 2022, SWFD hosted the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Peer Support Training for members of SWFD's Peer Support Team along with firefighters and responders from across the region. Special acknowledgment was given to District Chief John Adams for coordinating this valuable training for our personnel.

On March 31, 2022, Chief Crawford attended a State Fire Marshal sponsored Leadership Summit at the State Fire College. The agenda included remarks from the two Deputy CFOs, an update from the Florida Forest Service Chief, updates from the Director of State Fire Marshal's Office on grant opportunities, legislative appropriations for US&R team sustainment, as well as FY23 proposed budget allocations. Those in attendance were also provided with a formal After-Action Review from the US&R response to the Surfside Condominium Collapse.

On April 1, 2022, Chief Crawford and Chief LaTour attended a Gulf Coast TEMPEST program orientation at the Walton County Emergency Operations Center. TEMPEST is a Triumph Gulf Coast grant-funded initiative administered through Gulf Coast State College. The program is available to the eight (8) disproportionately affected counties impacted by Hurricane Michael including Walton. The cache of available equipment includes a multitude of ground robotic visual inspection equipment, waterborne surface, and sub-surface UAVs, and aerial fixed and rotor wing drones with varying capabilities. In addition, and of primary interest to us, they have three (3) mobile command vehicles (2 smaller ambulance size units and 1 fully functioning Emergency Operations Vehicle). These assets are available for response agencies to check out for their use after

agency personnel are trained on the equipment. These resources can be utilized for both planned events such as festivals and marathons as well as to support disaster incident management.

In March 2022, SWFD facilitated firefighter selection interviews which resulted in extending four (4) conditional offers of employment and an updated eligibility list for any future vacancies which may occur throughout the next year. The four (4) new firefighters will begin their orientation training in May 2022.

On May 6, 2022, SWFD is scheduled to host a Florida Fire Chiefs Association (FFCA) - Northwest Florida Regional Chiefs meeting at the Fleet, Logistics, and Training Facility. The agenda includes an FFCA Board and Legislative Update, organizational updates from the FFCA Foundation Chair, the State Fire Marshal's Office, the Florida Fire College, and Statewide Emergency Response Committee Chair.

SWFD staff has been working with Walton County Planning Department and Code Compliance staff on the County's proposed Short Term Rental (STR) ordinance. In its current form, the ordinance will require all STRs to register and comply with certain periodic inspection requirements. Additionally, there are requirements for working smoke detectors and fire extinguishers on each floor, emergency egress lighting, swimming pool safety standards, and sleeping room compliance with minimum requirements of the Florida Building Code. The draft is scheduled to go before the Walton County Planning Commission on April 14, 2022, at 4 pm. Chief Crawford will continue to keep the board apprised of what the expectations and fiscal impacts to SWFD may be with this ordinance.

Chief Crawford is scheduled to attend the 1st Annual Leadership for the 21st Century Fire and Emergency Services Summit on May 12, 2022, at the State Fire College. This meeting will serve to bring fire and emergency service professionals of all ranks together to gain a better understanding of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, build upon leadership skills through emotional intelligence and have an open and engaging dialogue about the challenges facing today's fire and emergency services organizations.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners meeting will be on Monday, May 9, 2022, at 4 p.m.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comment: None

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.