

SANIBEL FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT
Minutes of the Fire Commission Meeting
February 8, 2023

Commissioners – Chairman Jerry Muench, Vice Chair Bruce Cochrane, Secretary Richard McCurry
Fire Chief Kevin Barbot
Fire Marshal Larry Williams
Administrative Assistant Greta Fulkerson

In attendance were the following: Captain DiMaria, Lieutenant Reitenbach, FF Angelus, FF Clement, FF Felix, FF Steele, and the general public.

Commissioner Muench opened the meeting at 9:00 AM. Commissioner Muench led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1st Order of Business: Chief Barbot requested a motion to record all meetings going forward. **A motion was made by Commissioner Muench to record meetings permanently going forward. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCurry. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

2nd Order of Business: The minutes for the January 11, 2023, commission meeting were reviewed and accepted by the Board Members. **A motion was made by Commissioner Cochrane to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCurry. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

3rd Order of Business: Fire Marshal Report. Fire Marshal Williams stated that while he normally does between 70 and 80 plan reviews per year, he completed over 40 in January alone. He received an additional 35 reviews that day. Most rough inspections and plan reviews have been of remodels. There have been no annual inspections given the circumstances. Fire Marshal Williams had been working with Steve Shrader to get the school secure and ready for opening that day. Fire Marshal Williams has been doing a lot of building walk-throughs since many contractors are coming in from out-of-state and are unclear on Florida codes and standards. Since the District was receiving many phone calls on the matter, a Fire Watch Notice was put out informing the public that multifamily structures and complexes cannot be occupied by residents without a functioning fire alarm or sprinkler system. If this is the case, a legitimate fire watch company must be hired to oversee the property 24/7 in the meantime. Unfortunately for many, this is not a feasible option in terms of cost. Chief Barbot added that the District put the Fire Watch Notice out in order to clear up any miscommunication between residents and landlords or management. It was also meant to educate the public that although the District is up to date with inspections, ultimately it is up to landlords and management to ensure that fire alarm and sprinkler systems get fixed in a timely manner.

4th Order of Business: Financial Update. The District has continued to attempt forecasting the budget for the next fiscal year. The District's budget for this fiscal year was supposed to be 8 million dollars, but only 5.3 million dollars has been collected to date, leaving the District down approximately 33% in ad valorem distributions. The tax collector's office has been delayed, so the District has not yet received its end of January distribution. The State implemented a tax relief bill, outlining that any resident whose home was deemed unlivable for over 30 days has the ability to complete a rebate form in order to possibly receive a quarter of the property taxes they paid to date back. All taxing authorities in each County are responsible for providing their portion of these tax refunds. The tax collector's office will be collecting these refunds by subtracting from future distributions. The District is currently forecasting a 25-35% drop for next fiscal year's budget. The District is doing everything it can right now to reduce its expenditures in preparation for next fiscal year. Commissioner Muench asked, have we touched our reserves? Chief Barbot responded, not

yet. Commissioner McCurry then stated that the Board is in agreement that Chief Barbot should take any financial measures he sees fit to ensure the future financial stability of the District. The first phase of the Community Disaster Loan has been completed, and Chief Barbot has received confirmation that the District is eligible based on the forecasted budget for next fiscal year.

5th Order of Business: Department Update. Last year, the District had received 157 calls to date and this year, the District is down 55% with 72 calls to date given the circumstances. The District has continued its bi-weekly meetings with its assigned FEMA manager. The State has also started to get involved in the District's FEMA meetings, which is a positive sign of progression. The District received news the day before that temporary Station 172 would be ready to go in a couple of weeks, about a month ahead of schedule. The District will be working with York Electric & Design and Walker Plumbing in the upcoming weeks to get the temporary structure set up for use. Regarding the RFQ, the District had a pre-proposal meeting the day before. Out of the 12 firms that were invited, 4 firms came out to Station 171 for the meeting. Chief Barbot noted that a selection would most likely be made by the next commission meeting or the one following that. Unfortunately, the District is unable to do a design-build concept because the District must follow all FEMA guidelines and standards to ensure full eligible compensation for loss. Chief Barbot added that not only has Hagerty Consulting been heavily involved in this process, but Lewis, Longman & Walker as well. Regarding the Station 171 roof repair, the District had signed a contract with Colonial Roofing. However, RPG Roofing, the company that had installed the roof at Station 171 back in 2005, stopped by a couple of weeks prior and offered to repair the roof free of charge. Colonial Roofing was willing to dismiss the contract signed, so the District will be proceeding with RPG Roofing on the repairs at Station 171. The electric in the training tower was handled by York Electric the day before, so it is now back up and running.

6th Order of Business: Equipment and Maintenance Update. The District has been having communication issues with its current VFIS representative regarding the receipt of insurance claim payments. Max Miller, the District's representative through Brouhard Insurance, has been heavily involved in helping the District with this matter. Due to the lack of communication, there has been a bit of a lag in progress with the FEMA process. To date, the District has received approximately 60-70% of funding from VFIS.

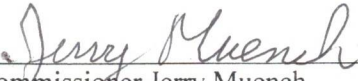
7th Order of Business: Personnel Update. No updates to discuss. No years of service to acknowledge for the month of February.

8th Order of Business: Commissioner Items. Commissioner Cochrane mentioned that a pancake breakfast would be held at the school on Saturday. Captain DiMaria replied that they would be there to help however they can. Chief Barbot noted that Captain DiMaria has majorly stepped up for the District as a PIO.

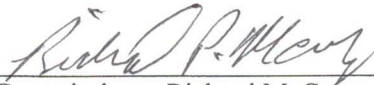
9th Order of Business: Union Items. No items to discuss.

10th Order of Business: Public Input. No input to discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 AM.


Commissioner Jerry Muench

Commissioner Bruce Cochrane


Commissioner Richard McCurry