

SANIBEL FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT  
Minutes of the Fire Commission Meeting  
February 10, 2021

Commissioners – Chair Jerry Muench, Vice Chair Bruce Cochrane, Secretary Richard McCurry  
Fire Chief Bill Briscoe  
Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Barbot  
Division Chief of Training Tim Barrett  
Division Chief of Fire Prevention/Fire Marshal Larry Williams  
Administrator Mary Hickey  
Assistant Administrator Samantha Quinn

In attendance were the following: Field Representative for 1826 Union Angie Young, Acting Captain/Lieutenant Brian Howell, Firefighter Mike Martin, Firefighter John Reitenbach, Firefighter Todd Walter, Firefighter Ed Zarick, and Breeze Newspaper journalist Tiffany Repecki.

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

1st Order of Business: The minutes for the January 13, 2021, commission meeting were reviewed and accepted by the Board Members. A motion was made by Commissioner McCurry to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was second by Commissioner Cochrane. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

2nd Order of Business: Administrator Mary Hickey reviewed the financials. The Balance sheet shows another \$240,000 for ad velorum taxes, now totaling \$3.9 million. The flexible CD's have a set interest rate but the individual, smaller, CD's interest rates are dropping but still holding at \$8 million. Commissioner Muench asked if we should do the resolutions now. Fire Chief Briscoe said, we can do them during the meeting.

3rd Order of Business: Division Chief of Training Barrett began with the medical side. Medical Director Dr. Abo had another fantastic lecture this time on pediatric medical emergency. We continued this theme with pediatric training throughout the month. Quick attack training is ongoing, with focus on charged and uncharged lines, which are quicker to deploy. Today we have a propane lecture for emergencies which is tied into compressed natural gas. All Waste Management vehicles run on compressed natural gas, so the way we would attack that is completely different. Next month is rapid intervention training which will help with anyone that gets stuck and teach them how to stay calm. Hazardous Materials class and Emergency Vehicle Operations Class will be at the end of the month. CPR classes are ongoing throughout the month. We will be doing another fire extinguish training class at Sanibel School and helping the Feds do their pack test.

4th Order of Business: Fire Marshal Williams stated that the new Sanibel Captiva Community Bank is complete. The City of Sanibel will take over the old building not sure what their plans are. The new building has 55 solar panels on the front and the drive thru of that bank. Custard Shack is still coming along. Periwinkle Place replaced the fire alarm panels, they weren't up to date, so we had them put all new panels in. Fire hydrants I'm still waiting to hear from the guy doing the painting to find out what have painted. The fire alarm panel class will be after the meeting. It will be filmed and put on target solutions. We are working with Wayne Automatic to make our fire monitoring system go from landline to cellular. Fire Marshal Williams handed this proposal to the commissioners saying there is a savings of \$300 per year and we will be up to code. Everyone is going to this system. Commissioner Muench said ok. Commissioner McCurry asked, if the power goes out what will happen? Fire Marshal Williams stated, it's cellular. Commissioner McCurry said, yes, but is there a battery backup? Fire Marshal Williams said, yes, we still have a battery backup. We had a problem with the signal going to the monitoring company. Fire Chief Briscoe said, they kept coming up for the same errors, and it was because of the land line.

5th Order of Business: Deputy Fire Chief Barbot reviewed the calls, stating January 2020 we responded to 154 calls and January 2021 we responded to 134 calls. It was lower but yesterday we had 13 calls. We are seeing an increase in traffic and calls. Commissioner Muench asked about the accident this morning. Fire Chief Briscoe said, yes, they hit a telephone box. Deputy Chief Barbot discussed the boat saying, Firefighter Walter has been updating everyone very well. We are waiting for the lakes to thaw before they can test the boat. Sea trials are scheduled for April. Fire Chief Briscoe said, Firefighter Walters could explain in further detail. Firefighter Walter stated, we redesigned the boat in November 2020 to

lower the cabin. CALL CAME THROUGH AND ALL FIREFIGHTER LEFT. Deputy Chief Barbot stated, we lowered cab, cutting it flat form, which took out 1,000 pounds in the haul. Commissioner Muench said, with sea trials do we go with them? Fire Chief Briscoe said, we sent guys last time and the company paid for it. If we go again, we will have to pay for the business trip. Those that go will have to cross the border and we'll probably send the same 3 firefighters. Deputy Chief Barbot discussed Resolution 21-02-01 for a new cascade system which would upgrade the current system. Right now, the bottles are at 45 PSI bottles, and we are only able to fill 90% because of the current tanks. The system will be replaced to 6,000. All maintenance will be in June to replace the cascade system and cylinders. Fire Chief Briscoe said, we are getting ahead of the game with new requirements which will require them to be 5,500, and we will have them up to 6,000. It's less down time later. Administrator Hickey read Resolution 2021-02-01 to the board. There was no discussion. Commissioner McCurry moves to adopt, all agree. Second by Commissioner Muench. All Commissioners approve the resolution and it is adopted.

Deputy Chief Barbot discussed Resolution 2021-02-02 which is about tree trimming at Station 2. We have a large mahogany tree that has branches that overhang on the neighbor's roof. Commissioner Muench asked, did we get more than one quote? Fire Chief Briscoe said, no because we have issues getting companies to come out here. Perfect example, we called 3 carpet companies to come out this Monday and Tuesday and none of them showed up. The tree trimming company we have been using for all tree trimming at Station 1. Administrator Hickey stated this is to trim 31 trees at Station 2. Deputy Chief Barbot stated, it's a lot of work. Administrator Hickey read Resolution 2021-02-02 for tree trimming with Earth Graphic Landscape Inc. and stated it is designated in the capital budget. There was no discussions. Commissioner Cochrane moves to adopt, all agree. Second by Commissioner McCurry. All Commissioners approve the resolution and it is adopted.

Deputy Chief Barbot stated, we completed our new hire testing. We changed things drastically. We started with 20 applicants, 15 were invited to test, and 12 showed up. The swim test was first, written exam second, and lastly the physical agility test. All three sections were completed in 2.5 hours. We had our own firefighters come in on their own time to help with this, it was amazing. Commissioner McCurry thanked all the firefighters for their help. Deputy Chief Barbot said, Monday was the oral interview. Acting Captain/Lieutenant Howell, Firefighter Doerr, and Captain Jackson were the board that handled the oral interviews. We offered the paramedic position to an 11-year veteran at Lee County EMS. His start date will be March 1st. Commissioner Muench asked about probation. Fire Chief Briscoe said, it is a one-year probation. It's the same for all positions, even promotions like lieutenant to captain. Deputy Chief Barbot said, promotion applications are on track, the guys have 60 days to study, and the interviews will be March 15th. We'll be ready for that. Working with staff on technology to make things more streamline. Firefighter Martin and Captain Tracy are working on advancing which will help everyone. This will also meet state mandates. Thanks to Firefighter Martin and Captain Tracy for working on this. I am 2 weeks in and still learning. Going to spend some time with Fire Marshal Williams to learn about the inspection side of things. Commissioner Muench asked, how is the old boat doing? Deputy Chief Barbot said, it's doing fine. We did some repairs and it's good.

6th Order of Business: Assistant Administrator Quinn discussed the districts social media output. The past 28 days have generated 8,594 post reaches, 2,857 post engagements, and 49 new page likes.

7th Order of Business: Fire Chief Briscoe said, thanks to everyone for the help during testing. It was so quick and efficient. All the guys thank you! Commissioner Muench asked about the applicants? Fire Chief Briscoe said we got 20 applicants for the paramedic position, usually we get 100-200 an EMT position. Deputy Chief Barbot said, it's still a high number. Fire Chief Briscoe said, in 5 years we're losing 5 paramedics. Things have gone very well during the new changes. Firefighter Walters helping with the boat, Deputy Chief Barbot handling the new hires. Commissioner McCurry asked, what is the new process? Fire Chief Briscoe said, the idea how we test the new hire paramedics was a paper written by Firefighter Arian Moore. It helps us because after we hire them and then do the physical agility, in the past if they failed, I'd have to call the next in line, this new process eliminates that. Deputy Chief Barbot said, the good thing was seeing them do all the testing and how they interacted. Commissioner McCurry said, will this be policy? Fire Chief Briscoe said, if we get more paramedics, we should have no issues. The fear is that all the paramedics that came in are all leaving at the same time which will be an issue for the entire county. Commissioner McCurry asked, how much time? Fire Chief Briscoe said, 3-5 year. Administrator Hickey said, we have two coming up on the 3-4-year range. They are in the DROP.

8th Order of Business: Fire Chief Briscoe introduced Angie Young, Field Representative for 1826 Union. Smith stated, I am going around to all commission meetings and interacting on the political side. Seeing a different view of the fire service

and the interaction with the commissioners and chiefs. Division Chief Barrett said, we've all known Angie for a very long time.

9th Order of Business: No years of Service for February.

10th Order of Business: Administrator Hickey updated the fire commission on FASD and the new Special District Task Force. Commissioner Cochrane asked Division Chief Barrett, on the paramedic issue, can we transition EMT to paramedic? Division Chief Barrett said, it takes a little over a year of school to become a paramedic from EMT.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM.

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Commissioner Jerry Muench

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Commissioner Bruce Cochrane

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Commissioner Richard McCurry