



Sanibel Fire & Rescue District
Commission Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

ATTENDEES: Jerry Muench (Chairman) – present via Microsoft Teams
Bruce Cochrane (Vice Chairman)
Richard McCurry (Secretary Treasurer)

Kevin Barbot (Fire Chief)
John DiMaria (Deputy Chief)
Larry Williams (Fire Marshal)
Greta Fulkerson (Administrative Assistant)

Lieutenant Reitenbach
Lieutenant Martin
Firefighter Grant
Firefighter Schelm
Firefighter Felix
Captain Tracy – present via Microsoft Teams
Firefighter Zarick – present via Microsoft Teams
Firefighter Bell – present via Microsoft Teams

Tiffany Repecki – The Island Reporter

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

1. Minutes of the May 10, 2023, Commission Meeting and the May 25, 2023, Special Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner McCurry to accept both meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cochrane. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously. Commissioner Muench was noted as unable to vote due to being present virtually.

2. Deputy Chief DiMaria's Report

Chief Barbot was pleased to announce that on June 19, 2023, Captain DiMaria had been promoted to Deputy Chief of Sanibel Fire & Rescue District. There were warm congratulations from the Board.

I) Personnel Training

Deputy Chief DiMaria reported that they had been focusing on the medical condition "excited delirium." With that comes the use of Ketamine, however it's currently on back order. The use of Droperidol as an alternative would be carried out by Friday, and there would be an in-service training by Dr. Abo for all personnel. There will be upcoming training taking place at Bailey's, focusing on forcible entry and roof operations. Deputy Chief DiMaria was pleased to announce that Firefighter Tejada had passed the Engineer program. Firefighter Clement had passed all requirements for Acting Officer and would be moving up to that position. Call volume was down about 50% from 878 to 436 calls. Interviews were conducted for new hires, with the physical agility test and interviews both having taken place. There was a solid list of candidates.

II) Public Education

CPR classes were still being requested and were being scheduled once per month with a maximum of twelve participants.

III) Community Involvement

Deputy Chief DiMaria reported that there had been a pizza and ice cream party for some of the kids at the Sanibel School here at our station. There had also been a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Visitor Center. There would be a 4th of July event at the Rec Center that the District would be participating in.

3. Fire Marshal Williams' Report

Fire Marshal Williams reported that they would be able to use Thistle Lodge for search and rescue training. Fire Marshal Williams noted that he was at 465 fire plan reviews year to date. Fire plan reviews were averaging 70 per month, and fire walls and penetrations walkthroughs were being conducted with companies daily. A lot of these companies have come from out-of-state, so Fire Marshal Williams has been giving extra guidance when it comes to State codes and standards.

4. Chief Barbot's Report

I) Financial Update

Chief Barbot noted that the current rate for this fiscal year was 1.2365, with the need to roll back to 1.8045 to obtain the same revenue as last fiscal year. Chief Barbot wondered whether there was a desire for him to set a max rate for July, which he felt would help with the September outlook. Chief Barbot outlined that the goal for the next fiscal year was to carry over and have a balance as high as possible. Chief Barbot noted two House and Senate bills going into effect on July 1, 2023, which would require the purchase of additional software. However, the District's IT company, CRS Technology, agreed to install the new software free of charge given the district's current financial situation. Commissioner McCurry wondered whether letters of thanks could be sent on behalf of the Board. Chief Barbot said he would arrange that.

Actions:

Chief Barbot to send letters of thanks to companies on behalf of the Board.

II) Property Tax Relief

Chief Barbot reported that the final number was \$662,424, to date, and an unpaid balance of \$394,000 needed to go back to the tax collector's office. Commissioner McCurry clarified that they were not writing checks to pay that, the tax collector's office was deducting what was paid and will continue to be distributed from the tax collectors office ad valorem payments. Chief Barbot agreed, adding that there had been two deductions so far from the last 2 remaining distributions.

III) Emergency Recovery Grants

Chief Barbot outlined the scope of the grants, noting that the district was the first agency to submit for a revenue loss state grant. Chief Barbot reported that there had been an application to request that the state assist in funding the district with a revenue loss of \$2 million, Chief Barbot would update the application as required while it was open. Chief Barbot anticipated submitting an application for a project for infrastructure for Station 172, the application period would close on July 31, 2023.

IV) Community Disaster Loan (CDL)

Chief Barbot reported good headway, he had been informed that they were the first government agency in the State of Florida that had been approved by FEMA for that loan.

V) FEMA Update

Chief Barbot reported that there were six open projects, the Station 171 project had moved forward.

VI) District Update

Chief Barbot reported that Schenkel Shultz had submitted their first proposal for A and E services for the reconstruction of Station 172. This proposal was negotiated between the district and Schenkel Shultz for a savings of approximately \$41,000 down from the initial proposal. The district and Schenkel Shultz have since entered into an agreement for A and E Services.

VII) Personnel Update

Chief Barbot announced that Captain Tracy had over 24 years of dedicated service, he would be retiring on June 27, 2023, and there would be a retirement ceremony on July 1, 2023. Chief Barbot thanked Captain Tracy for his service.

VIII) Equipment Updates

Chief Barbot reported that they were working through maintenance on all the trucks.

IX) Years of Service Update

Chief Barbot noted that Fire Marshal Williams had three years, Chief Barbot had thirteen years and Firefighter Angelus had seven years.

5. Business Agenda Item

D) Insurance Reimbursements

Chief Barbot reported that funds had been received in the amount of \$965,070.27 through insurance reimbursements for Station 172.

II) Sub-Account

Chief Barbot proposed opening a sub-account at Bank of the Islands to transfer the amount in resolution 062123 from the general operating account to the sub-account. The sub-account would be strictly allocated and solely for Station 172 rebuild. Transferred funds were received from insurance claim payments and are being earmarked for the reconstruction of station 172.

III) Resolution 062123

Administrative Assistant Fulkerson read **Resolution 062123** regarding the transfer of insurance funds received for the purpose of rebuilding Station 172 to a designated newly created sub-account held with Bank of the Islands. **A motion was made by Commissioner Cochrane to adopt Resolution 062123. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCurry. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

6. Commissioner Items

Commissioner McCurry wondered whether they could make the audio recordings of meetings available to the public in the interest of transparency. Commissioner Muench noted that he had been excused from this meeting and would be physically present at the July meeting. It was agreed that they would discuss the possibility of making future meeting available online for the public to join.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCurry to excuse Commissioner Muench from the June 21, 2023, Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cochrane. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

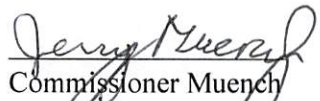
7. Union Items

DVP Reitenbach had been in contact with the administration regarding cost-saving measures, he applauded efforts in protecting jobs.

8. Public Input

There was no public input.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 AM.



Jerry Muench

Commissioner Muench



Commissioner Cochrane



Andrew P. McCurry

Commissioner McCurry