

**Sanibel Fire & Rescue District**  
**Board of Fire Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes**

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 9:00 AM

**Location:** 2351 Palm Ridge Road, Sanibel, FL 33957 - Station 171 Training / Conference Room

**Attendance:** Commissioner Jerry Muench / Commissioner Richard McCurry / Fire Chief Kevin Barbot / Deputy Chief John DiMaria / Fire Marshal Larry Williams / Administrative Assistant Greta Fulkerson / Tiffany Repecki (The Island Reporter) – *online*

**I. Opening Items**

The special meeting was called to order by Commissioner Muench at 9:00 AM. All in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Muench acknowledged that Commissioner Cochrane was excused from this special meeting.

**II. Business Agenda Items**

**A. Resolution 26-003: Authorize Construction Services Contract for Fire Station 171**

Chief Barbot started by thanking County staff, especially County Commissioner Kevin Ruane, for all of the assistance in getting the District the gap funding that was needed. The District was awarded approximately \$1.65 million, in addition to the original \$8.2 million that was received from HUD funding. This additional funding ensures that the District has been made whole with 100% funding for the construction services contract.

Manhattan Construction Company was the lowest responsive bidder under ITB 25-001 for the partial demolition and reconstruction of Fire Station 171. This resolution authorizes the Fire Chief to execute the construction services contract in an amount not to exceed \$9,891,436.17. The project will be funded through HUD Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding.

The resolution was read by Administrative Assistant Fulkerson. **A motion was made by Commissioner McCurry to approve Resolution 26-003 as read. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Muench. With no discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.**

Commissioner McCurry added thanks to Chief Barbot and County Commissioner Ruane along with District, City, and County staff, for working hard to find additional funds and for making this happen. Commissioner McCurry wished Administrative Assistant Fulkerson a happy birthday, for the record.

Commissioner Muench asked how the County handles the additional funds allocation. Chief Barbot explained that because the District operates within the City of Sanibel lines, it needs a pass-through agency. Through an agreement, this makes the City of Sanibel the grantee and the

District the sub-grantee. Chief Barbot relayed that the City has been a phenomenal partner to work with, adding that although they had an opportunity to keep a small portion of the funds for administrative fees, they opted to not charge the District for those fees as their main goal is to see the island's fire and rescue service recover and rebuild for the community. This portion of funding was \$260,000, which is included in the \$1.65 million of additional funding received. Chief Barbot also touched on how the funds process works: The District pays the contractor; once the check clears, the District submits a copy of the cleared check along with other documentation to the City; the City reimburses the District, and then the City works with the County to get that reimbursement back. It is quite a process, and outside of ensuring the District has a resilient building for public safety, there is minimal gain for the City given the work. This goes to show the City's commitment to the fire department and public safety as a whole on the island. Chief Barbot noted that he meets weekly with the grant coordinator who works for the City.

### **III. Final Items**

No public input to discuss.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 AM.

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Commissioner Jerry Muench

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Commissioner Bruce Cochrane

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Commissioner Richard McCurry