

SANIBEL FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT
Minutes of the Fire Commission Meeting
May 12, 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: Breeze Newspaper journalist Tiffany Repecki and Medical Director Dr. Benjamin Abo, Sanibel Police Department, Lee County Public Safety, and the community.

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

1st Order of Business: Division Chief of Training, Tim Barrett led the Phoenix Award presentation.

2nd Order of Business: The minutes for the April 14, 2021, 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 second by Commissioner McCurry. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

3rd Order of Business: Administrator Mary Hickey reviewed the account balances. The district has received 93.8% of all ad valorem taxes for the year. The budget is at 55% of spending.

4th Order of Business: Division Chief of Training Barrett reviewed the on-going training throughout the month of May. Medical Director Dr. Abo will be having a lecture on May 28th, and it will be on trauma.

5th Order of Business: Assistant Administrator Quinn went over the social media and website interactions:

Post Reach: 3,206
Post Engagement: 1,319
New page likes: 19
Page likes: 2,056
Page follows: 2,254
Website visits: 6,322

Assistant Administrator Quinn also reviewed the presentation for the Citizens Life Saving Award at 400 Rabbits Restaurants. The recipient was very grateful and emotional.

5th Order of Business: Fire Marshal Williams informed everyone on various upgrades to wireless monitoring and the switchover on the island. The Fire Marshal worked with the company that was supposed to paint all the fire hydrants on the island, and after review about 28 hydrants were not painted. The management companies on Sanibel are switching their old generation Knox Boxes due to the older boxes being rusted shut. The alarm at our station has been switched out.

6th Order of Business: Deputy Chief Barbot reviewed the calls, due to Covid we are starting to see implications and stating April 2021 we responded to 149 calls and April 2020 we responded to 97 calls. That is a 11% increase. Businesses are saying it's still very busy. Facility and maintenance issues are very minor. New Marine 171 is almost complete, Commissioner Muench asked about security in the station? Deputy Chief Barbot said, the first bid is in, we need two more bids and then we will go over the numbers with you at a commission meeting. It needs to be budgeted for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Muench said, I would like details. Deputy Chief Barbot said, the focus is on keeping people out of the station while no one is here, locked doors, and cameras specifically where narcotics are stored.

7th Order of Business: Fire Chief Briscoe stated, the Fire Marshal and I met with Island Water Association about them taking ownership of the fire hydrants on the island. The Chief went through the history of how the hydrants became the property of Sanibel Fire & Rescue District and Captiva Fire Department. The original intent was to increase the ISO rating for the island which at the time benefited everyone. Currently Sanibel Fire & Rescue District and Captiva Fire Department are still responsible for the fire hydrants. The District did a poll and the firefighters all agreed on the new tone sounds.

Fire Chief Briscoe discussed a draft the District created for Recreational Burns on Sanibel Island. The draft was sent to the commissioners and the City of Sanibel for final input. After the City reviews the draft, if they give no input, it'll be the policy for Sanibel Fire. Fire Chief Briscoe reviewed the updated fee schedule, and stated, barring any issues, we will have the commissioners vote in July to have the fee schedule go in effect in October 2021.

Fire Chief Briscoe reviewed the new legislature passed bill which will require fire districts to do a performance audit in 2022. He stated that Administrator Hickey said she got one estimate at \$100,000. Administrator Hickey said, more like \$150,000 for the performance audit. Fire Chief Briscoe said, we will budget for \$150,000, since only six companies are able to do the performance audit, and there are 69 fire districts competing with six companies. Fire Chief Briscoe stated he will give the commissioners staff raise data at the next meeting and all agreed to discuss at next meeting.

8th Order of Business: Commissioner Muench wanted to discuss a conflict for his attendance at the July 14th meeting and asked to reschedule the next meeting. Fire Chief Briscoe said, we have a conflict the afternoon of July 21 but 0900 should be ok. Commissioner Muench asked if the meeting could be changed to July 21 and also stated that everyone needs to work on the budget. Everyone agreed to the new meeting date for July 2021. Commissioner McCurry asked Mary how the audit is going? Administrator Hickey stated, they are still working on the audit.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM.

Commissioner Jerry Muench

Commissioner Bruce Cochrane

Commissioner Richard McCurry