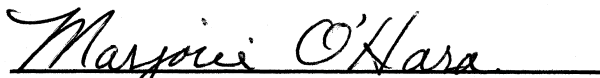


**Bylaws of**  
**LITTLE GASPARILLA ISLAND**  
**FIRE AND RESCUE, INC.**

As Amended by Vote of the Membership

December 30, 2009

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marjorie O'Hara

Chairman  
Board of Commissioners  
Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue, Inc.

# **Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue Bylaws**

## **Article I --- Organization**

Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue, Inc. (LGIFR) is a fire and rescue organization located on Little Gasparilla Island (LGI) in Charlotte County, Florida.

LGIFR was incorporated on March 12, 2002 as a not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. LGIFR's fiscal year runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. A Board of Directors, consisting of five (5) members, oversees the affairs of LGIFR. Four members of the Board hold the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary. The Board appoints a Chief Operations Officer who holds the title of Chief of Fire and Rescue Operations (Chief) and manages the day-to-day operations of LGIFR.

## **Article II --- Purpose and Mission**

LGIFR's mission is to protect the property and lives of residents and visitors on Little Gasparilla Island. LGIFR pursues its mission by taking the following actions, to the extent that LGIFR's funding permits:

- Providing first-responder fire suppression by at least one professional firefighter/emergency medical technician (FF/EMT) on duty on LGI at all times.
- Providing first-responder emergency medical assistance by at least one professional FF/EMT on duty on LGI at all times.
- Providing fire fighting and EMS equipment suited to the environment and needs of LGI and providing storage facilities for that equipment.
- Organizing and training a group of volunteer assistants (VAs) to assist LGIFR's professional FF/EMTs in delivering first-responder fire suppression services and first-responder emergency medical services on LGI.
- Coordinating and facilitating the efforts of Charlotte County FF/EMTs responding to a fire or medical emergency on LGI.
- Providing other related services.

In addition, LGIFR works with Charlotte County, state agencies and other fire and rescue organizations to provide:

- Public education on fire prevention
- Basic medical emergency training for island residents
- Consultation on specific fire and medical hazard issues.

### **Article III --- Principal Office**

Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue's principal office shall be located at the residence of the then-serving Secretary until LGIFR completes construction of a building to house its operations and equipment. Upon its completion, said building shall become LGIFR's principal office. The mailing address of LGIFR shall be PO Box 854, (or another PO Box assigned by the Placida Post Office) Placida, FL 33946. The registered agent for LGIFR shall be on file with the Florida Secretary of State and may be changed from time to time by the Board as deemed necessary.

### **Article IV --- Membership**

All property owners on LGI shall be members of LGIFR. In all matters requiring a vote of the membership, each platted parcel (defined as a separately platted lot or a separately taxed condominium unit) shall be entitled to one vote. Where a single member owns more than one parcel, that member may cast one vote for each parcel owned. Where two or more members jointly own a single parcel, those members must designate one partner to cast the single vote to which the parcel is entitled.

### **Article V --- Board of Directors**

**General responsibilities and powers.** The responsibilities and powers of the Board of Directors shall include, but are not limited to:

- Provide general governance to LGIFR and oversee all matters and affairs that pertain to the operations of LGIFR.
- Develop and maintain LGIFR's long range plan for the improvement of LGIFR's fire suppression and emergency medical assistance services. The scope of planning includes, but is not limited to, the extent of future services, the amount of equipment, training, and facilities required to deliver future services and the determination of the actions required to achieve the long range plan.
- Enter a contract with Charlotte County by which LGIFR will agree to provide LGI with a specified level of first-responder fire suppression service and first-responder emergency medical service and Charlotte County will agree to pay LGIFR for those services out of the proceeds of an MSBU created by Charlotte County for LGI.
- Apply for and utilize any grants for which LGIFR may be eligible.
- Solicit and utilize private contributions to support the services provided by LGIFR.

**Specific powers and obligations.**

- Recruit and appoint the Chief. The chief serves at the pleasure of the Board, and the Board shall have the power of termination and replacement of the Chief at will and without recourse, except as may be contested pursuant to the Appeal of a Board Decision in Article VIII. An individual may not be appointed Chief or