

Fire Commission Meeting
Immokalee Fire Control District
Board Meeting
December 18, 2014

These Minutes are a summary of the meeting. Any further information can be obtained by the tape. The minutes will follow the order of the Agenda.

Present Commissioners: Anderson, Goodnight, Heath, Keen; Chief Paul Anderson, Board Attorney Kenneth Thompson, Leo Rodgers, Alma R. Valladares and Members of the Public. Commissioner Olesky arrived at 6:12pm

- 1) Call Meeting to Order at 6:06pm
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Anderson
- 3) Moment of Silence led by Commissioner Anderson
- 4) Proof of Publication led by Commissioner Anderson
- 5) Establish a Quorum led by Commissioner Anderson
- 6) Approval of Agenda **was motioned by Commissioner Goodnight and seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carries unanimously.**
- 7) Approval of the minutes of the following meetings:
 - A. November 20, 2014 Regular Board Meeting **was approved by Commissioner Goodnight and seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carries unanimously.**
- 8) Treasurer's Report **was approved by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Goodnight. Motion carries unanimously.**
- 9) Consent Agenda- Commissioner Heath asked Chief about buying back vacation. Chief Anderson mentioned that he can take vacation or buy back vacation annually according to District Policy. Chief Anderson said that he was not the only one to take the option to buy back, three others already have and more are planning to. Chief Anderson said it benefits the District by reducing the accrued liability amount that has to be budgeted for unused leave time. Commissioner Anderson said it was in the policy to buy back up to 56 hours annually. Commissioner Keen asked if he has taken vacation time. Chief Anderson mentioned that maybe when we look at the budget for next year we need to look at hiring an Assistant Chief or another Administrative position. Also, the application for the Assistant for Firefighter's Grant opened up and he had to submit it within 30 days so, he couldn't take off. Attorney Thompson suggested that Chief Anderson should bring it to the attention of the board just as a courtesy. Also, mentioned that the Auditors are reviewing all the salaries and if there is a question they will ask us. **Commissioner Goodnight motioned to approve Consent Agenda and Commissioner Olesky seconded. Motion carries unanimously.**
 - A. Fire Marshal's Report- No comment
 - B. Chief's Report
 - C. Status on Current Contracts
 - (1) Mechanic MOU expires September 30, 2015
 - (2) Mabry Brothers, Generator Maintenance, expires September 30, 2015
 - (3) Lawn Maintenance agreement expires September 30, 2015
 - (4) Seminole Tribe contract expires September 30, 2016
- 10) Union Report- Nothing to report.
- 11) Business of the District
 - A. **Old Business**
 1. Inter-local agreement with North Naples Fire Control & Rescue District for plans review services-Chief Anderson mentioned that we should postpone our decision instead of coming into an agreement with North Naples until the status of the fire code office is resolved. Currently Immokalee is the only district still active in the fire code office and still totally in compliance with the inter-local agreement. North Naples has provided their required notice to begin doing their own plans review and the others have taken their plans review elsewhere without providing notice, which puts them in violation of the inter-local agreement.
 - a. Public comment-None
 2. Status of Fire Code Official's Office- Chief Anderson mentioned that he included the budget for them to this year. The Immokalee revenue is the only revenue that is coming in. They recommended for them

to immediately resolve the Fire Code Official's Office and liquidate all the assets. They agreed to liquidate the assets of the vehicles and moving forward to getting them off the insurance. East Naples, now Greater Naples want that building. The building belongs to all the participating fire districts.

We have a vested interest in the building and if they want to buy us out that would be fine. Attorney Thompson mentioned that Chief Anderson and Commissioner Goodnight made good presentations. Attorney Thompson mentioned to write a letter demanding that we have a meeting with all the board members to resolve what is going to happen with this. We would be the ones to run the business since everyone else pulled out. Commissioner Goodnight mentioned that they want to bail out as well. That means that they will keep the building. Commissioner Goodnight, Olesky, Keen, Anderson and Heath agreed to go with the legal route advice from Attorney Thompson. We need authority to do the letter to service the process and they will need to be available.

a. Public comment- None

Commissioner Keen motions for Attorney Thompson to do the letter to service the process and Commissioner Olesky seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

3. Property for Fire Station 32- Chief Anderson mentioned that he has requested about 6 times to speak to Barron Collier and they haven't responded. Request was an estimate of what it would cost to run a sewer line up to Pope John Paul and any cost of the parcel by the convenient store. We got an estimate from Owen/Ames/Kimball of about \$150,000. It's doable with Impact Fee funds we have. We researched the citrus grove across Camp Keais Rd and want to look at building a fire station there. Attorney Thompson mentioned that Pacific Land Co. owns that land and see if they are interested in selling us some property to build on. Also, he needs to follow up with them. They have plans to turn it into a subdivision sometime in the distant future. Chief Anderson mentioned that he spoke to Ave Maria University attorney and told him what we were looking for and if they would discuss of providing us with a piece of land on University-owned property and they were going to discuss that in their monthly meeting in January. They are interested in training some students for volunteer fire fighters and that is something they will discuss.

a. Public comment-None

4. Contract for User Fee Billing- Attorney Thompson mentioned that he reviewed and it looks good and would like for it to be approved.

a. Public comment-None

Commissioner Goodnight motion to authorize Chief Anderson to enter into a contract with the vendor Owens/Ames/Kimball after he receives the letter from Attorney Thompson and Commissioner Olesky seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

B. New Business

1. Effort for County-wide consolidation of fire and EMS services- Chief Anderson mentioned that consolidation of any government service is like a marriage. If someone choses to marry someone who is in debt, they just assumed all that persons' debt. If Immokalee joined in the consolidation, Immokalee residents will have assumed millions of dollars in debt that all these other districts have. Immokalee residents didn't create that debt, but they would assume that debt and will have to pay that debt in consolidation. Commissioner Goodnight mentioned that some districts are going to go bankrupt because they are not going to be able to pay. Number one, the insurance they obligated themselves and number two, the mortgage they took out to build the station. Chief Anderson mentioned that aside from all that, there are some benefits to consolidation. It made perfect sense for East Naples and Golden Gate to merge because of their proximity to each other, the demographics of the area, the location of the stations, operational aspects of the fire department. Commissioner Heath mentioned that five years ago the Fire Chief Association did a study on the county-wide consolidation. The report that Chief Murphy from Marco gave is mentioned that if they do the whole county-wide consolidation, everybody's millage rate is going to 6 mills to help pay for it. Commissioner Anderson mentioned that the city council spoke against the new dispatch system (Locution). Just on that aspect. They didn't want to give control of their dispatch of their fire units over to the sheriff's office. He doesn't think they would give control of their entire fire department to the county. Chief Anderson mentioned that once you merge and consolidate, all the assets of that agency become part of the county or whatever department that you merge into. Once you give it up; it will be pretty much cost prohibited to ever get it back if you are not happy with the service. Commissioner Goodnight mentioned that it's her

understanding that this has been postponed until May. She thinks that what our board needs to do is to encourage Chief Anderson to keep them abreast of what's going on. She would like to see at least one commissioner and the Fire Chief there in the May meeting. Also, to have one commissioner to be on the board as well as our Fire Chief. She mentioned that she was very impressed with the presentation that he presented at the meeting she attended with the planning board. He is a real advocate for Immokalee. Commissioner Keen mentioned that he also did a presentation at the County Commissioners meeting as was doing a very good job. Also, that Donna wants to hear from us. They want letters and comments on what we want here in Immokalee.

Commissioner Anderson mentioned that he watched the meeting and thanked Chief Anderson for going. Also, he mentioned that he wrote a 5 page letter and Commissioner Heller replied with very little that took only seconds to read. He also sent an email out to them to come out but none of them have responded. Commissioner Heath mentioned that when the districts consolidate, the quality of service has gone way down. Commissioner Keen mentioned that she personally asked Commissioner Nance to vote against this and he was one of the strongest advocates of it. Commissioner Nance and Commissioner Henning are for it. Commissioner Heath mentioned that this department too, if you go out and talk to the people; this is the only thing that this town has that isn't controlled by the county, state or the feds. If you go back and look over time; the millage increase we wanted, go voted in overwhelming. There were times when we were short on money or stuff that we needed to buy equipment we went around to the local businesses everybody contributed money. A couple of years ago we went to buy extrication equipment and one of the farmers'; that's no longer with us and said, "how much do you need" and wrote a check for \$7,000.00 to buy the equipment we needed. This is the only thing that this town has that no government agency controls and the town wants to keep it. Commissioner Goodnight mentioned that we can't put a dome around Immokalee. This board needs to give Chief Anderson the support he needs. We need to be aware of what's going on. Chief Anderson mentioned that there is no guarantee that the current Immokalee resources will stay in Immokalee once we consolidate. Paul Devan mentioned that he has been in the community for a long time and when he goes to the meetings they say that they have to stay in the area. Collier County has a lot of different area. He is here in Immokalee and we now have the assets that we worked so hard to get. When we live that far out, we have to take care of our town. When we lose our 3 ambulances we will be doing a lot of work just to keep up. We need to be concerned about the Immokalee and Ave Maria tax payers we have to service this town.

- a) Public comment-William Deyo mentioned that he doesn't want to consolidate. We need to keep what we can local, local.
- 2. County Commissioner Henning to Address the Board of Fire Commissioners-Did not show up.
- 3. Purchase of Attack truck for Station 32- Chief Anderson mentioned that the overall plan for Station 32. Once we get the ladder truck out there is to have a small quick attack truck to run the medical calls, routine calls. Monteverde has an engine and is selling it to us for \$70,000. Fairly new truck and would like to ask to purchase this vehicle.

Commissioner Anderson motioned to authorize Chief Anderson to purchase the Attack truck for Station 32 beginning at an offer of \$65,000 and not to exceed \$75,000 from Impact Fees Account and Commissioner Keen seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously. Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve for painting the Attack truck up to \$5,000 and pay out of Operating Account and Commissioner Goodnight seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

- a) Public comment- None
- 4. Remove Policy 512 from District Policy Manual and Replace with SOG- Chief Anderson mentioned that the policy addresses how different vehicles respond to different calls in the district. It's more suited for an SOG than in the district policy manual. An SOG can be changed if need be without waiting and bringing it to the board for approval. At some other time as growth continues in the district and growth mandates operational changes from time to time; there might be some changes in the future.
- a) Public comment- Commissioner Heath mentioned that now that we are going to have two trucks out at Ave Maria, Station 32 will move up to Station 30 for coverage; which truck are they going to bring in. Chief Anderson mentioned that that is one of the things they will have to figure out in the SOC. It's probably going to be the tower in case there is a structural fire. As the volunteer program grows, there may be an option to where the pay crew can move up in one

vehicle and the volunteers in Ave Maria can staff other vehicles there. As the program grows, as the make-up of our organization grows, there are changes in our day to day operations that may come about because of that. For right now, they will move up in the Engine or the Tower and not the Attack truck.

Commissioner Goodnight motions to approve to remove Policy 512 from District Policy Manual and replace with SOG and Commissioner Olesky seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

5. Purchase of Components for Locution Station Alerting System- Chief Anderson mentioned that he included the initial package for the Locution. We need a basic amplifier to run to the speakers and it ran from \$10,000 to \$17,000. The station software is \$1804 a piece but he needs to review the contract. The total is \$28,800 for all 3 Stations and we have budgeted \$12,000 for last year and this year for \$12,000 which would be \$24,000. We can spend \$28,063 and go ahead with the project.

a) Public comment- None

Commissioner Goodnight motions to approve to purchase of Components for Locution Station Alerting System up to \$28,063 from Operations Account and bring back at January meeting to what took place and Commissioner Olesky seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

6. Date of January Board Meeting- Chief Anderson mentioned that he would like to move the January 15th meeting to January 8th since he plans to leave at noon on the 15th. Commissioner Goodnight, Commissioner Keen and Commissioner Olesky mentioned that the January 8th date is fine with them.
- 12) Concerns of Commissioner Attorney Thompson mentioned about Oakes Packinghouse wants to close an easement, however the FD needs to maintain access to the buildings in the area with that easement as a fire lane. He talked with James French at County Building Code and they agree that Oakes Farms is not exempt from our codes. The fire code applies because it's a State statute.
- 13) Public Comment- Also, Chief Anderson mentioned he has some certificates of appreciation for Naples North Side Kiwanis Club and for Cheryle Horbal (President of Kiwanis Club and Bryan Horbal's mother). We were looking at replacing the mattresses at all three stations and were going to try to replace some of the mattresses this year and then the rest next year since there isn't money in the budget. So, Bryan Horbal brought that to his mother's attention and she went to the Kiwanis Club and they were able to provide all the mattresses to the Immokalee Fire Department. The other thing is that it's in the Fire Chief's contract to review his salary and benefits and also his performance annually. So, he would like to put that on the Agenda for January and he will put the performance evaluation forms in their boxes next week. He will be available to meet with anyone who wants to discuss his performance. He invites their opinions because that is the only way he will know what kind of job he is doing. He mentions that he thinks he's doing a good job and what's in the best interest of the Fire District.
- 14) Adjourn Meeting at 8:44pm

Next Scheduled Meeting(s):

Next Regular Board Meeting: January 8, 2014, 6 p.m.; Fire Station 30, 502 New Market Rd., Immokalee