

**Fire Commission Meeting
Immokalee Fire Control District
Board Meeting
October 15, 2015**

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, Halman, Keen and Olesky; Chief Paul Anderson, Board Attorney Kenneth Thompson, Leo Rodgers, Alma Valladares

1) **Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:12pm by Commission Chair Goodnight

2) **Pledge of Allegiance**

Lead by Commissioner Goodnight

3) **Moment of Silence**

Lead by Commissioner Goodnight

4) **Proof of Publication**

Copy of publication at the annual publishing

5) **Establish a Quorum**

Quorum established by Commissioner Goodnight

6) **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve the revised Agenda and seconded by Commissioner Olesky. Motion carries unanimously.

7) Approval of the minutes of the following meetings:

- A. September 17, 2015 Tentative Budget Hearing
- B. September 17, 2015 Regular Board Meeting
- C. September 28, 2015 Final Budget Hearing
- D. September 28, 2015 Special Board Meeting

Commissioner Keen asked to make a change on Tentative Budget Hearing minutes. Under F Commissioner Keen mentioned that it mentions that she opposed the millage rate. She didn't oppose that item. Anderson motioned to approve minutes for all meetings with the change on the September 17, 2015 Tentative Budget Meeting minutes and Commissioner Olesky seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

8) Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Halman motioned to approve Treasurer's Report and Commissioner Olesky seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

9) Consent Agenda

Chief Anderson mentioned that he submitted a Sub-grant application for hazardous materials response training and it was approved for \$8,800. **Commissioner Olesky motions to approve Consent Agenda and seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carries unanimously.**

A. Fire Marshal's Report

B. Chief's Report

C. Status on Current Contracts

D. Revisions to District Personnel Policies

(1) Table of Contents (adding proposed Policy 208)

(2) Policy 208 – Personnel Reduction (new policy to mirror CBA for non-bargaining unit positions)

10) Union Report

No one available from the Union

11) Business of the District

A. Old Business

1. Status of Fire Code Official's Office

Chief Anderson mentioned that he received the information back from the FCOO on what we would be getting on our share and they estimated that we are looking at receiving from the distribution of the assets and right now its \$76,883. They are using approximately \$300,000 of the FCO assets for the Trust funds for the health care benefits for the retirees, leaving approximately 1.8 Million. He spoke with Chief Stoltz of NCFRD as well as some of their board members and they decided to sign the agreement just to get it over with and get their money. They didn't feel it was worth fighting. Commissioner Halman asked about the OPEB money. Chief Anderson mentioned that it would be 4 years from now to see if there is any money left from the Trust Fund. In that way, he can put some pressure on them to at least spend some time to do some research and look at it or other options to save money. Commissioner Olesky asked how much could we benefit from this. Chief Anderson mentioned that they control the cost of their health insurance, but they included a safety margin. At the end of 2020 they may end up having \$100,000 in the account and we would get 4.1% of that; about \$4,100. Attorney Thompson mentioned that we should just sign the agreement and settle with the \$76,883. Chief Anderson mentioned that they are still reviewing our letter and he asked for a revised final agreement due to not agreeing with some of the language in it. If the Commissioners have their meeting a couple of weeks before our November meeting; maybe we can have a special meeting to approve and sign off on the document and get our money as soon as possible. The potential would be for us to end up with \$120,000 - \$125,000 but we would have to file a lawsuit to get that. With the cost of the lawsuit, we may only come out with \$15,000/20,000 ahead. It's better that we take the money and put it in the Reserves Account and draw interest. Commissioner Goodnight mentioned to table this item to next meeting.

a. Public comment

None

2. Status of Collier Emergency Services Task Force (County-wide Fire and EMS Merger/Consolidation)

Paul Devan mentioned that he attended the meeting and asked them what their overall intent and their goal was. They just kept going in circles. Their main focus was consolidation. Also, that the board members were very upset. Also, that Greater Naples, EMS under the direction of Dr. Tober and the Paramedic Ride along Program mentioned that they thought that was the answer to every problem; to consolidate. Capt. Devan also voiced his opinion as a resident and how discontent he was about not having fire fighter paramedics who are certified by the state of Florida that have passed all of their tests and that they can't function as a paramedic in the Big Corkscrew Island District; which he and his family live. Chief Anderson mentioned that the major benefit for us is that we have control over our fire district. Commissioner Olesky mentioned that they want us because we are debt free. Chief Anderson mentioned that he attends those meetings to make sure that complete and accurate information is presented and to look out for the best interest of Immokalee Fire District as a whole; which includes Immokalee and Ave Maria. They think that merging all of the fire districts and EMS into one fire department is the fix-all to everything. Collier County is a prime example that one size does not fit all. One of the issues that he tried to express and they tried to shut him down was that if it's one fire department and there is a major incident in Big Corkscrew or North Collier and all of the resources are tied up and they dispatch a fire engine from Ave Maria to those area and that engine is going to that call. If they dispatch that unit when all the other engines are busy on other calls in Immokalee and that's the only available fire truck in the entire Immokalee district; that leaves Immokalee with no coverage at all. There is no one to back us up.

It would leave this whole area uncovered. Today, with a separate fire district; Immokalee Fire District, if they dispatch my last available unit, he can call on the radio and say we have no units available to send outside the district, we need to maintain coverage inside the district. He is not going to send his last available unit somewhere outside the area. We can do that now because we are an independent district. If we merge, we wouldn't be able to do that. All of the resources could be pulled out of this area and this area left totally uncovered. The major benefit for him by remaining a separate fire district and not merging is that we have control over the units and personnel of our fire district and we can choose to send them outside the district or not. Commissioner Goodnight mentioned that if they ran and asked the voters to vote for us for the safety, health, and welfare of the people that we represent. If we can't control the personnel and engines for whatever is needed then, we can't do our job and if someone is elected from another part of the county, it's going to send it to their district instead of our district. That is the one thing that really bothers her about the whole idea of consolidation. She knows that this area has always been the last to get any type of help or anything and that is her biggest concern. She thinks that we need to continue to attend those meetings and be a thorn in their side until they understand. None of them have been out here. None of them work out here or has tried to respond when we need help. Chief Anderson mentioned that it's obvious that the goal of Commissioner Henning and Commissioner Nance is to merge everything into one service. They believe that is the way to provide the best service because they've been given information from someone who didn't give them complete information. They gave them a one sided story and their opinion. Commissioner Halman asked what would be the consequences if everyone decided to merge except us. Chief Anderson mentioned that we would maintain business as usual and run the fire department as usual. There wouldn't be any consequences. They would still provide assistance to us and we will assist them if they needed. Commissioner Keen mentioned that we need to pay attention to what is going on and that Commissioner Nance is not supporting this board or Immokalee. By next October, we have the potential of having 6 Paramedics working for us.

a. Public comment

None

3. Status of Fire Station 32 Property and Construction

Chief Anderson mentioned that we have had three meetings so far and the county attorney has met with Barron Collier twice. We are on hold until next October with Barron Collier.

Commissioner Anderson mentioned that with Ave Maria and Barron Collier using their own contractors; would that in anyway breach the contract that we wrote and signed with Sweet Sparkman for the design of that Station. Chief Anderson mentioned that we have a contract that they are the designers and engineers for any construction of Immokalee Fire District. So, if they chose to go in that direction and the county wanted to let them be the builders and use their own contractors; then, it would have to be a county building project and not an Immokalee Fire District building project. We would own proportionate share of the building if we pay 90% of the building; we would own 90% of the building. It would be jointly owned by Collier County and Immokalee Fire Control District. That was just an option discussed because Barron Collier also requested credit for Impact Fees for the construction. Commissioner Anderson mentioned that the county does all of the maintenance for all of the buildings and that is why they are falling apart. So, we have county commissioners that will be involved in the decision making process to go ahead with the building. Is he correct? The same ones who think we should consolidate. Attorney Thompson agreed.

a. Public comment

None

B. New Business

1. Non-Renewal of Payroll Services Contract (60-day notice proposed to be given October 30, 2015 for District staff to begin providing service January 1, 2016)

Chief Anderson mentioned that our payroll contract is expiring and his proposal is to take payroll back. In order to comply with the segregation of duties required in the auditing standards intended to eliminate any financial improprieties, we will have 3 people to process and approve payroll. With the new Deputy Chief position, that would be another person reviewing payroll. The payroll company is making a lot of mistakes and it would save us over \$8,000 a year. Commissioner Goodnight asked if the accountant agrees with that. Chief Anderson mentioned that he has discussed it with the auditor and that is who suggested that we wait until January 1st to take it over. **Commissioner Olesky motions to approve for non-renewal of Payroll Service Contract and seconded by Commissioner Halman. Motion carries unanimously.**

- a) Public comment

None

2. Tablet PC's for Commissioners

Chief Anderson mentioned that he is looking into getting tablet PC's for Commissioners. One of the difficulties in some of the meetings has been if someone has a question and he doesn't have the document in question, he would have to stop the meeting and go to his office, look for the document and make copies. He was looking for something for himself that would be low cost and now that we have Wi-Fi he would be able to connect to our computer system on the tablet and look at all of the records on file. Now that we have started emailing the packets prior as well as making paper copies; He started looking at the cost of office products. Our copy machine is out dated and needs some parts that are no longer available; so, he ordered a new copy machine but after looking at the cost of the copy machine, toner, the paper and all that; his proposal was to get some low cost tablets less than \$200 each for each commissioner. We would load the commission packet on and we would no longer print the entire packet. You would have that available prior to the meeting and read the packet. This would save us in the long run for printing and copying, as well as staff time. Also, if you needed to look up some documents, we would put the personnel policy, the Union contract or SOG's; all this would be available for you to look at. Commissioner Goodnight mentioned that Immokalee Water & Sewer board has that and it works very well. Commissioner Olesky mentioned that they have one for the Collier Health Services and they are still teaching him how to use it. They are nice and convenient. Commissioner Anderson mentioned that you get what you pay for. If we are spending \$200 on a tablet, we are probably going to get a piece of junk. He has problems with his Ipad and he paid \$700 for that. Commissioner Keen mentioned to contact Ms. Deyo and she what she did. Commissioner Anderson mentioned that is his concern. Also, that there was a hesitation when he asked for the department credit cards to be issued when we go to the FASD Conferences with the dollar amount limit, that shows clearly where the purchases would be made. He would have concerns with 5 different places out there, where it is trackable but do we have to bring it in to be tracked. To check on what websites they have gone to. Are they deleting emails, those being sort on our server? Chief Anderson mentioned that all e-mail and documents are backed up on the server. Commissioner Olesky mentioned to also ask Collier Health Services and see what they did. Chief Anderson mentioned that he is getting three proposals from banks in Immokalee for credit cards that have the rebate feature.

Commissioner Olesky motioned to purchase PC Tablets for Commissioners and Commissioner Halman seconded the motion. Commissioner Anderson opposes. Motion carries 4 to 1.

- a) Public comment

None

12) Concerns of Commissioners

Commissioner Anderson asked if there is a status on notifying commissioners when there is an agency vehicle involved in a crash. Chief Anderson said no but he can write one and put it in an SOG. Attorney Thompson mentioned that Commissioner Goodnight received a certified letter about a vehicle that was involved in an accident and we will forward it to our insurance carrier.

13) Public Comment

None

14) Adjourn Meeting at 7:31pm

Next Scheduled Meeting(s):

- **Regular Board Meeting: November 19, 2015, 6 p.m.; Immokalee Fire Control District Station 30, 502 New Market Rd. E, Immokalee , FL 34142**

