

**Fire Commission Meeting
Immokalee Fire Control District
Board Meeting
January 14, 2016**

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. Commissioner Olesky arrives at 6:10pm; Chief Paul Anderson, Board Attorney Kenneth Thompson, Leo Rodgers, Alma Valladares, Bryan Horbal

1) **Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm 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 Goodnight mentioned to change 11. B. 1. on the recommendations category, that appears to be from a different agenda item. Chief Anderson replied that it was an error and advised what the correct recommendation is. Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve the revised Agenda and seconded by Commissioner Halman. Motion carries unanimously.

7) Approval of the minutes of the following meeting:

A. December 17, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve December 17, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes and Commissioner Olesky seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.

8) Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Keen asked about the fund balances being off on some of the figures of the budget. Chief mentioned that we haven't put everything on budget, as we are in the process of revising some of the budget line item codes to come in line with the state guidelines. Commissioner Anderson asked what we pay on business credit cards. Chief Anderson mentioned that we pay some equipment and supplies ordered on-line, education classes, travel arrangements, etc. **Commissioner Olesky motioned to approve Treasurer's Report and Commissioner Halman seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.**

9) Consent Agenda

Commissioner Anderson asked if there was an update on Deputy Chief Position. Chief Anderson mentioned that he has interviewed a few people but we don't have anyone yet. He is going to talk to some individuals who expressed interest and requested to speak with him at the fire conference next week. Still in the works, just going slow. **Commissioner Anderson motioned to approve Consent Agenda and Commissioner Olesky seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.**

A. Fire Marshal's Report

B. Chief's Report

C. Status on Current Contracts

10) Union Report

Bryan Horbal, Union President just wanted to present himself to the board and he's looking forward to working with Chief and the Immokalee Fire Board members.

11) Business of the District

A. New Business

1. Commission Elections

Attorney Thompson mentioned that the board turns over the gavel to the attorney and he would ask for nominations for the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary/Treasurer for Immokalee Fire Control District.

Commissioner Olesky made a motion to keep the commissioners the same. Commissioner Keen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- a. Chairman
Commissioner Patricia Anne Goodnight
- b. Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Travis Anderson
- c. Secretary/Treasurer
Commissioner Edward Olesky
- d. Public comment
None

2. Process for adoption of Non-Ad Valorem Fire Assessment Fees

Chief Anderson mentioned that he got a proposal from Bryant Miller Oliver (BMO) and Chris Roe and if the board approves the proposal the next step is to adopt a resolution at a public hearing at a regular commission meeting. He has it on the February Agenda. That public hearing has to be advertised in a newspaper of substantial distribution for 4 weeks. Then the Board looks at adopting a resolution. The resolution gives notice to the property appraiser and tax collector that IFCD is considering non-ad valorem assessment fees to be collected on the tax roll so the consultant can start working on gathering data and numbers and determining what the fire assessment fees should be in order to generate the revenue that we need to generate. It also puts the property appraisal/tax collector on notice that we are putting the fire assessment fee on the August ballot and that we are requesting cooperation with the property and tax collector. The consultant will then get the numbers from the tax collector and property appraiser and we sit down and figure out exactly what we need as far as revenue to operate the fire district. The goal is to generate enough revenue to keep the 9 new fire fighters that are on the SAFER Grant. The consultant will work with a financial analyst to work with the property appraiser to determine which properties currently pay Ad Valorem Taxes and which don't pay. The consultant will then determine how much to lower the millage rate to compensate for the ones that do pay taxes. So those properties that currently pay taxes are not paying substantially more than what they currently pay, but also taking into consideration the estimated increase in property values for next tax. Once we get the figures together the analyst will determine who pays and how much lower the millage rate will be. Once we get the numbers from the consultant and financial analyst, then the Board will have to have some workshops to decide if we want to exempt any of the property uses from the fire assessment fees.

Commissioner Goodnight mentioned that with this, we won't be able to give the people a definite answer to anybody that came to the February meeting. We will only be able to say, this is the process we have to go through to see if we can get everyone to pay equally instead of a few of us paying the price and others not paying anything. Chief Anderson mentioned that the resolution doesn't bind the board to doing an assessment fee at all.

Commissioner Goodnight asked when the consolidation is going to be on the ballot. Chief Anderson said that Greater Naples Fire District Board of Commissioners requested the County

Commission to put it on the March Presidential Primary ballot, which the County Commission voted to do. Commissioner Goodnight mentioned that the audience may not understand that, and if they don't show up; then, they might decide to vote in favor of something that they might not know what they are voting for in favor of or against something else. Chief Anderson mentioned that we would have the numbers by the time it goes to ballot in August.

Commissioner Keen mentioned that the question that is coming up in March for consolidation is totally different and the people might do the same thing they did last time and think that it sounds like a good deal and vote for it. Chief Anderson mentioned that is probably what's going to happen. What is ridiculous to him is that the County Commissioners that are pushing it are not going to run for re-election. They've got this outside special interest group that is pushing this. They put it on a ballot question and even if it's 90% that are in favor; the county can't do anything with it. No individual district can do anything with that. Two or more districts have to agree to consolidate. There is a state statute that was just written less than 2 years ago that outlines how independent districts can merge. Commissioner Keen mentioned that one of the major districts doesn't do things by the book. That's a concern. Chief Anderson mentioned that the board of each district can merge. The other way is a public petition. They have to have a certain amount of signatures from each independent district on a petition to get it on a ballot to allow a merger.

Chief Anderson mentioned that the people have to be educated about the pros and cons of consolidation and the district needs to create a personal relationship with the public. Commissioner Goodnight asked Attorney Thompson are we going to be legally able to defend that. Attorney Thompson said yes. County Commissions can't impact you directly without any support of the Legislature. It takes two districts to agree and then a Senator and a Representative to sponsor a bill to get it done. Commissioner Keen mentioned that our commissioner told her personally that on the straw ballot that everybody voted to consolidate. That the whole public is interested in doing that; which is not true.

Commissioner Anderson asked who will be sending the material out. The district can't say vote yes for this. We can only educate them and give them information. The Union can print flyers and say vote yes for the fire assessment fees. They can go around and set up tables at Winn Dixie and say, "you need to vote for fire assessment fees." Commissioner Anderson mentioned that they as commissioners can talk to people as well. Chief Anderson mentioned that the consultants have used a public relations firm in other areas, including Lehigh Acres, and it's up to the Board if we want to spend money on that. It's a lot of work, but he thinks we should be able to put an education campaign with power point presentations and information numbers that we can go to all the civic organizations, church groups, etc. Commissioner Anderson mentioned that in relation to the fire assessment fee; when would we lower the Ad Valorem tax fee. Chief Anderson mentioned that it would be October 1st, 2016. Commissioner Anderson mentioned if it would be worded that way for the voters to vote. Chief Anderson said yes. For the ballot question, we won't know how much we would lower the Ad Valorem but we can put on the question "Do you support the adoption of a fire assessment fee so all property owners within Immokalee Fire Control District pay for fire protection if it would reduce Ad Valorem taxes?" That is one way we could word the question. Commissioner Goodnight mentioned that the board agrees to go ahead with the process.

- a. Public comment
None

3. Mobile devices (tablets) for Commissioners

Chief Anderson mentioned that with the devices it will reduce the packets and save staff hours, paper, etc. We can email the packets and download it on the tablets. You will have access to commissioner's guidelines, S.O.G.'s etc. for references. Jason Burr mentioned that it works like a tablet and a laptop. It can be used for e-mail only where there is WI-FI. Commissioner Halman wants to know when Chief Anderson can talk to Eva Deyo from the Immokalee Water and Sewer about the tablets. Chief Anderson mentioned that he will talk to her tomorrow.

- a. Public comment
None

4. **Old Business**

1. Contract with Consultant for Fire Assessment Fee - Bryant Miller Olive

Chief Anderson mentioned that the cap is \$30,000 plus a contingency of \$5,000. Commissioner Anderson asked if they can take the money for the consultant from the revenue of the assessment fees. Chief Anderson answered yes they could. Chief Anderson mentioned this assessment was intended for fire protection fees and not EMS service. **Commissioner Anderson motioned to sign the contract and Commissioner Olesky seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.**

- a) Public comment
None

2. Sale of Surplus Ladder Truck (www.govdeals.com, reserve bid amount, etc.)

Chief Anderson mentioned that it has been advertised and it's advertised at \$25,000 but so far the highest bid is \$10,000. We need to advertise it on other government websites. He needs direction from the board. Do we advertise with a reserve or without a reserve? **Commissioner Olesky motions to advertise with a reserve of \$12,500 and go from there if it doesn't sell; Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.**

- a) Public comment
None

3. Status of Fire Code Official's Office

Chief Anderson mentioned that we sent the document and it's on the agenda for Tuesday meeting of Greater Naples Board and the final payment amount is \$75,050. He will let the board know what happens.

- a) Public comment
None

4. Status of Fire Station 31 Construction

Chief Anderson mentioned that they had a pre-construction meeting on the site plan and the Collier Growth Management Office is looking at variances on setbacks as well as swales for water retention. The wetland area is not listed as a preserve so we don't need a buffer. The Collier Land Development Code mentioned to designate 10% of the wetland as a wild land preserve and requires a management and maintenance program to keep out weeds and animals, but it only amounts to less than a 10ft x 10ft area. Also, that we need to build a 6ft sidewalk because it's on a collector road. Commissioner Goodnight mentioned that the CRA built a 5ft sidewalk. Chief Anderson mentioned that we are rescheduling a design meeting on the 3rd or 4th of February.

Attorney Thompson mentioned that David Lindsey's mom passed away and they are having the service tomorrow. Chief Anderson is looking at options of housing our firefighters in the meantime. He will contact the Pastor at First Baptist Church and see about housing the guys and EMS can go back to their building on 1st St. or maybe the fire units can be housed here at Station 30.

- a) Public comment
None

12) Concerns of Commissioners

Commissioner Halman asked if there has been any discussion of putting decals on the staff vehicles. Chief Anderson replied that he has ordered decals for the new vehicles, but could put something on the older vehicles if the Board thought it was necessary. Commissioner Halman mentioned that some of the public ask him what the plain white vehicle is on calls and they are confused whether it is fire, Sheriff, EMS, or someone else. Chief Anderson indicated that he can order some decals for the doors, but would rather not spend the money on totally striping and lettering an older vehicle.

Commissioner Olesky asked what color the fire hydrants should be. Chief Anderson mentioned that there was a miscommunication with an Immokalee Water & Sewer employee and a woman went around painting them all different colors. Commissioner Olesky mentioned that he likes the colors. Chief Anderson said that there is a national standard and that he will be communicating with Water & Sewer as to what that is. He indicated that he will be approaching the Boy Scouts about re-painting the hydrants the proper color as a Troop service project or an Eagle Scout project. Part of a Boy Scout project would be having the boys go to different places and requesting donations of supplies, such as paint and brushes, which would save the water district money.

Commissioner Keen ask if we need to do a Resolution like Marco Island did. **Commissioner Anderson motioned to do a Resolution in opposition to the county-wide merger and Commissioner Keen seconded the motion. Motion carries unanimously.**

Lt. Bryan Horbal, Union President, mentioned that he feels the opposite regarding consolidation, and that consolidation with at least North Collier may be good for Immokalee. He said that the Immokalee union and North Collier union are still discussing consolidation of the unions. Commissioner Goodnight, Commissioner Keen, Commissioner Anderson and Chief Anderson spoke out against consolidation and provided reasons why it would not be in the best interest of the residents and business owners in Immokalee.

Commissioner Anderson asked Lt. Horbal what guarantee does the Union give us that Immokalee will have coverage. Commissioner Olesky mentioned that there are people in Naples that have never been to Immokalee and you want them in charge of Immokalee? Commissioner Anderson mentioned that we are defending the community. Lt. Horbal mentioned that everyone loves the community and are here to protect it. Commissioner Anderson mentioned that EMS rotates stations and wonders around aimlessly until they see the fire trucks and then follow them because they are not familiar with the area and that is because they do not work here permanently. Commissioner Olesky agrees with Commissioner Anderson.

Attorney Thompson mentioned that Commissioner Olesky looks really nice.

Commissioner Goodnight mentioned that she would like to commend Chief Anderson for going to the Collier County meetings and telling them how we feel. She said that she feels that the Chief is doing an excellent job.

13) Public Comment

None

14) Adjourn Meeting at 7:50pm

Next Scheduled Meeting(s):

- **Regular Board Meeting: February 18, 2016 at 6pm at Immokalee Fire Control District Station 30, 502 New Market Rd. E, Immokalee , FL 34142**

