

# MINUTES

## LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

### COMMISSION MEETING

**April 19, 2007**

The April 19, 2007 meeting of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was opened at 7:30pm by President Hemingway. Present were: Commissioners Berndt, Guzman, Hemingway, Barrett and Boyd; Assistant Chief Haugh, Battalion Chief Christensen and Administrative Assistant Platas. Chief Adams had an excused absence. Attorney Pringle was also in attendance. The meeting was held at the East Lee County Regional Library, 881 Gunnery Rd., Lehigh Acres.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Hemingway asked Commissioner Boyd to give the invocation.

Commissioner Hemingway asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions to the Agenda. Assistant Chief Haugh requested to remove Telestaff Software from New Business, also Maternity Policy. Commissioner Boyd added under New Business, Notice of Future Resignation. *Commissioner Boyd motioned to accept the Agenda as amended with a second from Commissioner Berndt. Motion passed.*

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT (on Agenda Items):**

None.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

The following items were on the consent agenda:

- Minutes from previous meeting
- New account number – Paul J. Dube Paramedic Fund
- Treasurer's Report
- Ambulance Fee Deceased, Small Balance Write off's
- Ambulance Collection Claims Transfer
- Close Explorer Bank Account

*Commissioner Boyd motioned to accept the consent agenda with second from Commissioner Guzman. Motion passed.*

## **ASSISTANT CHIEF HAUGH:**

- Call volume is up.
- Working w/Forestry to develop a Community Wildlife Interface Plan for the wildfires.

Attorney Pringle gave an update on Stations 4 and 5 from information received via email from Robert Fowler. He also gave an update on the FGUA matter. Attorney Pringle stated Attorney John Hament is a labor attorney dealing with the FMLA policy for Lehigh Acres Fire District. This will be ready for the May Board Meeting. This will include a maternity policy.

He also spoke on the labor union with the office staff. There are concerns that certain members may be confidential and not able to be included in this union. Attorney Pringle recommends that Attorney Hament assist the Chief with the proceedings and investigate what positions may be confidential.

The RFQ for architects has been published. This should be on Agenda for May.

Attorney Pringle won't be in attendance for the June meeting.

## **COMMISSIONERS REPORTS:**

Commissioner Boyd stated he attended the Community Council Monday night. He spoke briefly about the expansion of Homestead Road.

Commissioner Hemingway also gave a brief update on the Homestead Road expansion. At last night's Florida Advisory Committee the district engineer found extra money in budget. They are putting a 12" line down Gunnery Rd including hydrants.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES – Mr. Joe Dykers asked for the Commissioners to appoint someone who can make decisions on the May 18<sup>th</sup> hearing conference. He needs the Commissioners to give the Chief, Attorney Pringle or the labor attorney the authority to make decisions at this phone conference. On March 28, a Notice of Sufficiency was mailed to Chief. It stated the Chief shall post notices immediately to employees. It's been three weeks and these notices have not been posted. We would like to have all the notices posted in all stations.

Attorney Pringle stated the Board can take official action to authorize the Chief and the legal counsel. You can take action to verify the authority.

Commissioner Boyd stated that he thought we already gave the attorney and Chief authority. Mr. Dykers stated when he met with Chief, he stated he didn't have authority. He was appointed the contact person. He wishes the Chief was here. Chief was appointed a contact person only. Attorney Pringle stated the Chief for the record, has the authority to proceed with the response to the petition. Attorney Pringle and Attorney Hament also have the authority. Attorney Pringle will clarify this with the Chief. Mr. Dykers stated if he had the authority he would have posted the notices of petition.

Commissioner Hemingway questioned Attorney Pringle if we should put this in the record by making a motion.

Attorney Pringle stated that would clarify– Chief has authority to make decision including the use of labor and general counsel.

Attorney Pringle stated any action tonight would be to verify the authority the Chief has. Commissioner Berndt asked AC Haugh to post the petitions that need to be posted.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

NOTICE OF FUTURE RESIGNATION - Commissioner Boyd stated he will be resigning effective the end of the June 21, 2007 Commission Meeting. He read a future resignation letter. Commissioner Boyd stated he checked with Attorney Pringle and this will allow time to advertise and move ahead with advertising and filling the spot. Commissioner Boyd won't be involved with the selection.

Commissioner Hemingway stated the Board can fill the vacancy but it's not mandatory. This will be on next month's agenda.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A gentlemen from West Minister Golf Club is concerned with the hiring of the PIO person, Patrick Comer. Why are we paying \$60,000 for someone to get in front of the TV camera. He doesn't want the fire chief hiding and allowing a PIO to speak. It's our taxpayer money – he wants to know why we're paying this guy so much money.

Sonny Haas, Lehigh Acres resident stated he knows that the public relations position is pro-active. It's educating associations and such of what the department is doing.

Gorden Despot, resident of Lehigh Acres thanked Commissioner Boyd for his service over the past 11 years. He'd like to address the Board – if you have questions for the Board or the Chief, submit your questions. Don't belittle and expect answers today. Interdepartmental cooperation – the position PIO is essential for that.

John Wayne, Battalion Chief stated Lehigh is co-hosting an inshore fishing tournament June 27 to raise money for Paul Dube's family and also a cancer victim from the City of Ft. Myers.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Boyd stated it would be beneficial to fill his spot. A year is a long time to run without someone.

Commissioner Guzman stated he's sorry to see Commissioner Boyd leave. We all came after him and learned a lot from him. PIO is a very important position in a public safety department.

Commissioner Barrett thanked everyone for attending.

Commissioner Berndt thanked Commissioner Boyd and enjoy the Carolina's.

Commissioner Hemingway sorry to see Commissioner Boyd leave, but good luck to him. Remind Commissioners there is an important meeting on May 2.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

Adjourn 8:39pm.