

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

February 19, 2008

The February 19, 2008 meeting of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was opened at 7:30 PM by President Berndt. Present were Commissioners Jeff Berndt, David Adams, Joel Guzman, Julie Barrett and Ralph Hemingway. Chief Don Adams, Assistant Chief Jeff Haugh, Assistant Chief Solon Duncan, Deputy Chief Bill Liedtke, PIO Patrick Comer, Battalion Chief Tim Christensen, Administrative Assistant Susan Platas and Secretary Brannon Johnson. Attorney Richard Pringle and Attorney John Hament were also in attendance.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Berndt asked Chief Adams to give the invocation.

Commissioner Berndt asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions to the agenda.

- Chief Adams would like to add to New Business the disposal of Old Apparatus' based on service life, technological life and economic life.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, second by Commissioner Adams. Motion Passed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved
- New Account Numbers
 - 216-0112 Retirement Payable
 - 361-0101 Interest – Impact Fees
 - 361-0102 Interest – Ad Velorem

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as is, with a second from Commissioner Barrett. Motion Passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- **CHIEF ADAMS:**

- Chief Adams spoke of a grievance from District 6 on overtime and how it was handled by the Battalion Chiefs who are in District 19. He also spoke of another grievance concerning the move-up pay. However, Administration has not received the grievance. In addition, Mr. Anderson is aware of the OT and move-up pay issue and has requested the OT pay and move-up pay for the last three years.
- Chief Adams stated, “the Administration just completed their Life Scan Physicals and District 19 was starting on their physicals. The physical was offered to District 6 and they declined the opportunity”.
- Chief Adams spoke of how he was honored to participate in the Local Charities Wait Tables Benefit. The total amount of money raised was \$1800.00.
- Chief Adams referred to a thank you letter from Barbara’s Friends for the generous gift our firefighters gave to the Lee Memorial Health System Foundation for helping kids with cancer.
- Chief Adams explained, Lieutenant Kutz turned in his letter of resignation effective March 8, 2008, after 25 years dedicated to the citizens of Lehigh Acres.
- Chief Adams explained, we have two new employees that will begin orientation the last week in February to replace the two most recent retirements.

- **DVP 6:** None
- **DVP 19:** None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Employee Handbook:** Attorney John Hament explained that there are some differences between bargaining and non-bargaining units which include severance, longevity, military, jury duty, etc.
- There was much discussion between Attorney Hament and the Commissioners on smoking issues. The Commissioners would like to add smokeless tobacco as well as tobacco products to the handbook. Attorney Hament reiterated that this new policy will not affect current employees employed before April 1, 2008.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion for Attorney Hament to add the wording of smokeless tobacco to the employee handbook in reference to this issue. Commissioner Barrett second. Motion passed.

Commissioner Guzman made the motion to accept the employee handbook as discussed and amended, Commissioner Hemingway second. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Deputy Chief Liedtke's Vacation Payout:** Attorney Hament spoke of Deputy Chief Bill Liedtke's buyout of 500 vacation hours now. Due to the handbook being approved by the Board, Chief Liedtke will have his wish granted without Board approval.
- **District 19:** They are at an impasse, the next step is magistrate. Attorney Hament stated, "Hopefully we will settle before that". All other articles are agreed to accept Article 14.
- **Disposal of Old Apparatus:** Chief Adams explained how the district has the MedicMaster (160), Oshkosh 707 and Engine 200 (All purchased in the 1980's) that need to be either auctioned off and/or donated. He requested we donate these vehicles to Hendry County since they are in dire need of equipment and are always ready to help us out with mutual aide. These apparatus' are approximately 24 years old and the standard amount of years for an apparatus to be in service is 10-15 years.
- **I & E Florida Presentation:**
A presentation was given from the representative for I & E Homes. There was much discussion between Attorney Pringle, the Board and the Representative.

Attorney Pringle spoke and gave the Board some direction. He explained that with consent of the Board, he will contact the Attorney Generals office to find out direction. There are other Districts that are looking into the same direction and we could possibly pay one-third of the payment by waiting to get all of the information at one time.

Commissioner Berndt would like to table this issue while Attorney Pringle contacts the Attorney Generals office. Commissioner Guzman would like to see this tabled as well.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to table the current topic to a future date. Commissioner Barrett second. All in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Rental/Lease Agreements or Contracts:** Attorney Pringle explained that there is not a state mandate on rental/lease agreements or contracts. He created a resolution that the Board needs to adopt. Commissioner Berndt asked Attorney Pringle to get a copy of this resolution and would like to table this issue until the next scheduled meeting.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to table the rental/lease agreement until the next scheduled meeting. Commissioner Hemingway second. All in favor.

- **Chief Adams' Contract:** The addendum to Chief Adams' contract was completed by Attorney Pringle. There was an adjustment in salary as of April 2008 and the length of the Chief's contract per a special meeting with the Board in October 2007.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to accept the addendum to Chief's contract per the October 2007 meeting. Commissioner Barrett second. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Agenda Items):

- **Bruce Boyd (Lehigh Resident):** Mr. Boyd spoke of OshKosh 707 retiring. He said that in the time that it served, it served us well.
- **Christine Sullivan (Lehigh Resident):** Ms. Sullivan spoke of the new proposed Fire Station. She said she did not want it to be built on the front door of Town Lakes due to all the heavy traffic.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

- **Commissioner Berndt:** We are in dire need of moving Station 102. Our goal is to find the optimum place to relocate this station. A citizen approached him in reference to contract negotiations. He believes administration negotiates in good faith. Glad to see some new faces.
- **Commissioner Hemingway:** He is pleased to see fairly good attendance. He explained the need for a fire station in the area of Williams and now we also need to relieve Homestead Road. He agrees with Mr. Boyd that OshKosh 707 has served its purpose.
- **Commissioner Adams:** Glad to see the equipment going to Hendry County. He appreciates everyone being here.
- **Commissioner Barrett:** None
- **Commissioner Guzman:** He thanked everyone for coming out. He explained that studies have been completed and we are looking to service the area of Williams. He also thanked all of the persons involved for the hard work on the employee handbook.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS: None

Commissioner Berndt made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Guzman second. All in favor.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:12 PM