

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

September 17, 2008

The September 17, 2008 meeting of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was opened at 4:00pm by President Berndt. Present were Commissioners Berndt, Adams, Barrett, Guzman and Hemingway. Chief Don Adams, Assistant Chief Jeff Haugh, Fire Marshal Ken Bennett, PIO Patrick Comer, Administrative Assistant Susan Platas, Bookkeeper Anita Kressel, Billing Specialist Vanessa Koza and Secretary Jill Marcolini. Attorney Richard Pringle arrived at 4:10 pm.

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 stated he would like to add to the Agenda under New Business Health Insurance, Employee Raises, and Inventory Disposal. Commissioner Berndt would like to add Evaluation of Chief Adams; Commissioner Adams stated he would like to add Lawn Maintenance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Hemingway second. Motion Passed.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Minutes of August 20, 2008 Meeting
- Treasurers Report

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Barrett second. Motion Passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CHIEF ADAMS:

- Received a letter form the State Fire Marshal's office for appreciation for Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District participating 100% in the NFIRS and FFIRS Program.
- A special meeting was held with the committee of Chief Adams, Commissioner Berndt and Attorney Pringle September 11, 2008, for the Actuary study for the District. Bolton Partners, Inc. was ranked number 1, Foster & Foster, Inc. ranked number 2 and Milliaman was ranked number 3. Attorney Pringle is negotiating the contract with Bolton Partners, Inc.

- Lehigh Acres first CERT class graduated on Sunday, September 14, 2008 after completing a mock disaster. Chief Adams thanked PIO Patrick Comer and all those who helped make the class a success.
- Lehigh Acres Fire Rescue received a certificate of appreciation from the VFW Post 4174 on Friday, September 12, 2008 for our community service and dedication to the enhancement of fire protection in Lehigh Acres. In addition to the certificate, the VFW gave the District \$250. The District asked that the money be given to Lehigh Acres Community Services which will give it to those in need.

DVP 6 and 19:

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

ATTORNEY RICHARD PRINGLE

- Nothing

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Commissioner Hemmingway stated he receive a positive comment regarding the District from Ms. Jackie Langdon resident of Lehigh. She was commending Lehigh Firefighters for the quick response time when her home caught fire. She stated to Commissioner Hemingway that one team of fire fighters was attacking the fire on her house and another team was preventing the fire from spreading to her neighbors' house.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ambulance Transport Fees ADPI

Chief Adams stated this is a continuation from the last Board Meeting concerning the transport fees. Jack Donahue from ADPI was in attendance and asked the Board if they had any further questions. Commissioner Hemingway questioned the collection ratio of the patients with no insurance. Mr. Donahue answered Commissioner Hemingway concerns. Commissioner Adams' concern was with the patients that want to pay their bills, but with the increase would cause them hardship. After much discussion with the Board and Mr. Donahue, Commissioner Guzman made a motion to accept the recommendation of the increase in ambulance fees, with ALS \$500.00, BLS \$400.00, ALS2 600.00, Mileage \$9.00, TWT \$100.00, second from Commissioner Hemingway. In favor, Commissioners' Guzman and Hemmingway, Opposed Commissioners' Barrett, Adams, and Berndt. Motion Failed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission Meeting Dates: Chief Adams addressed the Board concerning page 23 in their commission book regarding the Fire Board Meeting Dates for the Fiscal Year 2008/2009. Commissioner Berndt asked the board if they had any questions on the dates. With none noted, Commissioner Guzman made a motion to accept the proposed meeting dates as presented, with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion passed.

They are as follows:

Fire Board Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year

2008/2009

Thursday, October 16, 2008
Wednesday, November 19, 2008
Thursday, December 18, 2008
Thursday January 15, 2009
Thursday, February 19, 2009
Thursday, March 19, 2009
Wednesday, April 15, 2009
Thursday May 21, 2009
Wednesday, June 17, 2009
Thursday, July 16, 2009
Wednesday, August 19, 2009
Thursday, September 17, 2009

Life Safety Division Write Off's: Chief Adams stated Life Safety Management Division's request to "write-off" specific uncollected fees that have been assessed for responses to brush fires and inspections fees. Attempts have been made by staff to send out invoices with no success. In researching the property Appraiser's records and with noted return mail, it appears that these property owners no longer reside within Lehigh and have not left a forwarding address. Fire Marshal Ken Bennett was in attendance and asked the Board if they had any questions. Much discussion with the Board concerning current outstanding fees and if a collection agency would be helpful in handling this for the District. Commissioner Hemingway made a motion to accept the write offs as presented from the Fire Marshal except for line items 11 and 12 on the presented handout. Commissioner Berndt asked for a second. No second stated. Motion dies.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion from the recommendation of the Fire Marshal to write off \$7,910.24 for inspection fees with a second from Commissioner Barrett. All in favor, 4-1 with the opposing vote from Commissioner Hemingway. Commissioner Guzman then amended his motion by stating this was for suppression fees and not inspections fees, Commissioner Adams second. Motion passed.

Commissioner Guzman then made a motion to have Chief Adams start talking with collection agency's concerning the outstanding fees from Life Safety Division with a second from Commissioner Hemingway. Motion Passed.

Ambulance Billing Fee Write Off's:

Assistant Chief Haugh stated to the Board the District has small balance write-offs and deceased write-offs quarterly for Ambulance service. These accounts have been through the collection process. Commissioner Berndt stated that a motion needs to be made for these write-offs. Commissioner Guzman made motion to accept the small balance fee write-offs for \$86.05 and the deceased write-offs for \$2,963.90 for a total of \$3,049.95 as presented, with a second from Commissioner Barrett. Motion Passed.

Inventory Disposal Report:

Chief Adams gave a hand-out to the Board regarding a few items the District would like to dispose. He stated their repair cost exceeds the replacement cost. Attorney Pringle stated a motion would need to be made for the District to dispose of these items. Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the Chief's inventory disposal report, Commissioner Hemingway second. Attorney Pringle stated that the motion needed to declare the items as surplus inventory. Commissioner Berndt read the report for the record. They are as follows:

AIM 501 Gas Detector
Randall Wind Racer Cycle
Printer/Copier SGB94AG86M
Laptop Projector

Commissioner Adams then amended his motion to approve the Chief's Inventory Surplus Property, Commissioner Hemingway second.

Attorney Pringle stated another motion needs to be made as to how to dispose of these items.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to donate the surplus items to Kiwanis with a second from Commissioner Adams. Commissioner Guzman then amended his motion by stated items to be donated not to any specific agency, with a second from Commission Adams. Motion Passed.

Health Insurance:

Chief Adams stated that Deputy Chief Liedtke and Administrative Assistant Sue Platas met twice with our agent from Bouchard Insurance regarding our health insurance renewal discussions on the projected path our renewal was headed. A meeting was held with the insurance committee, who was able to obtain a 5.9% increase from the current premiums. Chief Adams continued to the Board stated that the overall consensus of the committee was to renew with United Health Care, keeping our coverage the same.

Commissioner Hemingway stated he would like to make a motion that we accept this proposed price and the District give a 90 day notice without penalty, to obtain medical coverage with another company. Commissioner Berndt stated we need a second. Motion dies for lack of a second. Commissioner Guzman stated he would like quotes from other Health Insurance Companies to compare our rate with other Insurance Company rates with the same options we have now with United Health Care. Commissioner Hemingway agreed that the District obtain other bids.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to table the Health Insurance until the October 16, 2008 regular Board meeting, with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion Passed.

Commissioner Hemingway made a motion to give Chief Adams and the Insurance Committee direction to obtain 2 or 3 quotes from other Insurance companies with the same coverage as United Health Care, Commissioner Guzman second. Motion passed.

Lawn Care Service:

Commissioner Adams stated he has concerns regarding the amount in the Budget for Lawn Care Service line item which is \$22,500. Commissioner Adams stated he would like to make a motion the District get quotes for Lawn Care Service, Commissioner Hemingway second. All in favor; Commissioners Hemingway and Adams, aye, All opposed; Commissioners Berndt, Barrett and Guzman, nay. Motion failed.

Employee Raises:

Chief Adams stated to the Board he would like to recommend a 3% increase for the non-bargaining employees. Commissioner Berndt questioned what the cost of living increase is. Chief Adams answered 5.2 to 5.7 percent. Commissioner Hemingway agreed with the 3% increase.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to accept the Chief's recommendation of a 3% raise for non-bargaining employees, with a second from Commissioner Barrett. Motion Passed.

Evaluation for Chief Adam:

Chairman Berndt stated that as per Chief Adams contract a yearly evaluation is due. Commissioner Berndt also stated last year the Board held a special meeting for Chief Adams' evaluation. Commissioner Guzman made a motion to schedule a special meeting for the purpose of Chief Adams evaluation in the month of October, 2008 with a second from Commissioner Barrett. Motion Passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Guzman: Thanked the public for coming out.

Commissioner Adams: Thanked the District for putting on the CERT class. Appreciated everyone for being here.

Commissioner Barrett made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Hemingway second.

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm

