

# **LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT**

## **COMMISSION MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**January 15, 2009**

The January 15, 2009 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, and Hemingway. Chief Don Adams, Assistant Chief Jeff Haugh, Assistant Chief Solon Duncan, Administrative Assistant Susan Platas, Finance Specialist Anita Kressel, Billing Specialist Vanessa Koza and Secretary Jill Marcolini. Attorney Richard Pringle was also in attendance. Commissioner Guzman had an excused absence.

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

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Berndt asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions to the agenda. Chief Adams stated he would like to add under Unfinished Business Commercial Credit Line responders. Commissioner Hemingway made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended Commissioner Adams second. Motion passed.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Fire Board Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2008
- Treasurers Report

After some brief questions concerning the Treasurers Report from Commissioner Hemingway, Commissioner Barrett made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Hemingway second. Motion Passed.

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

##### **CHIEF ADAMS:**

- Chief Adams stated during last month's meeting Commissioner Adams requested a list of all contract and agreements the District has in effect. He stated there have been modifications made and Chief Adams asked Commissioner's stop by the office any time to review the information.
- The District has received a Step 2 grievance from both IAFF Local 1826 District 6 and District 19 concerning uniform taxes. The IAFF is seeking the ability to impact bargain the uniform taxes. On advice of our Labor Attorney John Hament the grievances were denied at Step 1; however, we are willing to discuss the

concerns of the IAFF Local 1826. So far no one has contacted Chief Adams for a discussion.

- Tuscan and Associates have started the audit for the District.

**DVP 6 and 19: None**

**ATTORNEY RICHARD PRINGLE**

- Verizon Lease Matter
- RFP Line of Credit
- ADPI Contract

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None**

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS: None**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Cell Phone Tower:**

Attorney Pringle stated he needs direction from the Board on the Verizon Contract. He stated the special exemption was approved but our setting up the dish outside the tower was not. Jackie Gwen from Verizon was in the audience and addressed the Board with their concerns. Some questions from the board regarding revenue sharing and concerns with the dish being on the inside of the tower and if it would obstruct the signal. Commissioner Adams suggested Verizon to get another variance and then see if they can put up the tower with the dish on the inside of the tower and it to be written in the contract if it does not work the contract is negated.

Commissioner Adams made a motion for Attorney Pringle to complete negotiations of the lease with Verizon with the two terms as discussed and approve Commissioner Berndt and Chief Adams to sign the lease. Commissioner Hemingway second. Motion Carries.

John Banner from T-Mobil was in attendance and he addressed the Board on building a tower on the Sunshine & 12<sup>th</sup> Street property the District owns. He is asking the Board to move forward, and receive approval from the county to proceed. He stated he is working with Rob Fowler, Jr. to propose a design to see if it is possible. Commissioner Adams stated the Board would look at the site plans. Rob Fowler, Sr. was in attendance and read the notes from Rob Fowler, Jr on the proposed station at the undeveloped property. Some discussion with the Luckett Road project that may connect 12th Street to Joel Blvd. The Recommendations: (From Rob Fowler, Jr.) A cell tower is feasible for further considerations, but preliminary site planning as well as further investigation of the Luckett Road planning will be required before any commitments should be made.

## **Station 102**

Rob Fowler, Sr. was in attendance and addressed the board with a Construction Management Report consisting of options for Station # 102.

Option 1: Acquire additional property and easements to provide access to the NE side of the existing property. (Arthur Avenue)

Option 2: Redevelop facility utilizing the existing site ONLY.

Mr. Fowler issued a map of the property to all Commissioners' and Chief's and went over in detail each option. The Board thanked Mr. Fowler and further discussion will be at a workshop in the near future.

## **ADPI Contract**

Commissioner Adams stated he would like staff to update him on the status of ADPI. He has also inquired about the expiration date of ADPI contract. Chief Adams stated the contract runs from March 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009. Attorney Pringle stated in order to cancel the contract the District would need to give 30 days notice. Chief Adams also stated to Commissioner Adams he can come in the office at any time and address his concerns with himself, staff and also Mr. Donahue of ADPI.

## **Investing Money**

Chief Adams stated during last months Board meeting a motion was made to close the construction account. Commissioner Hemingway had requested if the District could turn this money into a treasury note and receive higher interest. Chief Adams stated after consulting with Tuscan and Company the District has resolution 2002-01-01 for investing money. Nick Ayotte from SunTrust was in attendance and proceeded to give handouts to all Commissioners' and Chief's. He addressed the Board regarding an overview on interest on Certificate of Deposits with the 3, 6, 9 or 12 month terms, Treasury notes with the current interest rates, and also Money Market accounts. He also answered questions from the Board. The Board concurred this topic would be included in the upcoming workshop.

## **Request for Proposal Line of Credit:**

Attorney Pringle stated to the Board that the District received two Requests for Proposal for line of credit by two area banks. One is SunTrust the second is Synovus. Attorney Pringle recommends a the Board to appoint a committee to review the proposals and bring information back to the Board to rank them first and second. Commissioner Adams made a motion to form a committee with Attorney Pringle, Chief Adams, Commissioner Hemingway and Finance Specialist Anita Kressel to review the Request For Proposals. Commissioner Barrett second. Motion Passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Commission Workshops**

Commissioner Hemingway suggested to the Board to hold a workshop to discuss 5 year plan, building and future expansion, future sites. He stated he feels it is wise to look into

all options. He suggests one or two workshops from 4pm to 6pm. Chief Adams suggested a Workshop then at a later time a Special Meeting. Commissioner Barrett made a motion to plan a workshop discussing the 5 year plan, investments, stations, ambulance billing, economic challenges and any other items that may come before the Board. Commissioner Hemingway second. Motion passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS: None**

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**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Hemingway: Thanked everyone for their comments. It was a very informative and productive meeting. He stated he is looking into the future for the same momentum going into the workshops. Praised the staff.

Commissioner Adams: Thanked everyone for coming out and the presentations from the representatives from the different companies. Wished everyone a safe weekend.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

Chief Adams stated he would like to thank the firefighters we have and the staff. We are at the cutting edge of what we are doing and appreciate the hard work everyone puts in at the Department.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.