

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

January 21, 2010

The January 21, 2010 regular Commission Meeting of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was held at the Veteran's Park Recreation Center, 55 S. Homestead Rd., Lehigh Acres, FL. The meeting was opened at 4:00 PM by President Berndt. Present were Commissioners Berndt, Adams, Barrett and Hemingway. Chief Don Adams, Fire Marshal Ken Bennett, EMS Division Chief Mike Pcolar, Administrative Assistant Susan Platas and Finance Manager Ben VanKlingeren. 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. Richard Pringle wanted to add under New Business, Consideration or direction on adopting a resolution for the non-ad valorem assessment. Chief Adams added under New Business, Agreement for Field Trainers and Educational requirements. He also requested to move the Insurance higher up on the Agenda. Commissioner Hemingway motioned to adopt the Agenda as amended with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Fire Board Regular Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2009
- Treasurers Report

Commissioner Hemingway had a question on the Treasurers Report regarding the tower. He wants to know if we will be full ownership if we purchase it. He also questioned FRS and ad valorem. He was requesting that we possibly consider bringing employees back on. Chief stated this is not in the best interest of the District. These are reserves and if we spend them, we won't have enough to carry us through.

Commissioner Adams moved to adopt the Treasurer's Report subject to audit, with a second from Commissioner Barrett. Motion passed.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CHIEF ADAMS:

- Chief began a CERT class for a church organization.
- The District has to replace an air conditioner at St. 2. This was not budgeted for.
- Talked about the charts that were included in the book. FM Bennett and Div Chief Pcolar also spoke on the charts.
- Need executive session after tonight's meeting.

\ DVP 6 and 19:

Terry Dettmar stated we restarted our negotiations.

DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY:

Attorney Pringle stated Feb 16, 2010 at 5:00pm, the experts from GSG and Bryant, Miller Olive will be present and discuss various types of non-ad valorem assessments.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Kevin Shea, Lehigh Acres resident, spoke on the decrease in ad valorem taxes we will be receiving in the next fiscal year. We are technically bankrupt. He must remind Commissioners that any idea of a tax increase will not fly. He has brought these matters to the Commissioner's attention repeatedly. He will now explore various avenues to place us into receivership.

Kathy Kruse spoke on contract negotiations. Regarding the new air conditioning unit, she wonders what the district policy for soliciting bids would be.

COMMISSIONER REPORT:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Light duty Employee Extension - Chief stated an employee is on light duty and we need an extension. Hopefully after the 3 month extension, the problem will be fixed. Commissioner Hemingway motioned that we extend light duty for 3 months with a second from Commissioner Barrett. Motion carries.

Approval of Actuarial Valuation – Chief stated that Commissioners received a copy of the Actuarial Valuation. Finance Mgr Ben VanKlengeren stated this established the liability the department has over time regarding the liability with retiree's insurance. We have three options: Pay as you go and show liability; designate funds to sock it away or set up a trust fund. The only place where this will show is in the financial statements. Commissioner Hemingway motioned to approved the Actuarial Valuation as presented with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries.

Educational Requirements - In 2007 the Board approved changing job descriptions. The Fire Marshal job description was to have a Bachelors Degree by January 2010. Chief is requesting that Fire Marshal Ken Bennett's time frame for obtaining his Bachelor's be extended.. Chief stated he is taking classes, but due to the overloaded workload, he can only take one or two at a time. He is requesting an extension until he receives his degree. Commissioner Berndt doesn't have a problem with what is being asked. As long as he is progressing towards that goal, that is good. Commissioner Berndt passed the gavel and motioned that we continue with the requirements for FM Bennett to obtain a Bachelor's Degree but we suspend the time requirement indefinitely in order to give him additional time to acquire his degree until further Board action to give a concrete date. Commissioner Hemingway seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Field Experience – Chief stated a private ambulance company wants us to allow their paramedics to ride for field experience. Chief stated there is a small expense we incur. He is recommending that we charge a fee for allowing this. We currently have an agreement with Edison College. The school has insurance on them, but if someone gets serious injury there may be some liability. Chief wants to charge \$200 for paramedic and \$150 for EMT. Discussion was to make it a flat fee of \$250.00. There are a couple of things that we need to clear up – indemnity and charging.

Commissioner Hemingway motioned that we cancel the agreement with Edison College, give them the 20 day written notice that we are cancelling. To renew it we will need to revise the agreement with the indemnity clause and the rate of \$250. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Non-ad valorem - Attorney Pringle stated Feb 16, 2010 at 5:00pm, experts will be in attendance to discuss non-ad valorem assessments. Action has been taken previously to suspend this type of assessment. If you want to place an assessment on the 2010 tax bill, we need a resolution. You will need to pass a resolution prior to March 2010 and notice the consideration 4 weeks prior. He wants to direction. Commissioners had a consensus to go with the resolution and notice this as a workshop.

NEW BUSINESS:

Renewal of Dental, Group Life, STD and LTD - Chief spoke on the renewal. He stated the renewals will save the district approximately \$12,000 over the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Hemingway asked about it all grouped into one company. Richard Calguiari, agent from Bouchard Insurance spoke on the renewal of the policies. Commissioner Adams motioned that we accept the plans laid out by the insurance committee, regarding dental, life, STD and LTD with a second from Commissioner Barrett. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Berndt – reminder: there is an exec session immediately following.

Adjourn 5:30pm