

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

## **COMMISSION MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**September 21, 2010**

The September 21, 2010 regular Commission Meeting of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was held at the Microtel Inn and Suites, 1320 Business Way, 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, Assistant Chief Diana Watson, Fire Marshal Ken Bennett, Finance Manager Ben Van Klinger and Administrative Assistant Susan Platas. Attorney Richard Pringle was also in attendance.

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 requested to add Ratification of Article 17, District 6 CBA. Commissioner Hemingway motioned to accept the amended Agenda with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- August 11, 2010 Budget Workshop Minutes
- Fire Board Regular Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2010
- Treasurers Report
- Public Records Request Policy
- Travel Reimbursement Policy
- Inventory Control Policy

Commissioner Adams motioned to accept the Consent Agenda with a second from Commissioner Barrett. Motion carries.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Kevin Shea, Lehigh Resident, commented on the Public Records Policy under Consent Agenda. He didn't get a chance to see it until now. Post everything on the website. You have an obligation.

Hollis Creach – wants to know where the fire dept stands on burning this town down. He is asking questions about the forestry service burning in Lehigh Acres.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### **Chief Adams spoke on the following items:**

- Oct 6 the District is hosting Leadership Lehigh. They will be at the fire station to learn.
- Fire Marshal Bennett participated in a Lee County Task Force.

Commissioner Hemingway questioned the ambulance responses made for the month by Lee County EMS. The book states 5 but Commissioner Hemingway believes it's more. We are having a huge response from Lee County EMS responding into Lehigh. Since we are back at full staff now, we are losing money to the county, which could help balance our budget. We need to straighten this situation out. Chief said that all calls that Lee County runs do not transport.

**DVP 6 and 19:** None

**DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY:** None

**COMMISSIONER REPORT:** None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

*2010/2011 Commission Meeting Dates* – Commissioners were given monthly meeting dates for the 2010/2011 fiscal year below:

October 21, 2010  
November 18, 2010  
December 14, 2010  
January 20, 2011  
February 15, 2011  
March 24, 2011  
April 19, 2011  
May 19, 2011  
June 21, 2011  
July 21, 2011  
August 18, 2011  
September 22, 2011

Commissioner Berndt motioned that we adopt the dates with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries. Attorney Pringle to post.

Sick Leave Closeout Bank – The Sick Leave bank was ratified by District 6 and now we need the Commissioners to approve and ratify Article 17 A, Sick Leave Closeout Bank. Commissioner Berndt motioned that Commissioners ratify Article 17A, Sick Leave Close-out Bank on the District 6 contract with a second from Commissioner Hemingway. Motion carries.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Cathy Kruse, resident of Lehigh Acres spoke on the ambulance – Lee County ambulance’s numbers versus the numbers Lehigh Acres puts out. Her problem is she does not want Lehigh to lose their ambulance service. Billing person has done an awfully good job on bringing in ambulance money. We have more than enough staff to be running at least one more ambulance if not two. She would expect that our department look into running more ambulances. This department is doing a disservice to the residents of Lehigh Acres. She is tired of it.

She also spoke on the dependent health insurance in reference to the re-hires and new hires being the only employees to pay for dependant insurance.

Chief responded to some of the concerns that Mrs. Kruse expressed. Whereas our billing specialist does do a good job, a lot of the money that was brought in is from ADPI is not just transports for the month. We don’t have enough employees on line to put on the additional ambulances she is requesting. Due to the SAFER grant, we must have 4 employees on an engine.

Kevin Shea spoke having volunteers to help with the website.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Adams supports the website and the Government in the Sunshine Law.  
Commissioner Hemingway agrees with Mr. Shea regarding having volunteers work on our website.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

None.

Adjourn 5:22 pm