

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

## **COMMISSION MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**October 16, 2008**

The October 16, 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, Deputy Chief Bill Liedtke, Administrative Assistant Susan Platas, Bookkeeper Anita Kressel, and Secretary Jill Marcolini. Attorney Richard Pringle was 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. Commissioner Hemingway stated he would like to add Homestead Road Construction Project to New Business.

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

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

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Special Meeting September 10, 2008
- Tentative Budget Hearing September 10, 2008
- Special Committee Meeting September 11, 2008
- Fire Board Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2008
- Treasurers Report

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

#### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

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

- Fire Prevention Day Saturday October 18, 2008 at 1200 Homestead Rd.
- Congratulations letter from Bill Nelson, Senator, for the grand opening of the new fire Station # 104
- Thank you letter to PIO Patrick Comer for the production of Jimmy's Angels Video
- Thank you letter and a letter to the editor from the Landon family for saving their home in a recent fire

- Lehigh Acres Kiwanis named FF/EMT Jeff Brady as the 2008 Hometown Hero
- There are some property appraisers pushing to change the definition of “just (market) value” when appraising property.

**DVP 6 and 19:**

- **DVP 6:** Acting DVP Terry Dettmar was in attendance and stated District 6 voted to ratify their contract with a 3% increase. He also stated the Insurance Committee agreed on United Health Care insurance carrier for the upcoming year.
- **DVP 19:** None

**ATTORNEY RICHARD PRINGLE**

- During a Fire Board meeting, the Board voted to adopt a new schedule for inspections fees. The amendment will be available for these increases for the November Fire Board meeting.
- Commissioner Hemingway mentioned to Attorney Pringle regarding letters sent out to area banks for Line of Credit, and also RFP to banking institutions initialing them to respond.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Health Insurance:**

Chief Adams stated the Board requested for the District to obtain several quotes for Health Insurance in order to make a more accurate decision.

- Several health insurance agencies declined, such as AvMed, Aetna, and Cigna. Humana was not ready with their network this year to provide a quote. United Health Care and Great West were the only two insurance agencies to provide a quote.
- Commissioner Guzman made a motion to go with Chief Adams and the Insurance Committee recommendation to have United Health Care as the District insurance carrier, with a second from Commissioner Barrett.

Commissioner Hemingway stated he has a company ready to do a presentation for the Board tonight with the same coverage as United Health Care, which we have now, and to save the District \$100,000. Commissioner Guzman asked if this insurance company received the same employee information as the other insurance’s in the quotes the district obtained. Commission Hemingway stated no, not the exact information. Much discussion on the insurance information provided and the company Commissioner Hemingway wanted to do a presentation. Chief Adams read an e-mail from District 19 DVP John Wayne regarding Article 21 of the Battalion Chief Contract. After more discussion regarding the insurance information, with the motion on the table, Commissioner Berndt asks if there is any more discussion. With none noted the vote was taken.

Motion Carried 4-1 with the opposing vote from Commissioner Hemingway.

Commissioner Adams then made a motion to accept the presentation of the other insurance carrier at a later date, with a second from Commissioner Guzman. Motion Passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Ratification of District 6 and 19:**

Chief Adams addressed the Board regarding the ratification of District 6 and District 19 contract. No discussion noted.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to accept the ratification of Article 7, with at 3% increase, of District 6 contract, second from Commissioner Hemingway. Motion Passed.

Commissioner Hemingway made a motion to ratify District 19 contract to include Article 7 and 21 with a 3% increase, second from Commissioner Barrett. Motion Passed.

### **Widening of Homestead Road:**

Commissioner Hemingway addressed the Board stating the widening of Homestead Road is back on the agenda for the County for this fiscal year. He suggested getting a committee together and actively looking at options regarding the re-location of Station # 102.

Attorney Pringle suggested to the Board to have Sarah Clark, project engineer for the DOT be invited to the next Board meeting for a presentation regarding this project. All Board members agreed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Steven "Sonny" Haas addressed the Board thanking Commissioner David Adams for his term on the Board, finishing out the term of Bruce Boyd, Jr. He also thanked Commission Guzman and Berndt for their term on the Board and Attorney Pringle for his leadership.

Gordon Despot referred to Commissioner Hemingway gotcha type politics regarding the insurance information that should have been brought to the Board before hand, to Administrative Assistant Platas and the insurance committee.

Rob Fowler, Sr. Fowler Construction addressed the Board regarding the withholding of monies to his company for the floor at Station # 105 not being corrected yet. He stated he was most honored to be selected for this project to work with the District and Attorney Pringle. Mr. Fowler Sr. stated he would like paid in full and we (Fowler Const.) will turn around no questions asked and replace the floor, again. He stated he cannot guarantee that it would happen again.

Mr. McGahey was also in the audience and stated to the Board he was here to answer any question they may have.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Adams thanked the public for coming out. Appreciate Mr. Haas kind words, and to Chief Adams he is doing a good job.

Commissioner Hemingway congratulates the Chief for doing a good job and the enthusiasm that the employees have. He also stated it was at the Chief's request that he look at different properties with him. The Board gave the Chief direction to do that and he asked me (Commissioner Hemingway) to go out. As far as the insurance company, this is not my (Commissioner Hemingway) insurance company, just relating 30 years experience he has in the insurance business. Commissioner Hemingway also stated he has always been fair to the employees and the employees know he has. Commissioner Hemingway stated he has spent 1000% for the protection the health and ware fare not only for the Department but also for the taxpayers at the same time.

Commissioner Berndt: Wanted to thank Rob Fowler, Sr. for coming out to speak to the Board, and to assure him we will move quickly to reach a resolution. Wanted to thank Terry Dettmar for standing up giving valuable insurance information.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

Chief Adams stated he has been honored to be the Chief of Lehigh Acres, with the staff and team that he has, everything they do he appreciates very much. Thanked Administration Assistant Sue Platas and everyone on the insurance committee for all the hard word they do. Thank you.

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Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

