

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

November 19, 2009

The November 19, 2009 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 Vice President Guzman. Present were Commissioners Adams, Guzman, Barrett, and Hemingway. Chief Don Adams, Fire Marshal Ken Bennett, EMS Division Chief Mike Pcolar, Finance Specialist Anita Kressel, Billing Specialist Vanessa Koza and Secretary Janis Williams. Commissioner Berndt was present by telephone for the beginning of the meeting. Attorney Richard Pringle was also in attendance.

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Guzman asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions to the Agenda. Chief Adams stated he has two; the first is to present two awards to two citizens from a recent house fire and, the reorganization of the board. Commissioner Guzman stated Commissioner Berndt is absent but is present via telephone. Contact was made between Commissioner Berndt (via telephone) Chief Adams and the Board. Once a clear phone connection was made the discussion as to where we were in the meeting was established. Commissioner Berndt made a motion to table the reorganization of the board and the ambulance issue to the December meeting when all five commissioners will be present; 2nd by Commissioner Adams. Commissioner Hemingway asked Attorney Pringle to clarify the state laws on the reorganization of the board. Attorney Pringle explained the deadline dates on this matter, he explained by waiting for the December meeting where all five board members were present would be within all state laws and guidelines. Commissioner Guzman stated we have a motion on the floor and 2nd by Commissioner Adams, Vote passed 4 to 1 in favor with Commissioner Barrett being the opposing vote.

Commissioner Hemingway would like to add two items under New Business. First is a request from the Lions Club of Lehigh Acres, and second is the SAFER grant.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Minutes of Previous Meetings
- Treasures Report
- CRS Contract
- Tuscan Extension

Chief Adams presented Yvan Veilleux and Tim Hirt and thanked them for their help with a victim that was overcome by smoke until our units arrived at the house fire on Lake Avenue.

Commissioner Adams questioned the attorney fees October 1- 31. Anita explained what each of the fees and checks were for. Reference page 7 line item 3312

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CHIEF ADAMS:

- Chief Adams stated the SAFER grant opened Monday the 16th of November. We are 20% completed on it and moving forward.
- Chief stated we met with District 6 and 19 for negotiations; the district has presented specific articles to discuss. We are waiting on the next date to have negotiations.
- Discussion on previous procedures manual, we cannot move forward until we settle the ambulance situation as it ties back to ambulance billing
- Chief was invited as a delegate to go to China to speak on the fire service. It is a privilege to have been asked; the fee to go would be \$5,000.
- Chief received a thank you letter from South West Florida International Airport for participating in the Mass Casualty drill on October 15, 2009.

DVP 6 and 19:

NONE

DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY

Attorney Pringle recommends to the Board to keep in mind of the Special Elections activities and their deadlines. If this is something we want to act on the elections committee must be notified 120 days prior regarding the Taxes and Millage Rate Cap. Attorney Pringle stated it is time to finalize the line of credit time for Sun Trust bank and all fees to be paid and in place.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Cathy Kruse- What is the name of the company that did the survey on the Cobra insurance? Commissioner Guzman asked Cathy to remain after the meeting and this information would be given to her. He stated this is for comment on agenda items only at this time.

Sonny Haas- I wanted to speak on the Ambulance issues; I will move my question to the end of the meeting under general comments.

Robert Anderson- I want to speak on the ambulance issue, I don't plan on attending until the end of the meeting. It was put under agenda items to start with. He stated you people have violated Roberts Rules of Order by removing the Commissioner off of the phone as well. Commissioner

Guzman stated that because it was removed and tabled to the December meeting it was no longer on the agenda items for the night. Robert Anderson left the meeting upset.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT:

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Adams asked the Chief what the game plan is for the SAFER grant. Chief reiterated what he stated earlier regarding the grant being 20% complete and that he has some reservations regarding the 1710 standard. Chief states there are many questions to be answered. We are working on this grant, it will be completed on time and we will then be having a workshop to discuss and analyze all the information and requirements.

Commissioner Hemingway spoke in behalf of the Lions Club FISH program. They would like to put up a shed that holds hospitalization equipment at Station 102 on Homestead Rd. The shed would be a 10x12 in size. Attorney Pringle recommended an indemnification agreement removing the district from harm. Commissioner Hemingway stated the Lions Club has an agreement and all insurance needed for this. Commissioner Hemingway made a motion to allow the Lions Club to have a shed on the property of Station 102 and all legal matters defined by attorney Pringle to be solely the responsibility of the Lions Club. 2nd by Commissioner Barrett all in favor Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sonny Haas- Mr. Haas spoke on the Tax decline in Lehigh Acres and the expected loss of revenue next year. He urged the district to decide on what service we will provide for the next 2 years.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Hemingway voiced his concern on losing the ambulance service.

Commissioner Barrett thanked everyone for coming out today.

Commissioner Adams thanked the public for attending

Commissioner Guzman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS-

NONE

Meeting Adjourned 4:55 pm

