

**LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**COMMISSION MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**December 27, 2011**

The December 27, 2011 regular Commission Meeting of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was held at Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Station 104, 3102 16<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Lehigh Acres, FL 33976. The meeting was opened at 4:00pm by Chairman Berndt. Present were Commissioners Adams, Carter, Becker, Berndt; Chief Donald Adams, Assistant Chief Ken Bennett, Captain's Ketron and McDowell, Logistics Mgr Jeff Nickell, Finance Manager Ben VanKlingeren 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. Commissioner Carter moved adoption of the Agenda with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Fire Board Regular Meeting Minutes of November 22, 2011
- Treasurers Report
- SOP Family and Medical Leave

Commissioner Adams motioned approval with second from Commissioner Becker. Motion carries.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

None.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Chief reported on the following:

- Thanked employees for their dedication during the year.
- Thanked employees who helped with the demolition of the multi-purpose room at St. 104.
- Thanked Brooke Ricciardi for organizing the Christmas drive. Also thanked the shifts and staff for their part.
- Received one applicant for volunteer. It has been posted on the website for 2 months now.
- Received information from PERC regarding the Captains and District 19. Employees have to hold a vote and then it will be finished.

Assistant Chief Ken Bennett stated the Fire House Program is coming along.

### **DVP 6 and 19:**

John Wayne, DVP 19, wanted to thank Commissioners for the health insurance. District 19 started negotiations with law firm. He also spoke on negotiations, SAFER Grant. We have been trying to stay out of the reserves as much as possible. If we stay focused, we can get through this economic downturn. He is asking again that the Board allow the negotiation team to negotiate with the Chief not the law firm.

### **DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY:**

None.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORT:**

Commissioner Carter wanted to thank the firefighters and staff for their Christmas gift donations to needy families.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1993 Ford Econoline E 150 Van - Board needs motion to declare this van as surplus property and then motion to donate.

Commissioner Becker motioned to declare the 1993 Ford Econoline E150 van as surplus property with second from Commissioner Carter. Motion carries.

Commissioner Carter motioned to donate van to DOF for their use with second from Commissioner Berndt. Motion carries.

CERT Program and the US Internal Revenue Code – We have insurance in place and decent coverage in place. There are two ways to go: If CERT stays under the District, then policies need to be created and managerial status needs to fall under the Chief. The other option is for CERT to file for a 501C3 to be their own entity.

Commissioner Carter doesn't feel that CERT should break out on their own at this time.

Attorney Pringle stated if you created your own non-profit organization, then you would have your own Board of Directors.

Commissioner Becker feels that there may be a conflict of interest for Commissioner Carter to manage the CERT Board and with being a Fire Commissioner abiding by the Commission Handbook. Commissioner Becker stated by creating a 501C3, Commissioner Carter can run the program. Commissioner Adams stated it's a good program but he is concerned with the funding.

Commissioner Adams motion that CERT be placed under the section 501C3 with a second from Commissioner Becker. After some discussion, Commissioner Becker withdrew his second and Commissioner Adams withdrew his motion. Commissioner Berndt motioned to table until January meeting with a second from Commissioner Carter. Motion carries.

Commissioner Becker is requesting that during the next month, he would like to see Chief in charge of the CERT program.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Vacant Commission Seat – Due to the sudden death of Commissioner Kevin Shea, the Board of Commissioners, under FS Chapter 191 allows for the Commissioners to appoint someone to fill the seat until the upcoming election. They also have the option of running a 4 member Board until the next general election.

Commissioner Carter feels the seat should be left open.

Commissioner Berndt stated there is no action required on this. He would support just leaving for now.

Commissioner Becker stated he feels having it filled would eliminate a 2-2 vote.

Commissioner Adams stated it was a toss up for him.

No action taken.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Cathy Kruse  
M. Yasin

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioners Becker and Carter stated we finally have a training room to meet our needs. Commissioner Berndt would like to acknowledge the loss of Commissioner Shea. It was a warming experience to see how highly he was thought of at his memorial service. Commissioner Berndt will miss the challenges he presented.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

Chief addressed some issues that were commented on during Public Comment regarding the renovation of the multi-purpose room at St. 104.

Adjourn 5:15pm.