

# LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

## COMMISSION MEETING

### MINUTES

**June 21, 2011**

The June 21, 2011 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 Adams, Becker, Berndt, Carter and Shea; Chief Donald Adams, Assistant Chief Ken Bennett, Captains Ketron and McDowell, Finance Manager Ben VanKlingeren and Secretary Janis Williams. 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 Adams requested to add Bill Liedtke retirement presentation before Commissioner Carter's presentation on the agenda. Commissioner Carter motioned to adopt the Agenda with the requested changes as presented with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Fire Board Regular Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2011
- Treasurers Report

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

#### **PRESENTATION**

Commissioner Carter gave a brief presentation on the CERT team. What is the CERT program? The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

Finance Manager Ben VanKlengeren spoke about the expenditures of CERT. There was a brief discussion among commissioners and Commissioner Carter was thanked for the presentation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

NONE

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Chief Adams spoke on the following:

- Mark Spears and Frank Alvarez won Lehigh's Hometown Hero award. Chief was there for the presentation.
- There are 6 open fire fighter positions at this time.
- We have 3 bids on Station 103 for the mold that was found. The report detailed that the mold is isolated to the upstairs. \$3,400 is the lowest bid at this time

**DVP 6 and 19:**

NONE

**DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY:**

NONE

**COMMISSIONER REPORT:**

NONE

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Ambulance Fee's-** Chief Adams explained the reason for the review of the ambulance fee schedule at this time. He is asking for the commissioners to review these fees and if you wanted to put in the interfacility transports at this time you can. According to the statute you may only do this once a year. It is up to the Board. Commissioner Carter made a motion to accept the new fee schedule. Commissioner Berndt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. There was much discussion between the Commissioners. Chief Adams stated the last time this year to approve this would be the September meeting. Attorney Pringle informed the Board that the last time we adopted ambulance fees it was done by a resolution. The request by Commissioner Shea to defer this by a month's time period would be appropriate. Commissioner Berndt withdrew his 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion, Commissioner Carter withdrew as well. Commissioner Shea motioned to have the ambulance fee schedule tabled to the August meeting. Commissioner Berndt 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor.

**Millage Rate-** Chief Adams stated we are not asking to set the millage at this time but to simply get approval to use the existing millage for budget purposes. The board has a draft of the proposed budget. Attorney Pringle stated the first official act to formally set a rate will be when you set a rate for your TRIM, there is a form the DR420 that will need to be approved at the July commission meeting.

This action must be taken after July 1<sup>st</sup> when the property appraiser releases the final numbers. Commissioner Berndt asked the Board if all were in favor of the District allowing the use of the current millage rate to be used for the budget proposal at this time. All board members were ok with it,

Commissioner Carter presented a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding land use of parcels in Lehigh. A break down was given of what commercial, residential, and vacant property pay based on their taxable value. An explanation along with a map was given.

**Budget Workshop Dates-** Attorney Pringle gave information on setting workshop, tentative budget and final budget hearing dates. After much discussion between the Commissioners regarding the dates, Commissioner Berndt motioned to hold the Budget Workshop at 1:00 on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July. Commissioner Carter 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor. Commissioner Berndt motioned to move the July 21<sup>st</sup> board meeting to July 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Commissioner Shea 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor  
Commissioner Shea made a motion to hold a Budget Workshop August 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm before our regular commission meeting already scheduled for 4:00 pm on this date. Commissioner Berndt 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor Attorney Pringle with make all the necessary notices to the public on the date changes.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Cathy Kruse- Cathy commented on the mold issues at Station 103 & Station 101. She states this has been an issue for a long time and she has concerns regarding the fire fighters and their health. She spoke about condensation, mold, and air conditioning being possible factors.

Robert Anderson- Thanked Commissioner Carter for the information regarding the tax data she presented. Mr. Anderson asked the board to allow him to ask freely, questions regarding the budget at the fire assessment advisory board meetings.

David King- Commented on being a tax payer on unincorporated lots for many years here in Lehigh before he became a resident. While he appreciates Commissioner Carter's presentation he believes in not raising taxes.

#### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Adams thanked the public for coming out. Commissioner Becker thanked Bill for his 28 years of service to the district. Commissioner Carter congratulated Bill on his retirement and thanked the public for coming out. Commissioner Shea thanks Bill from his entire family that has been residents here in Lehigh for 40 years. Commissioner Shea commented on an article from the paper regarding the fire assessment fee advisory board; he believes an assessment fee is a kind of tax no matter what you call it. Commissioner Berndt thanked Bill for all of his years of service.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

NONE

Meeting adjourn: 5:16