

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

July 19, 2011

The July 19, 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 Chairman Berndt. Present were Commissioners Adams, Becker, Berndt, Carter and Shea; Chief Donald Adams, Assistant Chief Ken Bennett, Captains Ketron and McDowell, Logistics Manager 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. Chief Adams requested to table ambulance fees until next meeting as per minutes from last meeting. Commissioner Shea stated he will oppose a rate increase. Commissioner Carter motioned to approve the Agenda with a second from Commissioner Berndt. Motion carries.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Fire Board Regular Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2011
- Treasurers Report

Commissioner Becker motioned to approve with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief gave a brief presentation on the fire at Stan's Warehouse.

Chief briefed Commissioners on the Fire Assessment Fee Advisory Committee. After having meetings, they took a vote on whether a fire assessment fee is feasible in conjunction with ad valorem tax. The majority vote was no. Therefore we will not move forward with the concept of the Fire Assessment Fee unless Commissioners wish otherwise.

DVP 6 and 19:

None.

DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY:

None.

COMMISSIONER REPORT:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Air Quality Services – Robert Swanson from Air Quality Services spoke regarding the mold at the St. 103. His company tested Station 103, 101 and 102 and all samples indicate that the mold spores are not elevated at the time the Certified Lab Air Test was taken.

Dates for Tentative Budget Hearing – Thursday September 8 at 5:01pm at the Microtel is the proposed Tentative Budget Hearing date. Commissioner Carter motioned that we use Sept 8 at 5:01pm for the tentative budget hearing date with a second from Commissioner Berndt. Motion passed.

Millage for 2011/2012 – Commissioner Becker motioned that we set millage rate for 2011/12 at 3.00 mills with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robert Anderson spoke on the Fire Assessment Fee Advisory Board. We ran a survey and asked randomly, if people would approve a fire assessment fee along with ad valorem.

84% said no. They said you can't have both.

The second question they asked was, In lieu of ad valorem would you consider a fee assessment
54% said yes.

Mr. Anderson asked, Can we, the advisory board look into other methods for the fire board.

Chief stated the Board gave direction for a fire assessment fee advisory board. That board's consensus was no.

Cathy Kruse would like approval for the committee to research additional options.

Chief stated if the board wishes to look at other avenues, they need to give direction.

Commissioner Shea motion to adjourn. He withdrew his motion.

Consensus of the Fire Board to Mrs. Kruse was for the committee to conduct their own meetings and they can bring their decisions back to the Fire Board.

Mrs. Kruse would like to keep the two advisory board meetings that have been scheduled.

She is disappointed that Air Quality Services got in there and did construction before testing for mold.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioners appreciate all the work the Fire Assessment Fee Advisory Board has put in to this subject.

Commissioner Shea thanked Finance Manager Ben VanKlingeren for a first rate job on the budget.

Commissioner Shea motion to adjourn: 4:55pm