

**LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT  
COMMISSION MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**May 19, 2011**

The May 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 President Berndt. Present were Commissioners Adams, Becker, Berndt, and Shea; Chief Donald Adams, Assistant Chief Ken Bennett, Captains Ketron and McDowell, Logistics Manager Jeff Nichols, Finance Manager Ben VanKlingeren and Administrative Assistant Susan Platas. Attorney Richard Pringle was also in attendance. Commissioner Carter will attend by phone.

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 motioned to adopt the Agenda as presented with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

None.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Chief Adams spoke on the following:

- Requesting an executive session for after the meeting.
- Introduced Jeff Nickell as Logistics Manager.

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

DVP Dettmar is requesting not to have an attorney at the negotiation sessions.

### **DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY:**

None.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORT:**

Commissioner Carter stated the CERT Team is going well.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Fire Assessment Fee – Chief stated he would like to have some citizens' look at the history of the District and give their recommendation on the Fire Fee Assessment. Chief stated 8 citizens have sent in their request to be on the Committee. If any one of the members becomes disrespectful or disruptive, Chief will ask them to leave.

Commissioner Shea requested to remove from the list the following people for further consideration:

Steve Baker  
Cathy Kruse  
Robert Anderson  
John Boardman

Out of the balance, he moves to appoint the citizens below to serve on the Committee.

Frank LaRosa  
Frank Lohlein  
Ralph Hemingway  
Harry Kloppert

Commissioner Becker seconded the motion.

Commissioner Adams asked the two citizens in attendance a couple questions. Cathy Kruse spoke and gave a brief reason why she would like to be on the Committee.

Robert Anderson spoke and gave a brief reason why he would like to be on the Committee.

Motion carries 4-1, with the opposing vote from Commissioner Adams.

Commissioner Shea moves that the name of Robert Anderson be removed from the list for cause. With no second, the motion failed.

Commissioner Shea spoke on Steve Baker and stated this was an incomplete submission. Chief gave a brief understanding of Mr. Baker.

Commissioner Shea motioned to select Steve Baker to the Committee. Motion failed for lack of second.

Commissioner Becker motioned that we have the other four 4 candidates to join aforementioned Committee group to study the feasibility of Assessment Fees with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 4-1 with the opposing vote from Commissioner Shea.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

*Job Description for Logistics Manager* – Commissioner Shea moves approval of item with second from Commissioner Berndt. Motion carries.

*Policies* – Commissioner Shea stated what he is interested in is a policy statement of the incident that happened last meeting; a patient requesting his ambulance bill be written off due to his claim of being forced to go to the hospital by the ambulance crew. Commissioner Shea would like a policy. No action taken.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Robert Anderson spoke on the structure of an Advisory Board. He feels it would be wise to have bylaws to follow.

Cathy Kruse spoke on the Advisory Board. We don't need to come to the group with Agenda's. We need to be fact finding.

#### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Shea stated he was just informed that Chief is with a private group. He doesn't feel that additional activities are warranted at this time. Chief stated it's an Architectural Review Board. Commissioner Shea stated that someone who lives in Lehigh Acres should be appointed to this Board. Chief stated he lives in Alva. If the Board wants to appoint someone else, it would free up his time.

Commissioner Adams doesn't feel that Commissioners should interfere with Chief belonging to a private group because it's on Chief's own time. He feels like he should apologize for the people who were singled out from the Advisory Board. It's their right to be allowed to serve.

Commissioner Shea wanted to apologize to Chief and fellow Commissioners for lack of communication. He also spoke of the Advisory Committee and stated he will stand in strong opposition to a tax increase.

Commissioner Carter stated she agrees somewhat with Commissioner Shea but that we would drop ad valorem if we get the assessment fee. She also stated the Advisory Board is not a place for single agenda's. She also commented on Commissioners putting items on the agenda; Please be specific.

Commissioner Becker thanked the 8 people who put their name in. He also apologizes to some of the people who were singled out. He also agrees with Commissioner Carter about Commissioners being more specific on Agenda items, to give more description.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:**

Chief is involved in many services and religious clubs in the Community.

Meeting adjourn: 5:06