

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

August 19, 2016

The August 19, 2016 Special Meeting of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was held at the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Station 104, 3102 16th St. SW, Lehigh Acres, FL 33976. The meeting was opened at 5:00pm by Chairman Kruse. In attendance at the table were: Commissioners Kruse, Becker, Adams, Carter and Smith; Battalion Chief Dilallo, Finance Mgr Larry Tibbs, Ass't. Chief Bennett, Division Chief Nickell and Captain McDowell; Adm. Director Platas. Attorney Richard Pringle and Attorney Nik Joshi were in attendance.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Kruse gave the invocation.

Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Kruse would like to hear Fire Chief Selection Process, moving Create Admin Position and Fire Fee Assessment to end of meeting. Motion to approve as modified by Commissioner Carter with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Carter motioned to approve with a second from Commissioner Smith. Motion carries.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

Commissioners Reports

None.

Unfinished Business

Fire Chief Selection Process – Commissioner Smith motioned that we cease action on the Fire Chief selection process at this point. Commissioner Carter seconded the motion. Motion carries 5-0.

Commissioner Carter requested that all documentation and all records be returned to our District that was used during the process. Atty Pringle stated there might be a few items that Mr. Steffens would declare as confidential work product. But anyone who submitted resumes and items of such, they are the Districts property. Commissioner Carter stated to hold the invoice until all documents have been provided to the District. Attorney Pringle stated he will send a letter to Mr. Steffens that the chief selection process is terminated. Upon return of all documents payment will be made.

Possibly appoint an Interim Chief – Commissioner Smith motioned that we have an interim Chief with a second from Commissioner Carter. Commissioner Kruse stated that there are concerns over roles for the last couple days. Commissioner Kruse stated looking at the Org Chart - the most recently approved org chart, there are 4 people noted reporting directly to the Chief. Technically, if no Chief, those 4 would report to the Commission. Commissioner Kruse stated at this point, if we are looking at prolonging a permanent Chief, maybe we should possibly appoint an Interim Chief. She does not feel we should prolong selection of a permanent Chief.

Commissioner Carter wants the Board to think about everything we have done for the last 30 days to consider the things we do and which way we want to travel. Commissioner Carter stated there is a lot of information and data that the Chief does on a day to day basis. We need to make someone here at the dept, where the buck stops here. She thinks Battalion Chief DiLallo should be put in the Interim Chief position and given 6 months. She recommends a 6 month interim with BC Dilallo. Commissioner Adams agreed that we should appoint an Interim Chief and review all the applications when we receive them from Mr. Steffens.

Commissioner Becker thinks there will be something wrong with anyone who is applying for the Chief position. He agrees we need to appoint an Interim Chief to be in charge.

Being put to a vote, motion passed 4-1 with opposing vote from Commissioner Kruse.

Commissioner Kruse questioned if we want an Interim Chief who meets requirements of a Chief? Do we open it up to all employees interested in the Department. Do we open it up to outside candidates. Should the requirements be the same as the requirements with JTS?

Chief Wayne met all requirements of Chief at that time - Commissioner Kruse stated. Commissioner Carter is talking 6 months. Commissioner Kruse stated in talking to Capt Ketron, we can get this done in a much quicker process.

Commissioner Smith stated maybe we should approach all 26 applicants and see if they are still interested. Commissioner Smith recommends this.

Atty Joshi stated in order to make an educated determination, they all must apply in the same fashion. This way you have an apples to apples comparison. This way you can deter the claim of discrimination that could arise.

Commissioner Kruse – what is going to be the job description and the qualification that go along with the Interim Chief position.

Commissioner Carter stated she doesn't believe there has been a job description for an Interim Chief. The primary goal is fire operations. We need to go ahead and fill the position and not dwell on the job description at this time.

Atty Pringle stated the current Assistant Chief position description does not have that they would be Acting Chief in the Chief's absence.

Former Deputy Chief Bill Liedkte stated the Chief would appoint. Chief would appoint one person. Former Chief Cardoza spoke stating in his absence, he would appoint Assistant/Deputy Chief's on a rotating basis to give all experience.

Commissioner Smith stated we need to give one person authority and Commissioner Carter believes this also

Commissioner Carter thinks Bat Chief Dilallo could contact people around the county if he ran into trouble.

Commissioner Kruse stated everyone has been doing their job except signing on checks and invoices.

Commissioner Becker stated there is a lot of support for the Interim Chief position. We need to appoint an Interim Chief for 6 months and continue to work on this. During this time we can analyze what we are looking for in a chief. He is in favor of appointing BC Dilallo.

Commissioner Adams stated it's like a ship without a captain. We need one. Commissioner Kruse doesn't want to make any changes with the line. She'll support an Interim Chief but not for 6 months - no longer than 3 months.

Commissioner Carter is in favor for appointing an Interim Chief and start process of looking for a Chief. Bring ideas for new Chief to the Aug 30 mtg and move forward.

Commissioner Carter motioned that we move Battalion Chief Robert DiLallo to the position of Interim Chief until such time we pick a Chief for this dept. Time frame is max 6 months. Second from Commissioner Becker. Motion passed 5-0.

Commissioner Kruse asked Battalion Chief DiLallo is he'd accept the Interim Chief position. He accepted. Effective date Monday August 22, 2016.

Interim Chief contact – An Interim Chief contract could be ready for the next meeting which is August 30, or we use same agreement as when John Wayne was Interim Chief.

Commissioner Carter motioned that we use the same agreement for BC Dilallo as we did for John Wayne – for Interim Chief. Commissioner Becker seconded. Motion passed 4-1 with the opposing vote from Comm Kruse.

Commissioner Carter motioned that we should keep the salary the same as John Wayne's interim contact. Second from Commissioner Becker. Motion carries 5—0.

New Business

Articles In The Media – Commissioner Adams stated he wanted to discuss an article that was published in the Gazette. He reviewed the audio tapes and did not hear where he mentioned any negative comments. He asked Battalion Chief Rob Dilallo if he was sitting next to him. BC Dilallo stated yes and didn't hear any negative remarks.

Commissioner Adams questioned Dist 6 and 19 DVP's, BC Naranjo and Lt. Ketrn, regarding another article that stated he and Commissioner Becker took bribes. Commissioner Adams is requesting a formal investigation of these allegations. Full scale investigation with the state attorney and elections office.

Commissioner Kruse stated that there was an article regarding her and Commissioner Becker with a sunshine law violation. Atty Pringle contacted the Ethics Commission and there was no complaint on file.

Commissioner Carter stated an investigation must be done.

Commissioner Carter motioned that we have a full scale investigation into these charges. Second from Commissioner Becker.

Roll Call vote:

Commissioner Carter	aye
Commissioner Becker	aye
Commissioner Smith	aye
Commissioner Adams	aye
Commissioner Kruse	aye

Motion carries 5-0. Attorney Pringle will determine who will conduct the investigation.

Attorney Pringle would like an opportunity to think about how to proceed and bring back to the next meeting.

Commission Meeting Dates FY 2016-17 -- Finance Mgr Tibbs stated each year we have to set the dates and post for our regular Commission Meetings. Typically it's the last Tuesday of the month.

Motion from Commissioner Carter to approve the dates listed below for the upcoming fiscal year Commission Meetings with a second from Commissioner Smith. Motion carries.

Tuesday,	October 25, 2016
Tuesday,	November 29, 2016
Tuesday,	December 15, 2016
Tuesday,	January 31, 2017
Tuesday,	February 28, 2017
Tuesday,	March 28, 2017
Tuesday,	April 25, 2017
Tuesday,	May 23, 2017
Tuesday,	June 27, 2017
Tuesday,	July 25, 2017
Tuesday,	August 29, 2017
Tuesday,	September 26, 2017

Ambulance Purchase -- Division Chief Nickell handed out packets to Commissioners to purchase the two new ambulances that were budgeted for this year. Current price updated. These ambulances are using the contract price. We are not pre-paying for the ambulances. They should be completed 270 days from receipt of order. Commissioner Smith questioned if this contract was a progressive pay or not. Chief Nickell will get back to him with the answers to his questions.

Motion to approve ambulance purchase as presented from Commissioner Adams with a second from Commissioner Carter subject to info received from Ch Nickell. Motion 4-1 with opposing vote from Commissioner Smith.

Create Administrative position - tabled until Aug 30 meeting.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None

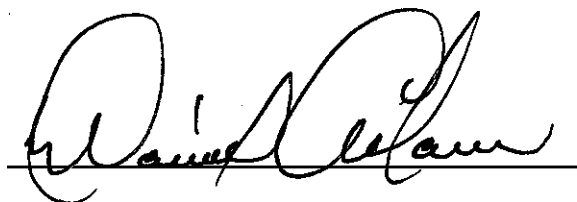
Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Adams cautioned people to be aware of conversations after mtg.

Administrative Comments

None.

Adjournment 8:30pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Adams", written over a horizontal line.

David Adams, Commission Secretary/Treasurer