

LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES

January 20, 2011

The January 20, 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 Berndt, Adams, Carter, Becker and Shea; Chief Donald Adams, Assistant Chief Diana Watson, Fire Marshal Ken Bennett, 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 requested to add Presentation of Plaque to New Business. Chief Adams requested to add Workshop in February that Commissioner Shea asked for to New Business. Commissioner Carter motioned to approve the Agenda as amended with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Fire Board Regular Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2010
- Treasurers Report

Commissioner Carter motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries.

PRESENTATION FROM DOCTOR GRANITO:

Dr. Granito stated he hoped Commissioners had plenty of time reviewing the report. All Commissioners did not have a chance to review the Update of the May 2007 Comprehensive Plan, but there were some questions from those that did receive the update. A few of the questions included: running a ladder company. Dr. Granito doesn't think this can happen in the immediate future, but wanted to list it for the future; questions on the ISO ratings; job descriptions and responsibilities; keeping the public informed and educated – developing or redeveloping the public information program;

Also discussed was a training officer position for fire suppression needs to be made; the EMS billing clerk is a very important position. This person should not only report to the finance person, she should also report to the Assistant Chief of EMS. There was discussion on the question as to what will happen if we don't get another SAFER Grant distribution. There is no current continuation of a SAFER Grant. But there is a Committee that may rewrite. Dr. Granito hopes that we do anything possible to retain the ambulance service.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Cathy Kruse, resident of Lehigh Acres, spoke on the MCI, Medical Career Institute. We terminated a contract with Edison Community College. Will the benefits of going with MCI outweigh the liability.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Adams spoke on the following items:

Chief stated we received the CERT Grant of \$6750.

Chief spoke on the Commission Book stating there are about 89-90 pages in the report. Is this the type packet you want? Color graphs cost money. We would like some direction. Commissioner Carter stated she likes the packets. Having the packet ahead of time allows us to read, review and digest the information. Commissioner Shea asked if this information can be scanned and put on our website. He doesn't see the need for color.

Lt. Gerald Norman announced his retirement effective 1/26/11.

Tuscan and Company have been finishing up our audit. Commissioner Shea would like to have the presentation of the audit in March. Commissioners concur.

DVP 6 and 19:

None.

DEPARTMENT ATTORNEY:

None.

COMMISSIONER REPORT:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FEE RESOLUTION – Fire Marshal Bennett gave Commissioners the changes that were requested on the Fee Resolution. Commissioner Carter motioned that we approve the Fee Resolution with a second from Commissioner Becker. This is Resolution #11-01-01. Attorney Pringle read the Resolution into the minutes. Being put to a vote, motion carries.

CERT Team Grant – we were awarded the amount of \$6750. Commissioner Carter asked CERT members in the audience to stand for recognition. Commissioner Carter will be certified as CERT team manager in Emmittsburg, MD. Commissioner Shea questioned who has authority to approve items purchased with the award. Commissioner Shea is requesting this be one of the topics for the workshop.

NEW BUSINESS:

REVIEW OF LEGAL SERVICES - Commissioner Shea stated the first area he started to look at was our legal services. He was amazed. He handed out copies of some charges that did not have proper standard backup. He was unable to determine the attorney bills for the last several years. He was unable to obtain justification for the legal services. Commissioner Becker stated he asked Chief to have Attorney Pringle breakdown bills, as Commissioner Becker is one of the signers of the checks. Commissioner Shea would like to see a better breakdown of charges on the bill. Also, Commissioner Shea doesn't feel that the presence of the attorney at a workshop, where decisions are not made.

RENEWAL OF DENTAL INSURANCE - Chief Adams stated we have dental renewal to be discussed. Commissioner Shea suggests that we should ask the employees to contribute towards the 5% increase on the dental insurance. Chief stated you have to go through negotiations for having employees contribute. Commissioner Becker motioned that we renew the dental insurance with a second from Commissioner Carter. Motion carries.

OPEN 1826, DISTRICT 6, ARTICLE 20 – Chief stated 40 hour employees are taking more of a cost concession because of the way holidays and holiday pay are in the contract. He would like to open Article 20, Holidays, for 40 hour employees only, so we can make it fair to them. It would affect this fiscal year. Commissioner Becker asked if there will be back pay. Chief answered no. Commissioner Carter motioned to open Article 20.1 of 1826 District 6 Holidays with a second from Commissioner Berndt. Motion passed.

DISTRICT 6, ARTICLE 21 INSURANCE – Chief stated what this will do is pay dependant insurance for Safer Grant employees. These funds will come out of the Safer Grant. Chief would like to have this funding retro'ed to October 1, 2010. Commissioner Shea wanted a statement in writing stating that we would not be in any way subject to claims for reimbursement. Chief stated we tried to get letters on letterhead, but only received confirmation in an email. Commissioner Carter motioned to approve the amendment to Article 21 of the Local 1826, District 6 CBA, retro October 1, 2010 with a second from Commissioner Adams. Motion carries 4-1, with the opposing vote from Commissioner Shea.

COMMISSIONER HANDBOOK CHANGES - Chief stated Commissioner Adams added language to Section 8 of the Commissioner Handbook, plus we needed to change the first page. Commissioner Becker motioned that we accept the change with a second from Commissioner Carter. Motion carries.

CONTRACT WITH MCI, (MEDICAL CAREER INSTITUTE) – Chief stated we wanted to look at receiving money from paramedic students for students to ride with us for experience and training; because it does cost us money. That's why Edison College went away because they did not want to do this. We would like to go with this "private" company. We did offer the same offer to Edison college. Commissioner Shea moved that we adopt the agreement with the effective date from February 1, 2011 through February 1, 2012. A second was received from Commissioner Carter. Motion carries.

1998 MITSUBISHI SPORT VEHICLE - Assistant Chief Watson stated we have a request from Alva Fire District to take over ownership of our 1998 Mitsubishi vehicle. They will use it for their volunteers. We are asking that Commissioners approve the disposition of the 1998 Mitsubishi. Commissioner Shea so moved with a second from Commissioner Carter. Attorney Pringle stated this vehicle must first be declared surplus property. Commissioner Shea revised his motion that the vehicle be declared surplus and further the vehicle be donated to the Alva Volunteer Fire Dept and to complete all documents of transfer. Commissioner Carter gave a second to the revision. Motion carries.

PRESENTATION BY COMMISSIONER CARTER – Commissioner Carter stated that she has a plaque from SW FL PODS Angels for Assistant Chief Watson for leading the department in obtaining Christmas gifts for Downs Syndrome children in Lehigh Acres.

FEBRUARY WORKSHOP – Discussion was on the date of the workshop. Commissioner Shea stated he would like to speak on items; such as CERT distribution funds, having a Board discussion on budget matters, starting with pay and benefits. He would like to flush these issues out so we can make our meetings quicker. Commissioner Carter stated that we need to take a good look at Dr. Granito's recommendations. We need to go through each recommendation. Commissioner Berndt motioned to table the workshop selection to the February meeting. Second from Commissioner Carter. Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Shea stated Dr. Granito's comments confirmed that the likelihood of any additional grants will be nonexistent. He thinks a message to the unions and employees that something has got to give and it has to give soon.

Commissioner Carter spoke on the letter from Lee County regarding the voluntary land sale request of a portion of the apron of Station 102 – for the Homestead Road Widening Project. We need to start looking now at alternate plans when they start tearing up that road. Chief stated he forgot to put this on tonight's Agenda. He will put it on the agenda in March.

Commissioner Becker wanted to thank Terry Dettmar for putting together all the information regarding union concessions.

Commissioner Berndt stated he was happy the insurance issue has been worked out. He also wanted to comment on the issue regarding Attorney Pringle and the review of legal services . He knows the invoice item will get cleared up and he believes we're all better off that Attorney Pringle is here watching out for us.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS:

None.

Adjourn: 6:22pm