

**LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 24, 2023 - REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The October 24, 2023, a regular meeting of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was held at Station 104, 3102 16th Street, SW, Lehigh Acres, FL 33976. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the President/Chair, Commissioner Cooper. After leading the Pledge of Allegiance, Comm. Cooper gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were Commissioners Melissa Barry, Debra Cooper, Robert Bennett, and Lucia Sherman. Comm. Linda Carter had an excused absence. Staff in attendance: Fire Chief DiLallo, HR Manager Monroe, Attorney Richard Pringle, and Administrative Secretary Perez. Firefighters Cazanias and Maldonado joined the meeting towards the end. There was no one from the press.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA –

COMM. BARRY MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. WITH A SECOND FROM COMM. BENNETT, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Comm. Cooper welcomed the attendees. She explained the meeting's purpose and protocol. She gave encouragement and general instructions for public participation and comments in two segments of the meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS –

FIRE CHIEF – Chief DiLallo reported on various topics:

1. Construction on Station 107 is moving very fast. Walls are up and they will be pouring the slab soon.
2. The 2 LMTV Brush trucks that we sent out for build are going well. We are hoping for delivery in December.
3. The contract with Lee Health for the sale of our land is scheduled to close on October 27th. Those funds will be transferred to the training facility, St. 108/Admin site.
4. We had our 2023 Fire Prevention & Safety Day at Veterans Park on the Bus ramp on October 7th, everything went very well.
5. Chief Ketron, HR Manager Monroe, Lt's Hayes, Imsdahl, and I attended the Florida Fire Chief's Health and Safety Conference a couple weeks ago. It was a great conference and was heavily weighed on Mental Health. We got a lot of great information and will be making some policy changes to our CISM and Peer support policies.
6. Chief Naranjo and I will be working with our engineer for a conceptual layout of the Training facility site. We will also start working with our architect to start conceptional design and ideas for the site.
7. As you may or may not be aware State Representative Adam Botana has drafted a Bill to Merge the Bonita Springs and Fort Myers Beach Fire Districts. This Bill will be Discussed at the Local Delegation on October 30th. I have had several conversations with local legislators and special meetings with the LCFCFA on this topic. We are watching this closely as this could potentially impact us in some way in the future. I will keep you updated. The topic of Special Fire District Consolidation comes up every several years or so and is back up for discussion again.

8. The crews continue to stay extremely busy and are doing a great job!

DVP 6 AND 19 – No report.

ATTORNEY’S REPORT –

Mr. Pringle reported the sale for the surplus land is scheduled for closing on October 27th. Also, Mr. Pringle spoke briefly regarding the Lee County delegation- Representative Botana’s submittal of a proposed local bill.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

All the Commissioners held their comments to the end.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – None.

CONSENT AGENDA

COMM. BARRY MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. WITH A SECOND BY COMM. BENNETT, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

GENERAL BUSINESS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DISTRICT REVENUE SOURCES – No items to report.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Employee Health Insurance Renewal – HR Manager Monroe stated that there will be a 9.9% increase to our policy, and it will only continue to increase as our department continues to grow and as we hire more employees, and they continue to grow their families. He mentioned that we had a few hiccups with our renewal this year, as we were promised no increase in our rate and at the last minute UHC attempted to increase us by 12%.

After HR Manager Monroe concluded his summary, Commissioner Barry asked when was the last time we looked elsewhere for coverage. HR Manager Monroe explained that we have had a very long-standing relationship with the Bouchard/MMA group as our broker and that there has been a recent change in leadership at Bouchard/MMA. With this change, it definitely makes sense to exercise our due diligence and consider other brokers who may be able to provide different options.

Following the discussion, the following motion was made.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMM. SHERMAN TO CONTINUE WITH OUR CURRENT CARRIER AND MOVE FORWARD WITH PUTTING FORTH A REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR FUTURE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGES, WITH A SECOND PROVIDED BY COMM. BENNETT, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. VFIS (W/C, Property, Liability, Auto) Renewal for 2023-2024– Chief DiLallo explained that similarly to our health insurance, our other insurance coverages will also continue to increase as property values go up on our buildings and we continue to add more vehicles to our policy. Our current increase was 13.2%.

After a brief discussion, the following motion was made.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMM. SHERMAN TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED RENEWAL WITH VFIS. COMM. BENNETT PROVIDED A SECOND TO THE MOTION AND A ROLL CALL VOTE FOLLOWED.

**Comm. Barry - aye
Comm. Bennett - aye
Comm. Cooper - aye
Comm. Sherman - aye** **the motion passed, 4:0.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – There were no public comments.

COMMISSIONERS' CLOSING REMARKS

Comm. Bennett thanked everyone for doing a good job. He acknowledged our firefighters are running like crazy and there have been some very bad calls lately.

Comm. Barry welcomed the public and thanked them for their attendance. She thanked the commissioners, staff, and firefighters, for their hard work and mentioned that the Fire Safety Day was lots of fun.

Comm. Sherman apologized for not being able to attend the Fire Safety Day. She thanked the staff for putting the taxpayers first and thanked everyone else as well.

Comm. Cooper stated that Fire Safety Day was lots of fun. She mentioned the increase in bad accidents and our firefighters having to deal with it. She thanked Chief for being proactive about the Peer Support Group.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLOSING REMARKS

Administrative Secretary Perez stated that she enjoyed the meeting, as usual.

Chief DiLallo mentioned that he drafted a letter to Lee Health informing them of our need for Advanced HealthCare in our community. He also acknowledged Firefighters Cazanans and Maldonado for purchasing a new bicycle for an older gentleman in our community, saying they will be recognized at our yearly award ceremony. He mentioned that our staff and our firefighters continue to do a great job, answering some very bad calls.

HR Manager Monroe thanked the Board for their continued support in helping keep our workplace a rewarding place to work.

ADJOURNMENT –

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Date Approved: Nov 28, 2023



Melissa Barry, Secretary/Treasurer