

**LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 28, 2023 – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

The November 28, 2023, 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 Debra Cooper, Linda Carter, Robert Bennett and Lucia Sherman, Fire Chief DiLallo, Deputy Fire Chief Naranjo, Finance Manager Kressel, Attorney Pringle, and Administrative Secretary Reith. Derek Felder and Eric Engelhart, two members of the public were in attendance. There was no one from the press. Comm. Melissa Barry was an unexcused absence.

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief DiLallo reported on many different topics:

1. Construction on Station 107 is still moving very fast. They have been completing Truss and Roof Decking.
2. Last month I discussed a Bill that has been proposed to consolidate Bonita springs Fire Dept and Ft. Myers Beach Fire Department. That Bill has been revised to include Splitting the FMB Fire District with Bonita Springs and Iona McGregor. That Bill will be heard by Local delegation this coming Friday.
3. We are currently working with SHI a computer technology company to complete a full evaluation of our IT Division, Network and Security. This process will take approximately two months.
4. We had one employee not make probation which now leaves us down two employees. We will be hiring another Cadet and one candidate off our running list.
5. As a reminder we will be conducting our annual employee awards on February 17th from 1500-1700 at the Rise Church. Please Mark your Calendars.
6. We had two storage sheds moved last week at the administration building to make room for the Canopy project for truck storage. We are still working on getting quotes. We will be re- purposing one of the storage sheds into a Bunker gear wash and storage room.
7. Katie and McKenzie Liedtke our intern worked on a Department Calendar for her University project. The calendars will be on sale for \$15 and all proceeds will go to the Cadets. A link is on our website.
8. The crews continue to stay extremely busy and are doing a great job!

Attorney Report – Mr. Pringle gave an update on the proposed merger between Fort Myers Beach Fire Department (FMBFD) and Bonita Springs Fire Department (BSFD).

Chief DiLallo stated that we are watching this situation very closely.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioners Bennett, Carter, Sherman, and Cooper all held their comments to the end.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Eric Engelhart addressed the commissioners.

CONSENT AGENDA

COMM. CARTER MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA. COMM. BENNETT PROVIDED THE SECOND AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

GENERAL BUSINESS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

District Revenue Sources: Mr. Pringle had no items to discuss.

Comm. Carter inquired about rental payments for the cell phone towers.

Chief DiLallo responded that we have received the first check for the first tower.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Lehigh Acres Public Safety Complex – Chief DiLallo

Chief DiLallo reviewed the Master Site Plan for Lehigh Acres Public Safety Complex (LAPSC) and Training facility. He added that this could be the next fire station to be built and having a training facility would bring our ISO to level 2. Chief DiLallo asked the Commissioners to approve Phase I.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMM. CARTER TO APPROVE THE MASTER SITE PLAN FOR THE STATION 108 SITE AND APPROVE AND AUTHORIZE CHIEF TO MAKE THE DECISIONS AND TAKE THE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE DESIGN FOR THE SITE WORK, TO COMPLETE THE DESIGN FOR THE PHASE I WORK FOR THE TRAINING FACILITY, TO GO THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCESS TO SELECT THE CONTRACTORS FOR THE SITE WORK AND PHASE I OF THE TOTAL PROJECT, TO APPROVE THE WORK TO BE DONE FOR THE SITE WORK AND PHASE I OF THE TRAINING FACILITY, AND TO MAKE OTHER DECISIONS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE SITE WORK AND PHASE I OF THE TRAINING FACILITY NOT TO EXCEED \$6,000,000 AS AUTHORIZED BY FLORIDA LAW. COMM. BENNETT PROVIDED A SECOND AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Purchasing Policy – Ms. Kressel gave a brief presentation on updating the purchasing policy from 2018.

After some discussion, the following motion was made to table the Purchasing Policy.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMM. SHERMAN TO TABLE THE PURCHASING POLICY AGENDA ITEM. COMM. CARTER PROVIDED A SECOND AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. December Meeting – Chief DiLallo

COMM. CARTER MADE A MOTION TO CONTINUE WITH THE DECEMBER 19TH AS ADVERTISED, AND IF IT IS LATER DETERMINED THAT THIS MEETING IS NOT NEEDED THEN CHIEF WILL MAKE THE DECISION TO CANCEL IT. COMM. BENNETT PROVIDED A SECOND, AND THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – None.

COMMISSIONERS' CLOSING REMARKS

Comm. Bennett remarked that everyone's doing a great job. He knows there's been a lot of bad calls and that brush fire season has started.

Comm. Carter commented that she hears the sirens constantly from her home. She cautioned that there would be four wheelers out riding during Christmas break, so please be careful. Also, please be mindful of overheating your Christmas trees. She wished everyone a safe and joyous holiday.

Comm. Sherman thanked everyone in the department and wished all a happy holiday and good New Year.

Comm. Cooper echoed fellow Commissioners on safety and added that Katie is doing a great job with social media. She added, that Lee Blvd. & Gunnery Rd. 500 needs to be made safer. She wished all a happy and safe holiday.

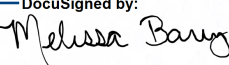
ADMINISTRATIVE CLOSING REMARKS

Chief DiLallo thanked the board for their constant support and added that it is refreshing to have a Board that understands the needs of the District. He added that the firefighters do a fantastic job protecting the public in Lehigh Acres and that he and Chief Ketron will be attending PTSD workshops next week.

Deputy Fire Chief Naranjo remarked that the team has hit some good milestones in 2023 and is looking forward to working in 2024. He thanked the Commissioners for their continued support.

ADJOURNMENT adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Date Approved: January 30, 2024

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Melissa Barry, Secretary/Treasurer