



Sanibel Fire & Rescue District
Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 @ 9:00 AM

ATTENDEES: Jerry Muench (Chairman)
Bruce Cochrane (Vice Chairman)
Richard McCurry (Secretary Treasurer)

Kevin Barbot (Fire Chief)
John DiMaria (Deputy Chief) - *excused*
Chris Jackson (Assistant Chief)
Larry Williams (Fire Marshal)
Greta Fulkerson (Administrative Assistant)

Rob Wilkins (Captain)
Bryan Clement (Firefighter)
Dayan Concepcion (Firefighter)

Bonnie McCurry (Community Housing Resources)
Tiffany Repecki (The Island Reporter) – via Microsoft Teams

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Muench. Commissioner Muench led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed. **A motion was made by Commissioner McCurry to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cochrane. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

2. Initial Items of Business

Chief Barbot shared that a local former Chief, Gregory Trammell, had passed away this week from cancer. A funeral will be held on Tuesday, and the team will be assisting and staffing one of the Fort Myers department stations during the funeral. Chief Barbot shared some memories of former Chief Trammell. Commissioner Muench questioned how this would impact staffing on island during this time, and Chief Barbot confirmed that no changes would be needed as he and Assistant Chief Jackson along with one other individual would be the ones filling in at that station and the District would remain fully staffed.

It was noted that Deputy Chief DiMaria would not attend the meeting and was excused.

An additional announcement was made by Commissioner McCurry for all Sanibel Fire & Rescue staff. A painting done by Sanibel's own, Rachel Pierce, was presented to celebrate everyone going above and beyond. This was provided as a gift from Commissioner McCurry, Bonnie McCurry, and Rachel Pierce as well as her family as a token of great appreciation and a symbol of the obstacles that the District has had to overcome post-Hurricane Ian. It was confirmed that the painting would be hung in a prominent location in the firehouse.

3. Fire Marshal's Report

Fire Marshal Williams reported that he had CO'ed Sanibel Inn, but that there is a delay from the City regarding a couple of permits. Commissioner Muench asked about the 7/11 around the corner. Fire Marshal Williams had no update on it except that the fence had now been constructed around the perimeter. It was suggested that the ownership of the land has changed. Fire Marshal Williams mentioned a handful of businesses that had recently opened in Periwinkle Place, including One Island Sanibel, Chico's, Everything But Water, Tiki Jim's, and Pinocchio's. Many other permits are now in place and finalized. It was noted that there are several restaurants opening soon. Fire Marshal Williams mentioned that he would be doing an upcoming hood test for a new burger joint opening at Sanibel Island Beach Club, where the Sand Dollar Restaurant used to be. Fire Marshal Williams shared that he had completed 97 plan reviews and 226 inspections in January. Thanks were extended to Fire Marshal Williams from Commissioner McCurry and the board members for his dedication and hard work. Chief Barbot added that feedback was provided from the City's Building Director who indicated that Fire Marshal Williams was doing a fantastic job.

4. Assistant Chief's Report

Assistant Chief Jackson provided an update, confirming that the portable generator for Station 172 had been installed. The new fire pump has been installed in Marine 171 and the required maintenance has been

completed. Assistant Chief Jackson confirmed that the work had been completed fully in-house by FF Walter, FF Zarick, FF Bell, and FF Concepcion, commenting that it had saved a lot of money for the District. A swap from using Engine 172 to Engine 179 had been completed as discussed in the January meeting. Once the demolition of the old Station 172 is completed, a cover will be installed for Engine 179. Demolition should be completed by the end of the month. The cover including installation will cost \$2,200. Ford has not yet issued the VIN number or build order to the brush truck company, but this should be received by March 25th following which the chassis will be built and the truck will be adapted and delivered within 90 days of this. This is still within the timeline of the contract.

A new Ladder 171 floodlight was discussed, and changes to it were explained. This will be installed in the next few days. All hydrant maintenance has now been completed and details of this were shared. Island Water Association is fixing one hydrant that had a broken stem down on the end of Dixie Beach. About 21 hydrants had thread problems or bonnet issues. 14 hydrants needed landscaping to be removed. Assistant Chief Jackson handled all of these hydrant work orders himself, with the exception of the first one discussed. There are approximately 350 blue reflectors which are awaiting installation, and a plan will be needed to organize this.

The demolition of Station 172 is continuing apace and is on schedule to be completed by the end of the month. Images of the demolition were shared. Following the demolition, the survey company will attend and stake out the new property outline. Assistant Chief Jackson will then meet with the City for a re-inspection of the existing landscape. The plumbing, mechanical, wiring, and public works permits have been approved, with some others still in process with the City. There was a mandatory meeting last week for the construction bid, and ten companies attended. The bids are due by March 4th. A meeting is planned to discuss the remaining permitting issues.

5. Deputy Chief's Report

Chief Barbot provided an update on behalf of Deputy Chief DiMaria. It was noted that the performance review had highlighted a need to report on out-of-shoot times and that these needed to be closer to the national averages and under 120 seconds. There were 134 calls in January, and 120 of those met this target. This is an improvement from previous months. There has been a 35% increase year-over-year in calls for January, although numbers were higher pre-Hurricane Ian. It was suggested that within a year or two levels may return to normal. Work continues on new medical protocol, with the focus this month on death in the field, mass casualty, and air transport. A study guide is being created by FF Nygaard for the crews to complete. The crew, including Deputy Chief DiMaria, Captain Reitenbach, FF Moore, FF Bledsoe, and FF Schelm, that assisted during a multi-vehicle collision was noted and thanked for their work, and details of the rescue were shared including how the traffic was controlled with the help of Sanibel Police.

Details of a Cyanokit per Doctor Abo's request were shared, and this will be purchased for \$900. A second kit will likely be purchased in the next budget period. Training will be done on the use of this kit. Training will also be done on Narcan, stop the bleed, CPR, and AED in conjunction with Sanibel Police in April. EVOC training is taking place next week, and a second boat operator course will be done by FF Walter. Crew visits to establishments, the current month being Rosalita's, for pre-plans continue. A list of all other fire training completed by the crews was shared, including high angle rope rescue and engine and ladder operations. Deputy Chief DiMaria and Captain Martin recently attended a live burn at the Fire Academy and supported the crews and candidates.

CPR classes continue to be requested by the public in high numbers. Some of these classes were attended by members or employees of The Sanctuary Golf Club, St. Michael's Church, Sanibel Kayak Club, The Shell Museum, and Gulf Side Place. A Boy Scouts visit was led by FF Schelm. An extinguisher class is set up for students at the Sanibel School, and there will also be CPR classes for eighth graders happening in May. A fire truck demonstration at the Progressive Club of Sanibel will be held on March 1st. A birthday party will be held at the station at the end of February as part of an auction prize given to the PTA of the Sanibel School. Lunch will be provided by Mission BBQ to the crews on February 27th. Ideas to honor a fallen firefighter on February 16th were also discussed, and the parents of the firefighter wish to provide lunch to all crews on February 24th. The District won the People's Choice Chili Cook-Off award for the second year in a row. It was suggested that something should be done to show gratitude to Jerry's who fully supported this event. Details of a family who won an auction prize through CROW's fundraiser night to spend an evening with the fire crews were shared, which raised \$1,200. The importance and success of the recent PR efforts were noted by Commissioner McCurry.

6. Chief's Report

Funding has been received from the State to cover revenue loss, and this was needed to ensure that the financial reserves did not need to be used. An analysis of the budget shows they are on track with expectations, at about 3% under budget. Applications will be made for grants at the end of the month, and it is hoped that the costs of new equipment for Station 172 may be able to be recouped. Commissioner McCurry raised a question regarding the budget reduction, and it was confirmed that this was due to the hurricane and lower revenues. It was noted that the State has fulfilled their promises on this and that this has worked out well. Chief Barbot shared information regarding a recent visit to Tallahassee for the appropriations request and it was noted that the Station 172 reconstruction is on the House Bill. Funding for 50% of reconstruction costs have been secured from the House, and details of how this will operate were shared by Chief Barbot. According to the District's lobbyists, this is the perfect place to be for funding. Once the District makes it on both sides of the bill and pushes through, it is left up to Governor DeSantis whether or not he wants to veto the project. A press conference with Governor DeSantis was attended, and it was noted that he made remarks regarding the Causeway and Sanibel Island as a whole.

A letter of public notice was received regarding the final reimbursement for Station 172, and it appears that 90 to 100% of FEMA costs will be recovered.

Major phone issues with CenturyLink in the District were discussed, including the option to change to VOIP calling. This would be financially and temporally more efficient. This expense falls under procurement policy guidelines where it does not have to be approved by the Board. However, Chief Barbot had discussed this issue with each Board member prior. The switch is being made to VOIP and phone lines should be operational within a day.

FF Johanson retired on January 31st and congratulations and thanks were extended to him. Testing for a new hire was underway and a contingent job offer had been made to a paramedic whose background is with Lee County EMS and Fort Myers Beach Fire Control District. Details of pre-employment tests and checks were discussed, including a drug test, a physical exam, a psychological evaluation, and a background check. The implications for staffing and overtime were also noted, and the District remains over its overtime budget.

7. Business Agenda Items

Resolution 24-004 FY - 2023/2024 Budget Amendment Number 1 (Exhibit A)

Chief Barbot reminded the Board of the background for this proposed resolution and highlighted the details of this with supporting documentation. The District has received FEMA funding as well as the \$2 million State grant for revenue loss. According to State Statute, the District cannot utilize those funds until they have been budgeted, and so the budget amendment needs to be approved by the Board. The resolution was read by Administrative Assistant Fulkerson.

A motion was made by Commissioner McCurry to adopt Resolution 24-004, increasing the 2023/2024 fiscal year budget total revenues to \$8,433,083.71, resulting in an increase of 2,760,042.28. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cochrane. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Commissioner Items

No items to discuss.

9. Union Items

No items to discuss.

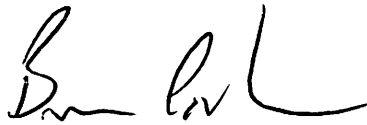
10. Public Input

No input to discuss.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM.



Commissioner Jerry Muench



Commissioner Bruce Cochrane



Commissioner Richard McCurry