

SANIBEL FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT
Minutes of the Fire Commission Meeting
October 11, 2022

Commissioners – Chairman Jerry Muench, Vice Chair Bruce Cochrane, Secretary Richard McCurry
Fire Chief Bill Briscoe
Deputy Fire Chief Kevin Barbot
Division Chief Tim Barrett
Fire Marshal Larry Williams
Assistant Administrator Greta Fulkerson

In attendance were the following: Captain Tracy, FF Zarick, FF Martin, FF Bledsoe, and the general public.

Commissioner Muench opened the meeting at 4:00 PM. Commissioner Muench led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1st Order of Business: Deputy Chief Barbot requested that the meeting be allowed to be recorded. **A motion was made by Commissioner Muench to allow the meeting to be recorded. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCurry. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

2nd Order of Business: Commissioner Muench stated that he asked Chief Briscoe to remain on since we needed all hands on deck in the wake of Hurricane Ian, even though Deputy Chief Barbot would have been appointed Chief October 3, 2022. Commissioner Muench then stated that he would like to make it official and asked if Deputy Chief Barbot would come forward. Deputy Chief Barbot stood before Commissioner Muench as Commissioner Muench prepared to recite the Fire Chief Oath of Office. Commissioner Muench said repeat after me please and raise your right hand. Commissioner Muench recited the Oath and Deputy Chief Barbot repeated. Commissioner Muench congratulated Deputy Chief Barbot and attendees clapped as Deputy Chief Barbot was congratulated by and shook hands with the Board Members.

3rd Order of Business: Commissioner Muench stated that he would like to say thank you to our retiring Chief. Commissioner Muench said that timing was a little bad. Commissioner Muench reiterated that he asked Chief Briscoe to remain on in these terrible times that we are facing, but now it is time to ride off into the sunset and make plans for life ahead. Commissioner McCurry congratulated Chief Briscoe on his retirement and attendees clapped.

4th Order of Business: The minutes for the September 14, 2022, commission meeting were reviewed and accepted by the Board Members. **A motion was made by Commissioner Cochrane to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCurry. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

5th Order of Business: Deputy Chief Barbot asked to bring up the first agenda as Hagerty Consulting and if they could give a presentation. Commissioner Muench agreed. Deputy Chief Barbot explained that Hagerty Consulting helps agencies, municipalities, counties, and states in recouping funds from FEMA throughout emergency disaster situations. According to Chapter 189 and Chapter 255, special districts are given special provisions under emergency to enter into agreements with companies as such without having to carry out any kind of bid process. Hagerty Consulting was recommended to the District by out-of-state IMT teams and other local agencies. Deputy Chief Barbot had been in contact with Hagerty Consulting, as well as Lewis, Longman, & Walker over the past few days to ensure that the District is handling everything properly. Terry Lewis, owner of Lewis, Longman & Walker, advised that if the Board approved, it is okay to enter into an agreement with Hagerty Consulting. The Hagerty Consulting members prepared to give their presentation. Lee Mayfield, Director of Response, explained that Hagerty Consulting is a full-service

emergency management and homeland security consulting firm. Lee Mayfield summarized his career background and experience, and then introduced Rick Hill and Andre MacIntosh as leaders in the Cost Recovery Division. Lee Mayfield explained that the contract mechanism they have has been procured correctly through Lee County, which allows the District to use them in an emergency period and will then be determined by FEMA if they can carry on in the longer term. Rick Hill and Andre MacIntosh both briefly summarized their career backgrounds and experiences as well. Deputy Chief Barbot further explained that this firm will ensure that all of the requirements and documentation will be done properly. Commissioner Muench clarified by asking, when you say documentation this is for reimbursement? Deputy Chief Barbot answered, correct. Andre MacIntosh followed up by explaining that while in the early stages of a disaster the main focus is protecting lives and getting things back to normal, there are things that need to be accounted for and documented properly in order for accurate reimbursement, and that is where Hagerty Consulting becomes a beneficial source. Commissioner Muench asked, do you work directly with FEMA? The Hagerty Consulting members answered yes, when they show up. Commissioner Muench then clarified by saying, how I understand it is that there is a possibility the District will get reimbursed for what the firm is doing, is that correct? Deputy Chief Barbot answered, that is correct. Rick Hill followed up by touching on the FEMA Public Assistance Program and how it is their support line. Commissioner Muench said, you are coming in two weeks after we have begun, will you go over what we have already done and bring us up to speed? Lee Mayfield answered by explaining that when it comes to FEMA, it is all about the work and eligible activities and how you justify those through your documentation. Commissioner McCurry asked, what determines the end of the emergency period into the longer term period after? Andre MacIntosh answered by explaining that it has to do with the size of the disaster and guidance from FEMA; that there is no set time frame, but given the size of this disaster, within six months would most likely qualify for the agreement. Commissioner McCurry clarified by asking, is the six months for the emergency period or the full period? Andre MacIntosh responded by saying that they refer to the emergency period as the procurement period for their contract, but he is confident that they would be able to do a longer term contract with the District. Deputy Chief Barbot added that this is uncharted territory for the District, which currently does not have the administrative staff to handle this disaster. Deputy Chief Barbot asked for a motion, which would satisfy the District's needs at this meeting, and then the action would be ratified at next month's meeting. **A motion was made by Commissioner Muench to enter into an agreement with Hagerty Consulting under the emergency period. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCurry. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.** The Board Members thanked the Hagerty Consulting members.

6th Order of Business: Chief Briscoe explained that the Administrator's Report is incomplete and asked that it get skipped this meeting. Deputy Chief Barbot added that we will get caught up on financials for the next meeting and explained that the delay is due to issues with the mail and the computer server system in the aftermath of the hurricane. The Board Members understood and agreed to skip the Report.

7th Order of Business: Commissioner Muench addressed and agreed to skip the Public Information Officer Report for similar reason to the Administrator Report.

8th Order of Business: Division Chief of Training Barrett explained that before the storm the firefighters had gotten all caught up on training necessary for license renewals. Once the station is back up and running, training sessions will be resumed. It is doubtful that Dr. Abo's monthly lecture will be possible in two weeks. The last twelve days have largely been focused on search and rescue training, and every firefighter has gone above and beyond. Division Chief Barrett described the quick turn around of events: rescuing people from their homes and evacuating them off the island, to ten days later when the public was allowed back on the island, picking people up from beaches and bringing them to their homes. It is important to make it known to the community that it is the fire department that is assisting in these tremendous efforts.

9th Order of Business: Fire Marshal Williams explains that over the past couple days he has been working with a tow truck company to remove electric vehicles from under homes and out of garages, a mission that the District has taken on to prevent potential structure fires in light of recent electric vehicle-related fires around Lee County. The day before he investigated six fires at different homes, all of which burned to the ground and must be reported as an undetermined cause due to various potential factors. Fire Marshal Williams has also taken part in picking up and transporting residents and others to their homes or to the boat ramp at Mariner Point. He added that today alone they have pulled approximately twenty-seven cars out of garages. Commissioner McCurry clarified by asking, you are pulling them out and putting them in the driveway? Fire Marshal Williams answered, yes, but the problem is that they are in the garage so we have to be able to get access. He has been pulling E-bikes out as well, given a situation at a home he checked out where an E-bike caught fire and burned the whole living area. He emphasized the fact that it is lithium batteries causing these issues. When Fire Marshal Williams followed up about the homes that have been burned to the ground, Commissioner Muench commented, just so that everybody knows, there is absolutely nothing we could have done. Fire Marshal Williams said, no absolutely not and if we report it as undetermined then at least they can have their insurance handle it. He said that we are trying to help everyone that we can and residents have been grateful for it. Deputy Chief Barbot mentioned the Facebook advisory that was posted the day before regarding the electric vehicle mission and how much traction it has gained. Assistant Administrator Fulkerson has been compiling a list of addresses with all of the email requests she has received thus far.

10th Order of Business: **Resolution 2022-10-01** Deputy Chief Barbot requested that a motion be made regarding Resolution 2022-10-01, which states that under a state of emergency, the District will implement a Leave Payment Plan; all essential agency personnel who are required to work extraordinary hours are eligible to receive extraordinary pay. The District's Employee Policy 1.33 indicates that there will be times when employees are subject to "mandatory" overtime. Assistant Administrator Fulkerson read the resolution. **A motion was made by Commissioner McCurry to implement the District's emergency payroll plan under Executive Order 22-218 and amended Executive Order 22-219 to ensure that every employee will be made whole and overtime compensation will be paid accordingly. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cochrane. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

11th Order of Business: Deputy Chief Barbot gave an overview of the current situation: the District's operational team has never been greater and the line of duty personnel have been keeping us afloat. Despite being away from their families and having their own personal damage and destruction to attend to, they have been showing up for the District and the community every day. Employee family members came out who quickly proved that there was no task too big or too small for them to handle. Three firefighters from San Carlos Park and an EMS personnel volunteered their time on their days off to assist in our efforts. USAR Team Task Force One out of Miami-Dade, Task Force Six out of Pennsylvania, United States Coast Guard, Sanibel PD, and FWC, all assisted in our efforts as well, with tasks such as search and rescue, transporting equipment, transporting residents and others, and the overall recovery of Sanibel. The support from outside agencies has been incredible. Deputy Chief Barbot then did a recap of the experience on day one when he along with Captain Jackson, Division Chief Barrett, and Captiva Chief Pawul approached the Causeway at 5 AM: the roads were demolished, there was a thirty to forty foot section missing from the bridge; Division Chief Barrett was able to procure access to the island through Port Sanibel Marina, which after forming a great relationship with the owner Stan Richards, became the daily commute for first responders and other essential workers to and from the island ever since. With each obstacle or limitation that the department faced over those initial days, whether it be unsecured vessels for transport, lack of fuel, limited resources for communication and many more, the department tackled these obstacles by reaching out to contacts with access to these necessary resources or obtaining these resources through donations. By day three a radio system was established at Station 171 and all agencies on the island at that time were given radios to use as means of communication among each other. Commissioner McCurry asked, are these

the radios that the County has supplied? Chief Briscoe and Deputy Chief Barbot both replied no, and Deputy Chief Barbot explained that it was a digital frequency that was dedicated to us with five channels and was instrumental in our success. Deputy Chief Barbot said that the department has ensured that all island personnel have been fed daily. The department has been working with World Central Kitchen, who flew in meals via helicopter within the first five or six days and now send the meals over via ferry. By day two and day three, there was coordination between the department and Public Works regarding clearing streets and assessing power line danger and damage. The department handled the initial clearing of Periwinkle Way from the boat ramp to Station 171, which essentially allowed all first responders and other emergency response crews to come together in a central area and dispatch accordingly from one location. USAR handled a primary and secondary search, as well as damage assessments on all of the buildings on the island. The District and USAR together had a huge role in ensuring that Sanibel citizens are able to see their homes through the GIS system. Commissioner McCurry clarified by asking, you are driving this? You are directing this, not the city? Deputy Chief Barbot responded, that is correct and described the re-con mission that took place with a handful of crews on day three. US Fish and Wildlife and SCCF were both recognized for their incredible efforts, and SCCF for their support in providing the District use of valuable assets. After those initial days, everything was coming together and becoming a well-oiled machine. The out-of-state IMT Teams that have come in have expressed their astonishment at how much the District was able to accomplish in so little time given the level of destruction and the lack of resources. Deputy Chief Barbot then gave recognition to ServiceMaster, the company that responded immediately when contacted and sent a team down to get to work on the gutting and clean up process within Station 171. Station 171 is about fifty to sixty percent complete and Station 172 is one hundred percent gutted at this time. Insurance company VFIS has approved all of the work at Station 171 as well as all of the work to be handled at Station 172. There should be no issues with getting full approval on the rebuild of Station 172 to get it back to the way it was. The District's mission up to this point has been to ensure that we maintain the necessary resources - such as bathrooms, showers, generators - to get us through until we can get essential services such as power back up and running. The Governor's office assisted in the revival of Station 172 by supplying an electrician and a generator, and now the Army Corps of Engineers is handling Station 172. Commissioner Muench asked, how many outside fire departments showed up? Deputy Chief Barbot responded with South Walton and Bay County to name a couple. Commissioner Muench asked, how long will they be here for? Deputy Chief Barbot responded, they will be here with us for another six to seven days and we will continue to take good care of them. Commissioner Muench asked, how about shift work? Deputy Chief Barbot responded, shift work just started today, we are back on 24/7, we are keeping our A, B, and C shifts, there are no more modifications to our shifts and the reason for this is because we are getting assistance from the Strike Team for the time being. These additional resources and help are going to be crucial once power is restored, which could lead to many potential fires popping up. Island Water Association has been working hard and fast to restore the water system across the island. The District's mission moving forward is going to be focused on humanitarian efforts given the conditions and lack of resources on the island at this time. Use of the Causeway is still undetermined at this time. Operations and logistics are being tasked by the Captains and Lieutenants, acting as Deputy Chief Barbot's command post, which in turn allows him to handle all of the behind-the-scenes office work that needs to get done. LCEC has been swapping out all of the breakers at their substation; given their updates the prediction is that we will have power back at Station 171 in the next few days. The IMT Team from Colorado that came in and replaced the IMT Team from Texas has given positive feedback on the level of organization of the District, and noticed that the District has been following a proper ICS structure and communicating well with each other. The IMT Team is now more closely working with the City of Sanibel to bring in resources and facilities in preparation for the return of the public to the island. A goal in the works is to get approval from the State to have a saw team come in to assist with public safety, by clearing all of the bypasses throughout the island. Commissioner McCurry commented, I was out there last week and saw everyone working so hard. I was talking to Chief Briscoe about it and said how organized everything looked like a well-oiled machine, and Chief Briscoe said that it is because of Deputy Chief Barbot and the team, they are the ones who have handled everything. Commissioner McCurry thanked Chief Briscoe for his efforts as well, and

thanked him for staying on to help out. Commissioner McCurry then thanked Deputy Chief Barbot and team for all of their efforts and hard work, especially given the sacrifices they have had to make in their personal lives in order to make other lives better. Commissioner Muench then mentioned that given the workload, it is not possible for Deputy Chief Barbot to handle everything on his own, and he has to come up with a solution for an assistant to Chief. Commissioner Muench added that although times are tough, that is a priority right now. Commissioner Muench requested that some suggestions be made next meeting.

12th Order of Business: Chief Briscoe said that burn sites were in the works, as many as possible. The plan is to bring in portable incinerators, which will burn not only yard waste, but potentially construction waste as well. The reasoning behind this is because one dump truck full of ash is like fifty dump trucks full of debris, so this will reduce the need for more assets. Each individual site is going to have to have a letter sent to the Department of Environmental Protection stating what will be allowed to be burned at each. Permission will have to be granted by the City of Sanibel, Ding Darling, SCCF, and the Feds. The location of these sites are meant to be easily accessible, but out of the way.

13th Order of Business: Chief Briscoe went over years of service. Joe Nygaard started October 1, 2001, for 21 years of service. Craig Shelby started October 2, 2017, for 5 years of service. John Reitenbach started October 27, 2003, for 19 years of service. Adam Felix started October 28, 2019, for 3 years of service.

14th Order of Business: Chief Briscoe thanked the Board Members for allowing him to serve on Sanibel and said that Deputy Chief Barbot will do an awesome job. Commissioner Cochrane thanked Chief Briscoe again for staying on given the circumstances. Commissioner Muench also thanked employee wives and family members, saying that their help has been greatly appreciated.

15th Order of Business: Commissioner Items. Commissioner Cochrane said, I spent last Thursday out on the island with all of you. Everyone did an amazing job, and I was thoroughly impressed.

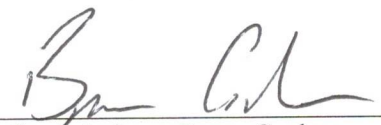
16th Order of Business: Union Items to discuss. No items from the union.

14th Order of Business: Public Input to discuss. No items from the public.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.



Commissioner Jerry Muench



Commissioner Bruce Cochrane



Commissioner Richard McCurry