



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 13, 2007**

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 13, 2007 REGULAR BOARD MEETING
(Audio recording is unavailable due to tape recorder malfunction)

Commissioner Schweers opened the meeting at 6:07 p.m.
Silent Prayer
Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Morris, Commissioner Sassano, Commissioner Schweers, Commissioner Levy and Commissioner Akins were present.

NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION

Lieutenant Reisen introduced Firefighter Eliel Blanco and Firefighter Shaun Hagan. Lt. Reisen briefly explained the new four (4) week firefighter orientation.

PROMOTION INTRODUCTION

Deputy Chief Vanderbrook introduced Division Chief of EMS Todd Coulter who was promoted to this position from lieutenant.

STAFF PRESENTATION

Human Resource Coordinator Linda Conway provided a breakdown of the various responsibilities of her position.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment.

ITEMS TO BE PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

No items were pulled for discussion.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Sassano made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1-4 as presented. Commissioner Morris seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. **APPROVE OFFER 1 – A 7 MONTH AGREEMENT WITH SELF INSURED PLANS (SIP).** Chief Lindsey provided a brief explanation and provided information as to the 7 month agreement which corresponds with the budget year. Commissioner Levy asked for clarification on the \$100,000 amendment that was received. HR Coordinator Ms. Conway provided an explanation. Commissioner Levy asked that we look into other plans for guidance, i.e., Lee County School System or another fire district such as Miami. *Commissioner Sassano made a motion to approve Administrative Agenda Item 1 as presented. Commissioner Akins seconded, a vote was taken,*

Commissioner Akins, Commissioner Sassano, Commissioner Schweers and Commissioner Morris were in favor. Commissioner Levy opposed. Motion carried by a vote of 4-1.

2. **APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #004 FOR THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING DESIGN FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$19,965.** Chief Lindsey provided a brief explanation and background information for the change order. *Commissioner Levy made a motion to approve Administrative Agenda Item 2 as presented. Commissioner Sassano seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*
3. **AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE TO REPLACE STAFF VEHICLES AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$116,500.00.** Deputy Chief Vanderbrook provided an explanation on the preventative maintenance and replacement program and noted that with the new program better data for the next 3-6 months will allow for better budgeting for vehicle maintenance and replacement. *Commissioner Levy made a motion to approve Administrative Agenda Item #3 as presented. Commissioner Sassano seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*
4. **APPROVE THE WORKERS COMPENSATION AUDIT ADJUSTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$63,230 FOR FY 2005-2006 PREMIUM PERIOD.** Chief Lindsey provided a brief explanation. *Commissioner Sassano made a motion to approve Administrative Agenda Item #4 as presented. Commissioner Levy seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*
5. **APPROVE THE BUDGET TRANSFER FROM UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$52,500 TO FUND THE FINANCIAL PLANNER CONTRACT WITH MUNIFINANCIAL APPROVED IN OCTOBER 2006.** Chief Lindsey provided a brief explanation. *Commissioner Akins made a motion to approve Administrative Agenda Item #5 as presented. Commissioner Morris seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*

WALK-ON ITEMS

1. **AUTHORIZE THE 2006/07 SOUTHWEST FLORIDA URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (FL TF-6) MEMBERSHIP FEES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,900.00.** Chief Lindsey provided a brief explanation as to the annual membership fee for USAR. *Commissioner Sassano made a motion to approve Walk On Item #1 as presented. Commissioner Levy seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS

- ✓ Commissioner Levy would like the Board to begin the performance evaluation process for Chief Lindsey; not wait until October. Chief Lindsey and General Counsel will review the employment contract as the time for the evaluation may be specified in the contract, believed to be July. Consensus among the commissioners for Human Resources to create a format for the performance evaluation of the Fire Chief.
- ✓ Commissioner Sassano inquired as to the cleaning of the coins from the fountain at Miromar Lakes. Chief Lindsey stated that this task has been completed by the Explorers.
- ✓ Commissioner Sassano thanked all for their participation and challenged her fellow commissioners to participate as a team in the chili cook-off at Celebrate Estero in 2008. Commissioner Akins acknowledged Public Relations Manager Susan Lindenmuth for her efforts in putting together the chili cook-off and organizing teams.
- ✓ Commissioner Schweers provided the history of the traffic signal concern at station 2 in which he has been working on since December 2005. Commissioner Schweers stated that safety is what it comes down to; safety of employees and the public. Commissioner Schweers also stated that the developer

Oakbrook Properties has the ultimate responsibility to purchase the traffic signal the DRI specifies such as at Station 2 and Fountain Lakes entrance. Commissioner Schweers stated that a flashing emergency light is approximately \$300,000 and could take up to ten (10) months to install. Commissioner Schweers has been working with FDOT and LDOT regarding this issue. Commissioner Schweers presented an option to the board of advancing a portion of the monies to the developer whereas EFR would be reimbursed upon the completion or build out of Coconut Point. This would involve contracts with the developer for the monies advanced by EFR and a contract with the county to install the emergency signal. Since this is not a budgeted item, the other option would be to wait until the next budget year to allow for proper budgeting of the advancing of funds. Commissioner Levy agrees regarding the safety concerns and the need for a light but noted the poor planning on the part of the county regarding the growth and traffic flow in the area. Commissioner Levy addressed a traffic signal at the County Road Station (Station 1) and Commissioner Schweers noted that he had also been inquiring about this issue. Commissioner Schweers stated that if an emergency signal is installed at the County Road Station, it probably would not have to be hurricane strength as it would be replaced within 1-5 years when the road is widened. Commissioner Levy also stated that it was his understanding that the road widening of US41 will be in 2011 and there is nothing mentioned about a light or the EFR problem/need for a traffic signal. Commissioner Sassano noted that all agree with the safety issues involved and acknowledged Commissioner Schweers for his efforts. Commissioner Sassano also expressed her disappointment with the developer and the county, but feels that the light is necessary and supports and agrees with Commissioner Schweers in proceeding with the emergency signal. Commissioner Morris inquired as to possible conflict of interest since at least one board member lives in the area. General Counsel Charles Schoech stated that from a legal standpoint, an emergency flashing signal is of no benefit to the community, or the commissioner and therefore, not a conflict of interest. After much discussion, Commissioner Akins asked that this topic, or vote be deferred to the March agenda, allowing the communities to be notified of what EFR is trying to do. Commissioner Akins would like Commissioner Schweers to speak at the ECCL meeting on Friday, February 16. Commissioner Schweers has a previous engagement that afternoon, but would be able to speak if it was possible for him to do so at the beginning of the meeting.

- ✓ Commissioner Akins asked Commissioner Sassano if she would be willing to prepare a report for the March board meeting regarding their attendance at the fire commissioners meeting. Commissioner Sassano agreed to do so.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Groundbreaking ceremony for the Admin Building – would need to put on the calendar in March. Chief Lindsey will send available dates to the commissioners to coordinate.
- Pilot program for seniors at Sunny Grove – a risk watch program for seniors. Approximately 40-50 seniors participating, once a month.
- New construction in Estero – approximately 10-15 new building plans have come in to Plans Examiner Jerry Van Gelder.
- Open House – Wednesday, February 21 at Station 1 (County Road Station) from 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- Open House – Wednesday, April 18 at Station 3 (Three Oaks Station) from 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- Tanker and EFR clowns in the Edison Festival of Lights Parade this Saturday, February 17
- Provided the commissioners with a list of contracts that we currently piggyback; contract numbers for piggyback items are now required on all purchase orders
- Provided the commissioners with SOG 103 Roster and the organizational chart. Explained the chain of command and asked the commissioners for their cooperation in following the chain of command.

Commissioner Levy made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Sassano seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle M. Sassano, Secretary