



**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
October 10, 2006**

**MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 11, 2006 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Commissioners Schweers convened the regular board meeting at 7:22 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Akins, Commissioner Schweers, Commissioner Sassano and Commissioner Morris were present. Commissioner Levy was not available for the meeting.

**STAFF PRESENTATION**

Plans Examiner Jerry Van Gelder provided information to the board regarding his duties and responsibilities, which include receipt and review of all drawings that have been forwarded to Estero, development orders, any type of fire suppression and fire alarm drawings; meets with contractors to discuss problems and visits construction sites; occasionally assists Fire Inspectors with inspections. Mr. Van Gelder is also the leading CERT instructor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No public comments were made.

**ITEMS TO BE PULLED FOR DISCUSSION**

No items to be pulled.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*Commissioner Sassano made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items 1, 2, 3 and 4 as presented. Commissioner Morris seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*

**ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA**

1. **APPROVE THE UPDATED CONTRACT WITH TKW CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC. FOR \$25,500.00.** Deputy Chief Dwyer provided a brief explanation regarding the civil engineering contract. TKW Civil Engineer Manager, Dan Johnson, provided an overview of the contract and answered the questions of the board. *Commissioner Sassano made a motion to approve Administrative Agenda Item 1. Commissioner Akins seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*

Commissioner Schweers recessed the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Commissioner Schweers reconvened the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

2. **APPROVE CONCEPTUAL CONSTRUCTION BUDGETS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING OF \$5,663,629 AND BATTALION CHIEF QUARTERS OF \$444,232 AND AUTHORIZE THE FIRE CHIEF TO RESEARCH FUNDING OPTIONS FOR BOARD PRESENTATION.** Deputy Chief Dwyer provided a brief explanation and history to bring the

board up to the current status on the construction of the administration building. Chief Lindsey noted that staff is providing the projected cost and needs direction from the board on how to proceed and whether staff can move forward to start looking at funding options to bring back to the board. Chief Lindsey also noted that staff is not asking the board to spend these amounts tonight; these are conceptual amounts not reality, but staff is asking for approval that we are moving in the right direction and permission to proceed. *Commissioner Schweers noted that the \$6.4 is a base figure, with \$2.2 in the loan account, the board and staff needs to explore how to come up with \$4-5 million dollars.* Chief Lindsey added the need to begin looking at the purchasing of land out east for an additional fire station. *Commissioner Schweers commented on the importance of the administration building as well as for Station 5 out east. Commissioner Schweers stated that he doesn't like the idea of borrowing more money, but doesn't see how else it can be done.* Deputy Chief Dwyer stated that staff is not only looking for dollar amount guidance and for future property guidance, but we also have the fact that we are to the point with the civil engineer and to a point with the construction project, that we can't move forward without direction from the board. *Commissioner Schweers stated that we need to move forward on this and have staff go out and find funding or whatever we need and report back to the board. Commissioner Sassano asked for status on previous easement issues, lot splits and rejoins, and zoning issues.* Chief Lindsey stated that these stumbling blocks/delays have been resolved. *Commissioner Akins asked if the board could provide direction on moving forward without numbers that are so indefinite at this point in time. Commissioner Akins stated that she doesn't have a problem with staff moving forward but hates to put in here that we approve a conceptual budget of \$5 million dollars. After further discussion, the board agrees that there is a need for the administration building. Commissioner Akins stated that she doesn't have a problem with looking for the land, moving forward with the building, particularly getting started as soon as possible on the addition to Station 3 for the Battalion Chief quarters. Commissioner Akins stated that her problem is with approving some numbers that are not even close to what we are going to spend on this.* Chief Lindsey noted that we are not asking to approve a budget, it's a conceptual budget, meaning this is what the guesstimate is going to be, around these numbers with the other things added in. *Commissioner Akins made a motion that the board directs the fire chief to pursue land purchase in the east part of the district for Station 5, that we move forward with plans for the administrative building and plans for the Battalion Chief quarters. Commissioner Schweers asked for second. Commissioner Sassano noted that she understands that these are conceptual figures and has no problem, but by rewording and omitting the figures, does that put restraints on the chief. Commissioner Morris commented that the wording here and the budget numbers have nothing to do with the end result.* Attorney Schoech noted that he doesn't believe it is necessary to put a number in at this point. *Commissioner Sassano seconded, all were in favor, motion carried. No action on administrative item 2 as presented.*

- 3. APPROVE ADDITIONAL AUDIT FEES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,500 FOR THE FY 2005 AUDIT. THIS AMOUNT IS FOR DISCLOSURES UNANTICIPATED BY THE AUDITOR.** *Commissioner Akins provided information regarding her meeting with the auditor to discuss the amount for disclosures unanticipated by the auditor. Commissioner Akins made a motion to approve Administrative Agenda Item 3. Commissioner Sassano seconded, all were in favor, motion carried.*

#### **WALK-ON ITEMS**

No walk-on items.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

#### **COMMISSIONER ITEMS**

*Commissioner Sassano publicly thanked Battalion Chief Vanderbrook for his interview with a student of Pinewoods Elementary which set the tone for the day, 9/11.*

*Commissioner Akins commented that the budget process needs to be reviewed to allow more time.*

*Commissioner Schweers, due to his absence from October meeting, encouraged the board to approve compensation for board members. Commissioner Morris noted that he would not accept monies from the district. The board asked for clarification from the attorney as to whether or not the commissioners have to take the monies if the stipend is approved. Attorney Schoech will look into the options as to a commissioner refusing the monies and donating back to the district. Commissioner Sassano made a motion to accept a stipend for commissioners at \$500 per month. Commissioner Akins, seconded, motion carried by a vote of 3-1. Commissioner Morris opposed.*

#### **FIRE CHIEF REPORT**

- USAR response in Lee County at the high rise incident at Jasmine Bay, including members of EFR
- Noted the initiative being taken by the firefighters regarding station maintenance, such as painting of bay doors at Station 3.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

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*GAYLE M. SASSANO, Secretary*