

MINUTES
EAST NAPLES BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
February 19, 2008

A. MEETING OPENED

Commissioner Cannon called the meeting to order at 4:34 P. M. Present were Commissioner Cannon, Commissioner Gibbons, Commissioner Davis, Commissioner Miller, and Commissioner Boyer. Also present were Chief Schank, Operations Chief Bogert, Deputy Chief Biondo, Deputy Chief Teague, Deputy Chief Dyer, Captain Burkhardt, Captain Schultz, Captain Hunt, Captain Leal, Lt. Watson, D/E Danskine, FF Klingensmith, FF Nelmes, FF McGee, FF Palermo, CRO Speers, Mechanic Popiol, Fire Code Officials Riley and Salvaggio, Collier Citizen Staff Writer Hawkins, and E/A Friday.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Cannon opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Additions or Deletions to Agenda

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Commissioner Gibbons and passed unanimously.

C. Approval of Minutes of January 8, 2008 Meeting

Commissioner Boyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Treasurer s Report

1. ENFD s Report

Doug said the treasurer s report is as submitted. Commissioner Boyer questioned the overtime and Doug said this is a little higher than normal due to the Holidays and people calling in sick. We are also running two people short on A Shift. Deputy Chief Bogert said there currently is a two week Paramedic Academy that cost us six or eight overtimes in the last

week. Deputy Chief Teague said this schooling is presently being negotiated for the future.

2. FCO s Report

Doug said this report is also as submitted.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve both financial reports, subject to audit. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

E. Awards and Recognition

Chief Schank presented a Five Year Plaque to Tony Palermo. He also advised he had a Five Year Plaque for Veronica Lucier who was unable to be present.

Captain Schultz said she would like to take the opportunity to formerly recognize the achievements of Firefighter Kevin Nelmes, Firefighter Margo Klingensmith, and Captain Mike Leal who represent a group of eleven. They represent about 312 hours of EKG study, 1,040 hours of paramedic orientation which includes the Paramedic Academy, skills screening, equipment screening, review of the protocol, intensive simulation lab training, etc. They also represent over 624 hours of self study, 650 patient care reports that we have done through EMS 2000, and over 130 formal field evaluations that both Lt. Watson and Capt. Schultz have done in the field. These three represent a group of eleven. They were presented with a Certificate of Achievement from the Collier County Office of the Medical Director in conjunction with the East Naples Fire Rescue Department wherein they were recognized as Certified Engine Paramedics. FF Nelmes thanked Chief Teague, Capt. Schultz, and Lt. Watson for their efforts as without them this would not be possible.

F. Reports

1. Fire Administration

a. Personnel

Chief Schank reported that Brian Anderman, Ray Kilmer, and John Obst are still on light

duty. Jeff Inabnitt was released to full duty on February 14, 2008.

b. Other

The Steering Committee Meeting will be on February 28th, 6 P.M., at the EMS Station on Horseshoe Drive, Conference Room B.

The Naples Daily News groundbreaking will be on February 28th at 2 P.M. at Creekside Blvd. which is between US 41 and Goodlette Road. We have all been invited.

c. Public Comment

No comments were presented.

2. Administration: Assistant Chief

a. Fire Code Official s Office (with fuel report)

Fire Code Official, Ed Riley, said his report is as submitted. Commissioner Cannon said the plans have gone way down in January and Ed said it is not so much that the plans have gone down but they had a lot of vacation time and they are still training the Building Dept. the 61G s.

b. GRIT

Mary said that today we received a copy of a new agreement wherein GRIT is turning over the handling of our claims to Zenith. The agreement has to be signed and returned to Zenith prior to March 25, 2008 or they will not honor our claims.

Commissioner Davis made a motion we accept the agreement from GRIT and Commissioner Boyer seconded the motion. Commissioner Gibbons abstained from the motion as he is involved in the agreement with GRIT. The motion passed four to one.

3. Fire Prevention: Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief Biondo said his report is as submitted. He said he and Chairman Cannon met with Bob Middleton from the City Water Department about some of our concerns of low water pressures in our area. Commissioner Cannon said it is the City's attitude that they just don't care.

Chief Biondo said all the plaques and thank you letters regarding the toy drive have been sent out.

Chief Biondo asked the Board if they would entertain an Executive Session following this meeting regarding the contract as we need clarification on a few things. The Board agreed to the session.

Commissioner Boyer questioned Chief Biondo as to whether the Fire Marshals Meeting went okay and Chief Biondo said it went fine.

4. Support Services Report: Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief Dyer said his report is as submitted. Chief Dyer, in response to the Board's request at the last meeting regarding recycling, advised the cost for Station 20, Station 21, Station 22, Station 23, and the shop would be \$235.00 a month. This would give the shop a cardboard dumpster and the other stations two ninety-six gallon totes. This was not budgeted for and the overall cost would be about \$1,400.00/\$1,500.00. Commissioner Boyer said, the way he understands it, we do not have a choice.

Commissioner Cannon made a motion that we allocate the necessary expenses to start up the recycling program. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chief Dyer said the Ops Chiefs and the Fire Chiefs Association have been talking about the consolidation plan and he would like this discussed sometime this evening to get direction from the Board on which way to go with this. Chairman Cannon said to discuss it now.

Chief Dyer said we met on Friday at Station 45. He said the Operations Chiefs had previously met and they have put together a straw man type of organizational structure and they asked the other staff sections, Fire Prevention Bureau, Support Services, Administrative, and Finance to come together and look at what they estimate a 650 person fire department would need in each of those particular sections. They published a report and are going to give this report to Commissioner Cannon to take before the Collier County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Cannon said on Tuesday the County Commissioners will get the same presentation that they gave the Steering Committee. Doug said this is taking a lot of time from our staff members and asked the Board how much energy we need to invest in this undertaking. Commissioner Cannon said he thought the Board took a stance when they signed that they wanted full participation. Commissioner Boyer said he feels the Board has been left in the dark. He said except for that little bit of a report that we had last month, he reads more in the newspaper. Commissioner Cannon said that was one of the fights that the Steering Committee had, that the newspaper had the report and nobody else did. Commissioner Boyer said he feels it is taking too much of our people's time and Chief Teague agreed with him.

Commissioner Cannon said for the first time in twenty some years the departments control their own destiny. He said consolidation will happen, and it will happen within the next five years. He said it is either the fire service takes it by the horns and runs with it or the County Commissioners are going to take it by the horns and do it the way they want. He said we need to do it the way we want.

Chief Teague asked if it was the point of these committees and sub-committees to develop a consolidation plan and Commissioner Cannon said he thinks it is to study the feasibility of a countywide fire department. The County will not allow EMS or their two dependent departments to participate in this study saying once we consolidate they will talk about EMS. Commissioner Cannon said he doesn't know if the fire service wants EMS but the County's two dependent

departments, who this is greatly going to affect, should participate in this plan. Commissioner Cannon said he feels this will be on the ballot in November.

Chief Teague asked if they are to participate and Commissioner Cannon said he is only one of five Commissioners. Commissioner Davis said she feels we should participate and Commissioner Gibbons agreed. Commissioner Boyer felt we should limit participation or hire somebody to help fill in. He said we need to participate but we also have to get our own work done.

Chief Dyer said one piece is what it should really look like when we are done with consolidation and the other piece, the transition, is going to be a long transition, five to ten years. In reference to this, he said included in the transition is taking the policies from each department, put them all together, bring them back to the Board month after month and negotiate what the new policies are going to look like, let alone the rules and regulations, contracts, the SOG s, etc. Commissioner Cannon said he wants consolidation into one department statewide, The State of Florida Fire Department.

The Board said to have full participation and to come before the Board at every monthly meeting.

a. Shop

As submitted.

b. Fuel Reports (Shop)

As submitted.

5. Training Report: Deputy Chief

Chief Dyer said he had an opportunity to review the Training Report to make sure we didn't have any issues tonight, so if there are any issues it is his fault. Chief Teague said his report is as submitted. He said they delivered the Courage to Be Safe Program six times over the last several weeks. The Chief Officers were scheduled to go through the program tomorrow and Commissioner Cannon said this was pretty short

notice. Chief Teague said the program runs from at least 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M with an hour for lunch. Commissioner Cannon said he will be available to see the program anytime after May first, no time before. Commissioner Cannon instructed Chief Teague to get with each Commissioner and see what fits in with their schedule. Commissioner Cannon said it will have to be advertised if all the Commissioners get together.

Chief Teague said we have a Best Engine Company winner and will be getting together with the Commissioners to set a date for that presentation.

6. Fire Operations: Deputy Chief

Commissioner Gibbons question the 154 cancellations while in route and who cancelled them. Deputy Chief Bogert said that was mostly from EMS getting on scene, doing a patient assessment, and advising our engines to cancel.

Chief Bogert said his report is as submitted. He advised we interviewed six candidates and narrowed the candidates down to four. He said he needs direction as to if we are going to be able to hire to bring the shifts up to par or if he is to move personnel. These are replacements, two firefighters and one inspector.

Commissioner Cannon said we are going to lose \$475,000.00 with the Homestead, we are going to lose some money on the \$2,500.00 exemption for tangible tax, but what we don't know is how much we are going to lose with the devaluation of the tax. He said we could lose up to \$2 million next year. He said his opinion is, why would we want to hire someone just to lay them off in October. He said hopefully by May we will have something from Abe Skinner's Office on what he is going to do. Chief Teague asked if there was a cap by which a person's home can be depreciated and Commissioner Cannon advised Abe Skinner has to do it by market value. He is not depreciating the home, he is going by the assessed value which has gone down greater than 10%, if we only see a 10% cut we are lucky.

Commissioner Boyer said he can't see how we can not put somebody on, he feels we need to go ahead and put them on. Commissioner Cannon said if we save that salary now it may work out that we won't have to lay someone else off who is already working.

Commissioner Davis said why don't we wait until May and see what Abe Skinner does to us then we will know from there how much we will lose. She said maybe we can hire a couple in May and know we can keep them.

Commissioner Boyer questioned our paying overtime and Commissioner Cannon said paying overtime is nothing compared to paying another salary. Commissioner Cannon said included in that overtime is Prevention overtime that probably had twenty-five hours in the last two pay periods and we receive reimbursement for that overtime but we are not accounting for it as it gets commingled in with the inspection fees. Doug said he is working on this and has gone through all of the accounting codes to eliminate duplicates that have been around for awhile and develop some new codes so we can better account for what money comes in and where it goes to.

Commissioner Boyer feels we should have one person doing evening inspections in establishments and would like to see if there is an inspector who would be interested in starting in late afternoon and getting done at ten o'clock or something like that.

Deputy Chief Bogert said Engine 23 is in full service. Mike Leal has completed the last of the training on Engine 23, the new truck.

Chief Bogert said he doesn't have the Mutual Aid given and received ready for this report. He said he has to get with Dale on this as it is an IT thing and Dale has been off the whole week but he is working towards it.

Commissioner Cannon returned to the personnel issue as there is one for hiring and one against. Commissioner Davis had also expressed her interest in waiting until May.

Chief Biondo said he is in dire need of another inspector. Capt. Burkhardt said we have a lot of new buildings coming up. Commissioner Cannon said the impact fees are down. Nick said he doesn't see the slow down and his two existing guys can't keep up with what is going on right now.

Commissioner Cannon asked the other Board member's opinion on hiring and Commissioner Gibbons said he goes along with what Angie said, to wait until May to find out how much money we are going to be losing before we hire anybody. If we don't lose that much we probably can hire somebody. Commissioner Miller said she feels we should wait.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. On-Going

No topics were raised.

B. Fire Review Task Force Commissioner Davis

Commissioner Davis said she has been unable to attend due to personal health matters.

Chief Biondo said they have three more meetings scheduled. Some of the issues are water supply, alarm system and monitoring, permitting inspection process, Florida Administrative Code 61G process, fire sprinklers, Building and Fire Official areas of government code review, design professionals interfaced with Fire Code Official's Office, general and sub-contractors interfaced with Fire Code Official's Office, fire districts, and Collier County local amendments to the Florida Fire Prevention Code. He said they are at the stage of what they are going to recommend to the Board. The next meeting will be on the 29th.

C. FCO New Building

Fire Code Official Ed Riley said this morning he had a conference call with our attorney, their attorney, and Clarence Tears and Clarence doesn't seem to have a grasp on the process but his attorney straightened him out. Within two weeks we should have some information and within a

month we should know whether they are going to go forward or not.

D. 175 Retirement Chief Potteiger

Deputy Chief Biondo said Pott asked him to advise the Board that he is still waiting for Mr. Sugarman to give him a date for the meeting.

E. East 41 Property Commissioner Boyer

Commissioner Boyer said he is within budget with the Environmental Engineer being the most expensive and this work is being done now. The estimate of the panther and water habitat study is set at between \$15,000.00 and \$19,000.00. He said he is not happy with the low percentage of usable land as we end up buying 3.65 acres and would only be able to use 1.1 acres. He told them we are interested in using more from 2.4 to 2.6 acres. He said the engineer believes there is almost sufficient fill coming out of the water retention area so we won't have to buy any fill except for the certified lime rock that we will need.

Commissioner Cannon said his question is do we want to go ahead during this due diligence period and purchase this property if we can only get 1.1 acres of usable land.

Deputy Chief Dyer said there is a piece of property on this side of the Krehling Plant, which is west of Lake Park. Doug said Prudential is the owner and realtor, his name is Joe Townsend. Doug said there are approximately 250 feet of frontage on 41 and is about 1,600 feet deep and consists of nine acres. Mr. Townsend said he has a recorded right-of-way for a bridge over a swale, the land is cleared, and an environmental study was done last year but Mr. Townsend does not want to send us the study. Commissioner Boyer said it would cost almost a million dollars for a bridge and we wouldn't be faced with building a bridge on the other property. He said if we paid \$40,000.00 to \$45,000.00 we could go back to our original 2.5 acres of usage.

Ed Riley said we will not get it for that as every acre would cost \$61,000.00 for panther mitigation plus you have panther habitat at \$2,000.00 per unit. He said you get 24 units with one acre of mitigation. He said if we go to 2.5 acres we would have to pay at least \$90,000.00 to mitigate.

Commissioner Cannon said he feels we need at least two acres and Commissioner Davis agreed with him. Placing fuel storage tanks on this property was discussed.

F. Criteria for Chief's Position Commissioner Cannon

Commissioner Cannon said he had written things down that he thought were important, such as Bachelor's Degree or working towards that degree or EFO Certificate from the National Fire Academy to meet the educational requirements, minimum of 10 years in the fire service and 5 years in administration, strong knowledge in budget and finance, skilled in labor relations, strong managerial experience regarding Prevention, ALS non-transport, training in suppression, and must be able to work and communicate with the Board of Fire Commissioners. Commissioner Cannon said, in reference to the standards or requirements, it is whatever the five Board Members see fit.

Commissioner Davis said she feels strongly that we should look at our present employees that have been dedicated for twenty some years, go from inside first, and exhaust all our options before we even think of going outside this department to get a chief. Commissioners Gibbons and Miller said they support that as well. Commissioner Boyer said he would like to see us keep our minds open and look to the State of Florida for the very best person for that position. Commissioner Cannon said he is a strong supporter of going in-house whenever possible. He asked if the Board ever formally voted on where to advertise it and the Board said no, they never voted. Deputy Chief Dyer said if we advertise we should include that they have to have been a resident for the past year and be a Florida State Certified Firefighter.

Commissioner Cannon said he will put everyone's input in writing, get it approved by the Board at the next meeting, and go forward.

Per Chief Potteiger's request Mary advised the Board that the sound system is installed and the reason we are not using it tonight is due to the fact the company has not had time to train staff on using it.

G. Disposition of FCO Vehicles Chief Potteiger

FCO Riley said they have two vehicles , a Ranger pick-up and a Taurus, they would like declared surplus and disposed of. They are both high mileage vehicles that they are not using. Ed said they would like to allow bids on these vehicles from the Districts to purchase these vehicles. This is a state allowed option.

Commissioner Cannon said he would be in favor of this. Mary said she had spoken with Pott and he said they would be going out for government bid. ENFD is currently using those two vehicles and Pott requested the Board s approval to bid on both vehicles with each bid not to exceed \$500.00.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to declare the two vehicles from the Code Official s Office surplus. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to authorize ENFD to bid on both vehicles that we are using with a bid of up to \$500.00 apiece unless we can get them for less. Commissioner Gibbons seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

H. Board of Fire Commissioners
(Topics initiated by the Board)

No topics were raised.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Local Amendments to State Fire Code Ed Riley

Fire Code Official Ed Riley advised he had sent a letter to each of the districts requesting this amendment be brought before their Boards to approve advertising on ly, at this time, for a public hearing to discuss Local Amendments to the State Fire Code. Ed said the proposal is to readopt, at each fire district level, the current local amendments as adopted by Collier County. Ed said the reason for doing this is based on the Fire Task Review Committee and other things that have happened throughout the county in the last year. The current ordinance that is in place is under total control by

the county and they can at any time decide to eliminate the ordinance and we would lose our local amendments.

Ed said we would have to advertise in a paper of general circulation at least ten days in advance of the meeting, have the public hearing to go over the document, and possibly at the next Board Meeting adopt the fees and local amendments. It does not supersede the county in any way at this point in time. It does, however, protect us if the county decides to change their ordinance in any way. If they do change it, it would only impact the two dependent districts not the independent districts that would adopt it independently. We have the legal right to adopt our own local amendments.

Commissioner Boyer made a motion that we approve this document from the Fire Code Office and Commissioner Cannon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Tax Reform

This topic was previously addressed.

C. Board of Fire Commissioners
(Topics initiated by the Board)

No topics were raised.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gibbons made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.

Thomas G. Cannon

Karen M. Miller

Richard Gibbons

Robert A. Boyer

Angela S. Davis