

DESTIN FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
Regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners
Main Station
848 Airport Road
Destin, Florida 32541

October 14, 2014

Minutes

Commissioners present: Tommy Green, Rick Moore, Mike Buckingham, Jack Wilson

Absent: Hillary Anderson

Staff present: Chief Kevin Sasser, Division Chiefs Ron Gerdeman and Joe D'Agostino

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Tommy Green.

Public Comments:

Patty DeFrenza, 4648 Sunsail Circle, Destin, asked if the Board could implement new mandatory hiring standards to ascertain that new hires are minimum Florida Firefighter II and paramedics. She also asked that 20-year shift personnel pass a physical. She questioned the expense of legal services and inquired concerning the liability of the pending federal and civil lawsuits. She stated that the District's website needs updating. She questioned training for the new hires and desires more information regarding the District's mutual aid agreements. She stated that TDC funds can be sought for special events.

Chief Sasser stated that the District follows the state mandate when hiring firefighters. It is not required to be an EMT or paramedic to be hired as a firefighter. The minimum medical requirement is First Responder.

He advised the Board that it would be in the District's best interest not to comment on the pending lawsuits.

The website has not been updated as the office staff has been reduced.

Discussion regarding TDC funds for special events occurred.

Review of the minutes:

Minutes from the September meeting was not available and review was tabled for the November meeting.

Review of the financial report:

The financial report from month ended September 30, 2014, was not available and review was tabled for the November meeting.

Old Business:

There was no old business to be discussed.

Chief Reports:

1. Beach Safety update

Joe D'Agostino stated that many people are still visiting the area. The beach patrol for the season will end on October 26. He also stated that this season will be a record year for beach patrons. He presented the season statistics for the harbor/pass patrol and the beach patrol.

2. Training report

Chief Sasser stated that each shift received 29 hours of training in September. This included tactics and strategies, EMS protocol medical training and Target Safety. He also stated that pre-fire plan training will resume in October.

Chief Sasser stated that he and Commissioner Wilson met with the Public Safety Director regarding the District responding to medical calls. Chief Sasser provided a letter he sent to the EMS Communications Chief. The letter stated that the District will not respond to Alpha calls unless requested by Okaloosa County EMS; Destin Healthcare at 195 Mattie Kelly Boulevard or any healthcare facility where a registered nurse is on duty unless requested by Okaloosa County EMS or the healthcare facility; or animals locked in vehicles.

3. Inspection report

Ron Gerdeman stated that October is Fire Prevention Month. More than 800 children from Destin Elementary's first grade and 35 adults participated in a field trip to Station 9. The District's personnel will visit area day cares to present its program on fire prevention and safety.

Rick Moore asked if the District continued to provide smoke detectors to Destin residents. Ron Gerdeman stated that some were available.

4. Paramedic report

Chief Sasser stated that the paramedic report for September will be available at the November meeting.

5. Overtime report

Chief Sasser stated that the overtime report for September will be available at the November meeting.

New Business:

1. City of Destin Beach Safety Interlocal Agreement

Mike Buckingham made a motion to allow Chief Sasser to sign the agreement. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. COLA

Tommy Green stated that due to Commissioner Anderson being absent, he asked to table discussion of the cost of living adjustment until the November meeting. The Board agreed.

Next Meeting:

Chief Sasser stated that due to Veterans' Day being November 11, the second Tuesday of the month, the next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, November 12. This date has been advertised.

Chief Sasser reminded the Board of the candidate forum on October 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall annex.

Adjournment:

With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.