

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

November 12, 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. The floor was opened for public comments.

**Public Comments:**

Patty Defrenza, 4648 Sunsail Circle, Destin, stated her concern regarding the department vehicles being taken to lunch and for running errands. She stated that the vehicles should be used for department business and to save on depreciation. She asked that the website be updated for meeting dates and cancellations and stated that the task could be delegated to the Battalion Chiefs. She noted that during the candidate forum, one of the questions asked was whether the elected person would take the monthly stipend and that Bob Wagner stated he would decline the compensation if elected. She asked that it be recorded in the meeting's minutes of his refusal of the stipend as voters could have been persuaded by his answer.

Tommy Green stated that Bob Wagner could not act upon his decision until he is sworn into office, which is 21 days after the election. A stipend waiver will be offered to him to sign.

Patty Defrenza asked what happens to the unpaid budgeted stipend funds. Tommy Green stated that the monies stay in the general funds, but could be moved if the Board decides it is needed elsewhere. Jack Wilson stated that the commissioner expense is reduced.

**Review of minutes:**

Minutes for the regular meeting of September 9, 2014, public hearings of September 9 and 18, 2014, and regular meeting of October 14, 2014, were presented. Rick Moore made a motion to approve all minutes. Mike Buckingham seconded. Jack Wilson stated that he was absent at the September 9 meetings and asked for the motion to be revised. Rick Moore changed the motion to approve the regular meeting and public hearing of September 9. Mike Buckingham seconded. The motion passed 3-1, with Jack Wilson abstaining. Rick Moore made a motion to approve the September 18 public hearing and the October 14 regular meeting minutes. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Review of Financial Reports:**

The financial reports for months ended September 30 and October 31, 2014, were presented.

Chief Sasser stated that a temporary worker has been hired to assist in the financial reports. Jack Wilson asked about the status of the audit. Chief Sasser stated that he and Kathryn Wagner will devise a procedure for it to start. Jack Wilson asked Chief Sasser to make the recommendation that the District continue to work with the same staff of auditors as in previous years.

Rick Moore made a motion to approve the financial reports. The motion died for lack of a second. Jack Wilson stated that the minutes should reflect that the reports have been seen and there were no questions or discussions, but not approved. He also stated that the Board should wait on approving the financial report until they could be reviewed by Kathryn Wagner or the auditors.

Rick Moore revised the motion to table approval of the financial reports until the December 9 meeting. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

#### 1. Response changes

Chief Sasser presented a chart of initial effects of the response changes made on October 1. The chart reflected that the District responded to 206 calls, which is more than a 20% volume decrease. He compared this number to October, 2013, in which 228 calls were answered. He stated that he will continue to monitor the responses and will bring information to the Board each month.

Jack Wilson stated he would like to see this report for one year and asked if the county assigned more crews or ambulances to Destin.

Chief Sasser stated that no noticeable changes have been made by the county since the District curtailed its responses. He anticipates other area departments will follow what Destin has started.

Tommy Green asked if manpower assistance calls could be tracked. Chief Sasser stated that he could start with November's calls.

Patty Defrenza asked if calls could be tracked for delays due to the dispatcher having to read the algebra rhythm cards. Chief Sasser stated that no delay will occur in a true emergency.

Discussion continued regarding possible response delays. Chief Sasser stated that he will request a monthly report reflecting EMS ambulance calls from the Emergency Operations Center.

#### 2. COLA

Tommy Green asked that discussion be tabled until the December meeting when the new commissioner will be seated. The Board concurred.

**Chief reports:**

1. Beach Safety update

Joe D'Agostino stated that beach vehicles are being prepared for sale. He stated that the patrol ended October 26 and will resume March 7, 2015. He presented season-end statistics.

Chief Sasser stated that he has attended the previous TDC meetings. He stated that the county is reducing its budget, which forced the District to do the same. The county did vote to allow the District to purchase capital acquisition equipment.

2. Training report

Chief Sasser stated that 25 hours of training was earned by each shift for October. He also stated that at year-end, the required 240 training hours will be realized.

3. Inspection report

Ron Gerdeman stated that new construction in Destin is forthcoming. He presented the October inspection report.

4. Paramedic report

Chief Sasser stated that the report was not available, but he did cover the call volume responses for October.

5. Overtime report

Chief Sasser presented the report for September and October. Rick Moore questioned the reasoning for the overtime. Chief Sasser stated that it was due to personnel on vacation and then someone calling in sick.

Rick Moore asked if hiring another line person would alleviate the overtime. Chief Sasser stated that three would have to be hired to balance the shifts. Rick Moore suggested hiring a floater or a part time firefighter. Chief Sasser stated that one new employee would cost \$80,000 annually.

**New Business:**

1. Resolution for ATVs and Waverunner

Chief Sasser stated that annually the District sells its surplus beach equipment. Rick Moore asked how many beach vehicles did the District own. Chief Sasser stated that it owned eight ATV/Rhinos and three Waverunners.

Discussion was held on how long the District keeps a vehicle in service. Chief Sasser stated that the ATVs/Rhinos are rotated out every two years and Waverunners will rotate out after three years of service.

Mike Buckingham made a motion to approve Resolution 15-01. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next meeting:**

The next regular meeting will be held December 9, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.

**Adjournment:**

With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.