

DESTIN FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

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

March 11, 2014

Minutes

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

Staff present: Chief Kevin Sasser, Division Chief Ron Gerdeman, Division Chief Joe D'Agostino, Kathryn Wagner

Present: Dawn Stuntz

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

Public Comments:

Claude Newland - 4033 Indian Trail, inquired about minutes from the last pension board meeting. Jack Wilson suggested posting these minutes to the website as well. Mr. Newland further inquired about the website, Commissioner contacts and public comments at meetings.

Review of the minutes:

Minutes for the regular meeting of February 11, 2014 were presented. Jack Wilson asked for a correction to be made to page one, first sentence under public comments to add the word "liability" at the end of the sentence, so it reads "there is an unfunded pension liability". He further requested a correction on page two, second line to change the word "what" to "that", so it reads "... in terms of funding that we have to do." Jack Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2014 as corrected. Rick Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of the financial report:

The financial reports for the month ended February 28, 2014, were presented. Kathryn Wagner stated that February was once again a quite month with expenditures being in line and income continuing to come in. She stated the balance sheet presents strong, receivables are considered collectible and liabilities are inline. She stated that the Revenues over Expenditures versus Budget report shows ad valorem tax collection is good and exceed collection levels at same time in the previous year. She stated that the target percentage for expenditures is 58% and year to date we have a remaining 63.10% which means we are doing better than our budget at this point.

Jack Wilson asked if there was any concern about fee revenue or some of the non-ad valorem revenue. Kathryn Wagner stated the revenue item of uncollected tax of (\$67,977) is budgeted for state requirement only and is never recognized and this would offset uncollected fee revenue. Rick Moore made a motion to approve the report. Mike Buckingham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Employment Agreement for Chief Sasser – moved up the agenda by Chairman Tommy Green with no objections. Tommy Green stated that Chief Sasser is up for renewal on this employment agreement on April 1st and it is before the board.

Jack Wilson stated that the option to renew is for a five year period and we have a contract coming up in one year for the other employees and he would like to know how we keep the two contracts somewhat in sync. He stated there are certain benefits which are geared toward all employees, like benefit percentage, and if that changes, then Chief Sasser's contract should change as well.

Chief Sasser stated that there have been times in the past where the board has made a change (increase in benefit) to all employees and Chief Sasser stated he did not take them. He further stated that if there are any adjustments made to any employees who work for him then he would make the same adjustments to himself.

Jack Wilson stated he was satisfied with Chief Sasser's comment being in the minutes. Tommy Green stated that we have come upon this in the past and it pretty much has been adjusted even for the non-union staff.

Mike Buckingham made a motion to approve to the employment agreement for Chief Sasser for additional five year term. Jack Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

March 11, 2014 Referendum – Chief Sasser stated the Supervisor of Elections, Paul Lux, would notify him as soon as possible of the referendum results and he would then notify the board.

Chief Reports:

1. Beach Safety update

Joe D'Agostino stated we just got back on the beach on Saturday and by the next meeting we will have some statistics. Rick Moore asked if we were having any problems with our equipment. Joe D'Agostino stated no. Tommy Green asked about the status of the lifeguard stand. Joe D'Agostino stated that it is on its way and we expect it by April 1st.

2. Training report

Chief Sasser stated that each shift received 14 hours of training in February. He stated that since our last meeting we have made some adjustments in our training schedule but we will make our 240 hours in by the end of the year.

3. Inspection report

Ron Gerdeman presented the February inspection report. He stated he has just recently looked at two projects under the technical review process since our last meeting.

4. Paramedic report

Chief Sasser presented the February paramedic report. He stated total call volume is down for the month but anticipates this will increase in March with spring break.

5. Overtime report

Chief Sasser presented the February overtime report. He stated February was a fairly inactive month with a few sick issues.

Commissioner Buckingham left the meeting.

New Business:

1. Approval of Mutual Aid Agreement

Chief Sasser stated this mutual aid agreement has been in place for a very long time. He stated that we started auto aid probably 20 years ago and this agreement is the same as it was several years ago with the removal of a reference to dues which are paid into the Chief's Association for hazardous material vehicles to operate. This reference was removed as there are others who are associated with our Chief's Association and the automatic aid agreement which don't pay dues.

Rick Moore asked if all the entities are still the same. Chief Sasser stated yes.

Jack Wilson asked if Okaloosa County was a party to this. Tommy Green stated they were through the public safety division. Jack Wilson further asked if that would include EMS. Chief Sasser stated yes, and added that their public safety division includes all of the emergency services. Jack Wilson stated that there is a lot of this agreement which we like, however it obligates us for other emergencies which endanger life and it says under item 3 that "No party to this agreement shall be required to pay any compensation to any other party..." Chief Sasser stated there was a 30 day clause to get out of the contract. Jack Wilson stated that by redoing this agreement now we are just reaffirming that we are going to respond to any emergency and no one is going to get paid anything for doing it. He further stated that we don't know how the referendum is going today, but if it does not pass, we can't do that.

Chief Sasser recommended that the board to table this agreement. Tommy Green asked legal counsel if this agreement superceded any other agreement with anyone else. Attorney Dawn Stuntz stated no. Chief Sasser stated the direction he would take if the agreement was approved was if the Board moved forward with how we were to address our responses, then the 30 day notification would be given and during that time he would work out agreements with other fire districts to continue with mutual aid.

Item was tabled.

3. Part-time Firefighter analysis

Chief Sasser stated at our last meeting Commissioner Moore asked about part-time firefighter and if there were any costs savings with that in reference to overtime. Chief Sasser presented an analysis comparing what we currently pay and what we anticipate the cost to be if we were to utilize part-time employees in that capacity.

Tommy Green commented on the projected increase in overtime hours compared to September 30, 2013. Jack Wilson stated that the savings come in by using part-time people who do not have benefits. Chief Sasser stated the hourly rate would also go down, depending on the person who would work the overtime.

Jack Wilson commented that we could eliminate some of our overtime costs by using professional firefighters from other districts, than our guys could spend their overtime working somewhere else, so we end up swapping everyone's employees for overtime. He stated that's what we want to do, but maybe we could do that without shifting people around. Chief Sasser stated that this is done and our guys work at other departments part-time.

Chief Sasser stated that this analysis was for discussion and is not an actionable item. He stated that we are bound by contract and certain items there would affect our ability to do this.

4. Affirmation of Douglas Ingram as Trustee to Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund

Chief Sasser stated that Doug Ingram fills the fifth position on the Retirement Board and the fifth position is selected by the other four members of that board. Those four members have selected Doug Ingram, who currently fills that slot, and the Commission needs to affirm this appointment. Jack Wilson made a motion to affirm Douglas Ingram to the Board of Trustees. Hillary Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting:

Tommy Green stated that the next regular meeting of the Commissioners would be on April 8, 2014 at 5:30pm.

Adjournment:

With no further business to be addressed, the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.