

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

February 13, 2018

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Rick Moore, Tommy Green, Jack Wilson, Mike Buckingham, and Bob Wagner

Staff Present: Chief Kevin Sasser, Division Chiefs Joe D'Agostino, Matt Taylor and Kathryn Wagner, Marie Wilbur

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

Public Comments:

None

Presentation of Health Insurance Options:

David Barton of Acentria Insurance made a presentation on Health Insurance options, the selection of which would be effective March 1, 2018, comparing current insurance (Florida Blue Plan 14054) renewal rates and coverage against proposed rates and coverage of United Healthcare Plan AUW4. The Florida Blue plan renewal would realize a 18.18% increase in cost, without any negotiating room, while United Healthcare would reflect a cost savings of approximately \$38,000. Mr. Barton said that while not perfect, the United Healthcare plan is the most appropriate fit. He stated the biggest difference in coverage would be a \$500/single or \$1,000/family deductible increase. An HRA account could be established to fund the backend of the in-network deductible to cover the increase for all employees.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wagner, seconded by Commissioner Green, to make the change from Florida Blue to United Healthcare Plan AUW4 and to establish HRA accounts for all covered employees of \$500/single enrollment or \$1,000/family enrollment to fund the last part of the deductible. Following some discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of September 30, 2017 Audit Report:

Chad Branson of Carr, Riggs & Ingram presented the Audit Report for September 30, 2017. He reviewed both condensed statements of Net Position and Activities, Capital Assets and Long-term Liabilities, New Pronouncements, Pension Liability, and Budget Comparisons. He stated that total assets increased \$116,222 and the net position increased by \$1,203,627. Total revenues increased by approximately \$318,000 due to growth in the District tax base and total expenses decreased by \$627,624 as a result of lower pension costs. He reviewed the effects GASB #75 and OPEB liability have on the District's financial statements. He also recommended the board review required reports found at the back of the audit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Green to accept the Audit Report for September 30, 2017 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Review of Minutes:

The minutes for the regular meeting of January 9, 2018 were presented. Commissioner Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of January 9, 2018. Commissioner Green seconded. No discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Financial Report:

Division Chief Wagner presented the Financial Report for January 31, 2018. She stated we are four months into the fiscal year and that January was a quiet month. Ad valorem taxes have been coming in although the collection rate continues to be a little low. She expects that to even out soon. Commissioner Wagner made a motion to approve the Financial Report for January 31, 2018, as presented. Commissioner Wilson seconded. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

1. West End of District Station

Chief Sasser stated that things are moving along in a positive fashion to locate a suitable space. He and Commissioner Buckingham expect to have more information available by the next meeting.

2. Appointee to Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund

Chief Sasser stated there are two individuals who have expressed an interest in becoming a trustee. He has spoken to both and feels that either candidate would be outstanding. It should be noted that one candidate, Mark Dutram, is building a house in Walton County and may move there by the end of the year, which could present challenges as this is a resident position. Commissioner Moore noted that he knows the other candidate, Paul Rice, as he sold him a house in Destin, and considers him to be extremely competent. Commissioner Wilson felt that the position is a better fit for a wealth management planner than for a lender.

Commissioner Wagner made a motion to appoint Mark Dutram to the Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund Board. Commissioner Wilson seconded. With no further discussion the motion passed unanimously. Chief Sasser will contact both candidates. He will give Mr. Rice's information to the Trustee Board for consideration, along with Mr. Posey's from the last meeting, for the 5th Trustee position.

Chief's Reports:

1. Beach Safety Update

Division Chief D'Agostino stated that the new vehicles have been received and are currently being retrofitted and will be ready for season opening which is in just 25 days. On a question from the Board, he stated that the Crab Island situation is being tracked.

2. Training Report

Chief Sasser presented the Training Report stating there were 26 hours completed for each shift during January.

3. Inspection Report

Division Chief Taylor presented the Inspection Report noting that Sea Glass has 3 buildings online with 2 more to go, Panera Bread has been given its final and review has started on Old Time Country Buffet, which is at the previous site of Golden Corral.

4. Response Change Report

Chief Sasser reported that the response time is down a bit from last year and he is looking into why this is occurring and will follow-up. He noted that calls this year are high as compared to this time last year. He noted in reviewing the call history that the new hydraulic tools are worth their weight in gold and the firefighters are pleased with how well they work during MVAs.

5. Overtime Report

Chief Sasser reviewed the Overtime Report which reflected December 2017 and January 2018 activity.

New Business:

1. Beach Safety Agreement – City of Destin

Chief Sasser stated that the language of the agreement is the same as last year with dates changed. This agreement however, is for one year only. The compensation rate remains at \$100,000.00. Commissioner Wagner made a motion to accept the Beach Safety Agreement with the City of Destin as presented, with second by Commissioner Wilson. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Information Officer Contract

Chief Sasser stated that Tracy McGraw has served as the Public Information Officer for the past year, establishing a Facebook page and posting meeting videos to YouTube and Facebook. This contract will expire shortly, with work to be assumed in-house. He stated we will continue to work with Tracy throughout the transition. Chief Sasser stated they would like to set up a fixed system for video which would interface with the audio system already used. He stated the approximate cost is estimated at \$6,000-7,000 for purchase and installation of equipment needed. The Board expressed their thanks to Mr. McGraw for his work and for agreeing to help with the transition.

3. Paramedic Education Expenditure

Chief Sasser stated that they are interested in sending 4-5 firefighters to Northwest Florida State College to attend a 10 month Paramedic Program. The approximate cost for tuition would be \$35,000-40,000 total, funding for which has not been budgeted. It was noted that 4 firefighters have relinquished performing as paramedic which will save \$5,000 each per year in salary, which would partially fund the tuition costs of the program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Buckingham to approve the Paramedic Education Expenditure request for tuition funding, seconded by Commissioner Green. In discussion it was asked if a requirement could be that the firefighter stay on the payroll for a pre-determined period of time. Chief said that this could be made a requirement. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Moore extended his thanks and appreciation to everyone for their support during his recent loss of a family member.

Next Meeting:

Chairman Moore reminded the Board that the next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment:

With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.