

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

December 12, 2017

**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

Present: Attorney Dawn Stuntz

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

**Public Comments:**

None

**Review of Minutes:**

The minutes for the regular meeting of November 14, 2017 were presented. Commissioner Wilson asked for amendment of an error under Chief's Reports on Page 2, Item 4, Line 2, correcting "a go job" to "a good job". Commissioner Wagner made a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of November 14, 2017 as amended. Commissioner Wagner seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Review of Financial Reports:**

Division Chief Wagner presented the financial report as of November 30, 2017. She stated payables are high due to the timing of five invoices and expenses for training are over budget due to more firefighters signing up for the Fire Boat Operation class than expected. Discussion occurred regarding the number of fire boat operators actually needed. Division Chief Wagner also pointed out that a change was made to the presentation of the financial report to move non-budgeted transfers to the bottom of the report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wagner to approve the financial report for the period ended November 30, 2017. Commissioner Green seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was passed unanimously

**Old Business:**

1. West End of District Station – Commissioner Buckingham stated he met several times with Captain Charlie Nix and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department in regard to the use of the old fire station on Stahlman Avenue. He stated the Sheriff's Department was interested in

sharing their space with us. Commissioner Buckingham stated they also discussed building a steel storage building for the Sheriff's Department on the back of the property and stated it was estimated to cost \$10,000 to begin the process of developing plans for the entire project.

Commissioner Buckingham stated he had talks with City of Destin officials who did not think the Calhoun Avenue park property was a good idea, in that the property was purchased with public funds for use as a park. He also discussed a location on the bay for another fire boat lift which could be in addition to the lift currently being used in the harbor.

Discussion occurred regarding the old fire station on Stahlman Avenue.

Commissioner Wagner requested that Commissioner Buckingham and Chief Sasser would go to the City of Destin to get a definite answer from them in regards to the Calhoun Avenue park property.

2. Beach Safety Agreement with County – Chief Sasser reported that he, Chairman Moore and Division Chiefs D'Agostino and Wagner attended a meeting with the new TDC Director, Jennifer Adams. He stated Attorney Stuntz and the TDCs attorney added language to the agreement in regards to capital items and all parties were in agreement.

Commissioner Wagner made a motion to approve the Beach Safety Agreement. Commissioner Buckingham seconded the motion. With no further discussion the motion passed unanimously. The Board thanked Chief Sasser, Division Chiefs D'Agostino and Wagner and Attorney Stuntz for their work.

**Chief's Reports:**

1. Beach Safety Report – Division Chief D'Agostino reported that all beach vehicles in the replacement cycle were auctioned off and that approximately \$20,000 was collected.
2. Training Report – Chief Sasser presented the Training Report for the month of November which reflected 28 hours of training per shift. To meet ISO requirements of performing drills at recognized training facilities, several hours were in conjunction with two other local departments at Hurlburt Field where they trained in debris field and aircraft fire techniques. He also extended thanks to Firehouse Subs for their donation of not one, but two sets of vehicle extrication over the past couple of years.
3. Inspection Report – Division Chief Taylor presented the Inspection Report for November 2017. Commissioner Moore stated he had heard good things from the public in regards to the new Fire Inspector, John Brinkerhoff.
4. Response Change Report – Chief Sasser presented the Response Change Report for November 2017. Discussion was held regarding the changes the County has made in the EMS system in the last few months. Commissioner Wilson stated we feel this is a major step backwards, it's a major exploitation of the Destin Firefighters, and it's all being done for the wrong reason. Chief Sasser stated he would attend the Medical Director/Chiefs Meeting on

Thursday to address the County's new "Pilot Program" for emergency responses and the concerns he and the department have in regard to its effectiveness.

5. Overtime Report – Chief Sasser presented the Overtime Report for November 2017 reflecting only one hour of duty overtime for the month.

**New Business:**

1. Appointee to Firefighters' Retirement Trust Fund - Chief Sasser stated that he has been meeting with interested individuals to serve on the Retirement Fund Board and should have names to put before the Board at next month's meeting. The Board appoints one individual and the Retirement Fund Board appoints one individual.
2. Retirement Board Meeting Review – Division Chief Wagner presented the Summary of the Retirement Trust Fund's Actuarial Report as of October 1, 2017. She reviewed funding requirements for the current fiscal year and reviewed the activity for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017. Division Chief Wagner explained the impact of the State's Supplemental Education program and the effect it has had on the funds received from the State and why this payout may disappear completely in the next year or two. She stated that the District has contributed well in excess of required contributions, noting that in 2008 the fund was 36% funded and currently, in 2017, is 67% funded.
3. Recognition of Firefighter Years of Service – Chief Sasser presented a 20 Years of Service Recognition plaque to Captain Jefferey Anderson and stated this was a new program being instituted and the District will continue recognizing employees moving forward. He stated there are currently four other firefighters on staff who have achieved 20 years of service – Tray Harrison and James Taylor in 2010, Bronson Coleman in 2012 and Mark Hutchinson in 2016. The Commissioners thanked the firefighters for their years of service and dedication.
4. Proposed Meeting Dates for 2018 - Division Chief Wagner presented the list of proposed meeting dates for 2018 and reviewed the scheduling of the budget meetings and hearings. She noted that March 13 was a municipal election day and asked if they wished to change that date, but the Board agreed to leave the list as presented.

**Next Meeting:**

Chairman Moore reminded the Board that the next regular meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Adjournment:**

With no additional business to be discussed, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.