

April 21, 2016

The Board of Commissioners of the North River Fire District met in regular session on Thursday, April 21, 2016, at 6:00 P.M. in the Resource Center of Station Two.

Present:	Paul Pitcher	Chairman
	Robert Bell	Vice-Chairman
	Amy Willis	Commissioner
	Donald Olmstead	Commissioner
	Michael Browning	Commissioner
	Scott Smith	Commissioner
	James Alderman	Commissioner
	Michael S. Rampino	Fire Chief

Chairman Pitcher inquired if there was any public wishing to make comment; as no public was present or wishing to comment, Chairman Pitcher proceeded with the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held March 17, 2016 were approved on motion by Commissioner Browning, seconded by Commissioner Smith and carried by a vote of 7-0.

Chief Rampino indicated that Resolution 2016-02 addresses and provides a mechanism for the handling of fire code challenges that may arise. The Board of Appeals would handle any future disputes. He indicated that we have never had a challenge of the fire code thus far. Having the Board of Appeals process in place clarifies what needs to be done should the need arise. Commissioner Olmstead motioned to approve Resolution 2016-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH RIVER FIRE DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA; ACKNOWLEDGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRE PREVENTION CODE BOARD OF APPEALS BY THE MANATEE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION; ADOPTING THE RULES OF THE FIRE PREVENTION CODE BOARD OF APPEALS; ACKNOWLEDGING THE NORTH RIVER FIRE DISTRICT'S DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO THE FIRE PREVENTION CODE BOARD OF APPEALS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

seconded by Commissioner Willis and carried by a vote of 7-0.

Chief advised Commissioners that the Commission had for their consideration the Tax Assessment Rates for 2016, which were being recommended for approval with a 4.24% increase, based upon the Florida Personal Income Growth Rate calculations.

Chairman Pitcher opened the Public Hearing to hear comments regarding adoption of the proposed resolution setting fire assessment rates for 2016. A member of the audience, Mr. Ken Piper of 3208 48th St. E, Palmetto FL, requested the opportunity to address Commission members regarding the rate increase.

Mr. Piper inquired as to how the District arrived at the need for an assessment increase. Chief Rampino addressed Mr. Piper's question outlining some of the financial challenges and obligations that the District faces now and in the future. Mr. Piper expressed concern that the District was asking for the maximum allowable increase and would that trend continue.

Chief Rampino, Chairman Pitcher and Commissioner Alderman spoke to concerns expressed by Mr. Piper. Chief Rampino invited Mr. Piper to meet with him so he could address all of his concerns. Commissioners thanked Mr. Piper for his interest and his presence at the Public Hearing.

As there were no additional public present who wished to speak, Commissioner Willis motioned to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Commissioner Browning and carried by a vote of 7-0.

Commissioner Olmstead motioned to approve Resolution 2016-03 with the 4.24% increase

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE NORTH RIVER FIRE DISTRICT ADOPTING FIRE ASSESSMENT RATES FOR 2016, AUTHORIZING REVIEW OF THE FIRE ASSESSMENT ROLL, DESIGNATING AN INDIVIDUAL TO REVIEW AND TRANSMIT FIRE ASSESSMENT ROLL TO THE MANATEE COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

seconded by Commissioner Browning and carried by a vote of 7-0.

Chief Rampino indicated that the Commissioners had been provided a copy of the 2014-2015 Financial Audit for their review. The audit had been completed over the past several months and the District once again had received an unqualified opinion, the highest rating possible. After a brief overview of the Audit by Commissioners, Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year Financial Audit, seconded by Commissioner Willis and carried by a vote of 7-0.

Vicky Polston, Financial Services Manager, reported that an additional \$315,000 of tax assessment funds had been received, with approximately \$383,000 to be received. Impact fees for March of \$15,588 had also been received. All budget items are in good standing. Commissioner Alderman

motioned to approve the Financial Report for March 2016, seconded by Commissioner Browning and carried by a vote of 7-0.

During his Administration Report, Chief updated Commissioners on the email conversion taking place. He also reported that he had met with Jim from Alpha-Omega. Alpha-Omega has expressed interest in representing the District in negotiations with American Tower in achieving the best possible long-term lease for the future. He will receive a \$5,000 engagement amount, plus 25-30% fee once satisfactory terms are reached in the best interest of the Fire District. Their services will allow the District to receive the maximum compensation for a desirable cell tower site. Chief will keep Commissioners informed as events progress.

Commissioner Browning reported he attended a Fire Commissioner meeting at Southern Manatee Fire Rescue, where an excellent haz-mat presentation was made.

Commissioner Olmstead motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Willis and carried by a vote of 7-0.

PAUL J. PITCHER
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

SECRETARY
MICHAEL P. BROWNING