

February 16, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of the North River Fire District met in regular session on Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. in the Resource Center of Station Two.

Present:	Paul Pitcher	Chairman
	Robert Bell	Vice-Chairman
	Amy Willis	Commissioner
	Michael Browning	Commissioner
	Scott Smith	Commissioner
	James Alderman	Commissioner
	Harry L. Blenker	Commissioner <i>(late arrival)</i>
	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 January 19, 2017 were approved on motion by Commissioner Browning, seconded by Commissioner Alderman and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Chief Rampino conducted a pinning ceremony for recently promoted Engineers Zachary Steinberg and Dane Zoller, who were “pinned” by a family member or someone significant in their career. Congratulations were offered to all.

Chairman Pitcher indicated that the Commission was in receipt of the spreadsheet with the overall evaluation totals for Chief Michael Rampino, as the result of the 360 evaluation conducted soliciting responses from NRRFD employees. The Chairman indicated that there were no scores below a 3.

Chairman Pitcher elicited comments from Commissioners with regard to Chief's evaluation. Commissioners Smith, Alderman, Browning, Willis and Bell all commented positively on the impact Chief Rampino has had on the District, indicating that employee morale was high, and his leadership qualities were stellar. Chairman Pitcher indicated that he felt Chief afforded employees the opportunity to train and advance in their careers. He felt operationally the District was functioning well. The Chairman requested that Chief continue to stress safety and keep the Board members well informed. He requested that Chief provide a outline of challenges that the Commission will face in the future at the March or April meeting.

As a result of the excellent evaluation Chief Rampino received, Commissioner Browning motioned to approve a salary increase of four (4) per cent effective March 10, 2017, which is in keeping with the most recent salary increase received by employees, seconded by Commissioner Willis and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Vicky Polston, Financial Services Manager, indicated that the budget was on track. Over 84% of tax assessment funds have been received and we are ahead in the collection of tax assessment revenues. Impact fees totaling approximately \$20,000 have been received for the month of January. The financial report for the month ending January 31, 2017 was presented. A motion was made by Commissioner Alderman to approve the January 2017 report, seconded by Commissioner Smith and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Commissioner Blenker joined the meeting at this time.

During Chief Rampino's Administration Report, he advised Commissioners that the COPCN issue is moving slowly, with individual meetings having been held with the Manatee County Commissioners. The County Attorney will draft an Ordinance for consideration. We currently have 3 paramedics. Additional paramedics would be needed for NRPD to implement this program and they could be trained within an 18 month timeframe. Most likely we would begin offering these paramedic services out of Station 5, as it is a rapidly growing zone. West and Southern Manatee both will be first to begin these services, as they currently have employees in training. For those employees who are interested in pursuing a paramedic license, a financial incentive would need to be offered. We may have to look at a tax rate increase in the future, which can be structured several ways. Chief indicated a study will be necessary to move ahead with any substantial rate increase.

The new engine that was ordered last fall should be ready for delivery around May 5, 2017.

Commissioners extended congratulations to the new engineers.

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

---

PAUL J. PITCHER  
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

---