

March 15, 2018

The Board of Commissioners of the North River Fire District met in regular session on Thursday, March 15, 2018, 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
	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 on January 18, 2018 were approved on motion by Commissioner Alderman, seconded by Commissioner Browning and carried by a vote of 7-0.

Chairman Pitcher indicated that the carryover item from the February 2018 agenda was before the Commission; the annual evaluation of Chief Michael Rampino.

Chairman Pitcher elicited comments from Commissioners regarding Chief's evaluation. Commissioners Smith, Alderman, Browning, Willis, Blenker and Bell all commented on the positive impact Chief Rampino has had on the District. It was indicated that employee morale was high, and his leadership qualities were evident. Commissioners were pleased that they had selected him as the Fire Chief. Chairman Pitcher indicated that he felt Chief Rampino afforded the employees the opportunity to advance in their careers more so than anyone had in the past 20 years. The Chairman commented that he felt our equipment was better and that the transition to having a Collective Bargaining Agreement had been handled well. He commented that Chief should keep the organization moving forward. Commissioners were also in receipt of a summary of the 360 evaluation completed by district personnel, which reflected very positively on Chief Rampino.

As a result of the excellent evaluation Chief Rampino received, Commissioner Bell motioned to approve a salary increase of four (4) per cent effective March 10, 2018, which is in keeping with the increase received by firefighter personnel in October 2017, seconded by Commissioner Blenker and carried by a vote of 7-0.

Chief Rampino indicated that the Board needed to establish a Public Hearing date at the next scheduled meeting on April 19, 2018 to consider proposed fire assessment rates. Commissioner Smith motioned to establish and advertise

April 19, 2018, the regularly scheduled meeting date, as a public hearing regarding proposed fire assessment rates, seconded by Commissioner Willis and carried by a vote of 7-0.

Vicky Polston, Financial Services Manager, advised during the Financial Report that additional fire assessment fees of approximately \$604,000 were still uncollected. Impact Fees of \$49,000 were received for January. Chief Rampino reported approximately \$6,000 in interest has been earned on the \$5M deposited with the Florida FIT investment program. The financial report for the months ending January 31, 2018 and February 28, 2018 were presented. Commissioner Alderman motioned to approve the January and February 2018 financial reports, seconded by Commissioner Willis and carried by a vote of 7-0.

In his Administration Report, Chief Rampino reported that Admin has transferred the title for the Antique Fire Truck to the Palmetto Historical Commission. We expect the truck will be relocated to a new location shortly.

Chief presented Commissioners with copies of the response received from the Florida Attorney General's office regarding the levy of non-ad valorem assessments, as well as a Memo analyzing the response by our attorney, Maggie Mooney-Portale. Chief briefly reviewed options and Commissioners commented on various possibilities regarding the lifting of current non-ad valorem exemptions and what implementation could entail. If it is deemed necessary, Chief will request Maggie Mooney-Portale to be present at a future meeting.

Currently, the City of Palmetto has advised that they are in the process of annexing properties in various locations contiguous to the city's boundaries. It does not appear that the District needs to do anything, as the properties are currently within boundaries established in North River's Enabling Act.

Commissioners commended Chief Rampino for his leadership and performance.

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

PAUL J. PITCHER
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:
