

July 20, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of the North River Fire District met in regular session on Thursday, July 20, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. in the Resource Center of Station Two.

Present:	Paul Pitcher	Chairman
	Robert Bell	Vice-Chairman
	Michael Browning	Commissioner
	Scott Smith	Commissioner
	James Alderman	Commissioner
	Harry L. Blenker	Commissioner
	Michael S. Rampino	Fire Chief
Absent:	Amy Willis	Commissioner

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 May 18, 2017 were approved on motion by Commissioner Browning, seconded by Commissioner Alderman and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Ms. Wanda Read Burke from the Oneblood organization was present to speak about the possibility of North River Fire District participating in a blood drive on September 11, 2017. She encouraged North River to sponsor the drive and make "an event of it". She encouraged Commissioners to find a way to participate. Chief Rampino indicated that as there was a memorial service already scheduled in Bradenton for 9/11 commemoration, there could be a conflict if the drive were to begin in the morning. Chief proposed that the drive start around 1 p.m. and continue to 6 p.m. The drive will be conducted at Station 1 and several of the Commissioners expressed interest in possibly working with the NRFFO to offer hot dogs and hamburgers during this time. Commissioners were supportive of having this drive on that date. Details are to be worked out.

Administration wishes to establish a Public Hearing for the proposed 2017-2018 budget and requests permission to publish August 17, 2017 as the date. Commissioner Browning motioned to establish and publish August 17, 2017 as the date for the Public Hearing for the proposed 2017-2018 Budget, seconded by Commissioner Smith and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Commissioners were presented with the 2015-2016 FY Financial Audit. Chief Rampino indicated that there was a net gain of funds of \$174,172.00. CS&L indicated that once again the District had achieved an "unqualified opinion" which is the best designation available for an audit. In the future, Chief will be seeking to have the charges for the pension portion of the audit to be broken

out, so that we have an idea what expenses are being incurred on behalf of the pension fund. Commissioner Alderman motioned to approve the 2015/2016 FY NFRD Financial Audit, seconded by Commissioner Blenker and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Matthew Thornton was re-elected to fill the fifth seat on the NFRD Pension Board from 2/1/17 until 2/1/19. A motion to ratify the re-election was made by Commissioner Bell, seconded by Commissioner Alderman and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Vicky Polston, Financial Services Manager, indicated that Commissioners had before them a request to move \$465,934.00 from Category #1600 to category #7190. Also, request to amend the 2016/2017 budget to reflect the ending reserve fund balance of the 2015/2016 Financial Audit. The General Fund reserve fund balance as stated in the 2015/2016 audit is \$3,378,524.00; the Impact Fee Fund reserve balance as stated in the 2015/2016 audit is \$195,883.00. Ms. Polston advised Commissioners that these amendments were necessary as a result of the 2015-2016 audit. Commissioner Alderman motioned to approve the budget amendments as stated above, seconded by Commissioner Browning and carried by a vote of 6-0. Commissioner Bell motioned to approve Resolution 2017-03

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH RIVER FIRE DISTRICT
ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2016/17 FISCAL YEAR
BUDGET**

seconded by Commissioner Alderman and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Administrative Services Manager, Vicky Polston, advised that 100% of the tax assessment for the current budget year had been collected. Budget transfers will be brought to the Commission at the next meeting. Impact fees for May & June totaled approximately \$40,000. The financial report for the months ending May 31 and June 30, 2017 were presented. A motion was made by Commissioner Alderman to approve the May and June 2017 reports, seconded by Commissioner Browning and carried by a vote of 6-0.

During his Administration Report, Chief Rampino indicated that the contract with EPR would stand at \$10,000 per year starting with the third year. The District has benefited from EPR's willingness to work with us in creating modules we have requested and also to fix and/or maintain the software in a very timely manner.

Chief Rampino advised that he had an initial meeting with Boyd Insurance to discuss health insurance premiums for the forthcoming budget year. Currently the indication is that there will be a 34% increase in premiums. He is hopeful that a lesser amount can be negotiated. It is also possible to shop for a new agent of record, but it isn't clear how this might affect premiums, if at all.

Chief indicated that six employees have expressed interest in becoming certified as paramedics to staff the ALS engine. The personnel must now apply and become accepted into a paramedic program. We will proceed from there once we have an idea of how many have actually committed to the program.

The District's attorney, Maggie Mooney-Portale is still awaiting the Attorney General's opinion regarding exemptions. It appears that all fire districts in Manatee County would move forward at once if the opinion rendered is favorable.

Commissioners expressed interest in the blood drive and several indicated that they would be able to participate in the event. Chairman Pitcher thanked administrative staff for their work on the Financial Audit.

Commissioner Bell motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Alderman and carried by a vote of 6-0.

PAUL J. PITCHER
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:
