

September 21, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of the North River Fire District met in regular session on Thursday, September 21, 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
	Harry L. Blenker	Commissioner
	Michael S. Rampino	Fire Chief
Absent:	James Alderman	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 August 17, 2017 were approved on motion by Commissioner Browning, seconded by Commissioner Smith and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Chief Rampino conducted a pinning ceremony for recently promoted Engineers Matt Stone and Blake Hunniford, who were "pinned" by family members. Congratulations were offered to both Engineer Stone and Engineer Hunniford on their achievement.

Chairman Pitcher opened the Public Hearing to hear appeals on fire assessments. As there was no public present for the appeal process, the Public Hearing was closed. Resolution 2017-05 regarding Fire Assessment Appeals was before the Commission for approval. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve Resolution No. 2017-05 indicating no appellants of fire assessments, seconded by Commissioner Willis and carried by a vote of 6-0.

The 2016/2017 inventory dispositions were made available for Commissioners' review. Commissioner Bell motioned to approve the 2016/2017 inventory dispositions as presented, seconded by Commissioner Browning and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Chief Rampino advised Commissioners that the Collective Bargaining Agreement was before them for their approval. This will be the second 3 year-term consent agreement. Chief reviewed each of the Articles that had been updated for Commissioners, answering questions that Commission members had. Commissioner Browning motioned to approve the 2017-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bell and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Administrative Services Manager, Vicky Polston, advised that the line item transfers had been made and the August financial reports reflected that fact. As a result of Hurricane Irma, wages for overtime and FICA may go over due to the overtime incurred during the storm. The district expects reimbursement from FEMA at 100%. The advice of our auditor will be sought to determine if a budget amendment will be necessary for the overage. Additional funds of approximately \$25,000 were received for the Impact Fee Fund. The financial report for the month ending August 31, 2017 was presented. A motion was made by Commissioner Blenker to approve the August 2017 report, seconded by Commissioner Smith and carried by a vote of 6-0.

Chief advised Commissioners that Admin had an opportunity to meet with USI, an insurance broker, regarding a new Workers Comp carrier. The new workers comp insurance carrier, 7710, came in with a premium \$20,000 less than Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust. PGIT countered with an additional savings of \$10,394 less than the 7710 offer. Chief's recommendation would be to continue with PGIT, with the \$30,680 savings over their initial premium. Commissioners seemed to agree and expressed interest in staying "local" working with Boyd Insurance.

Chief Rampino briefed Commissioners about the incurred overtime pay due to Hurricane Irma. He advised that all in all the District had fared well as far as damage.

The District's attorney, Maggie Mooney-Portale, has indicated that the State Attorney General's office will not release the opinion that the District was seeking regarding the issue of non-ad valorem assessments on churches and other charitable institutions. They will release their opinion once they receive a resolution indicating the Board's request is unanimous. Ms. Mooney-Portale will draft a resolution for the next Fire Commission Meeting.

Commissioners expressed their congratulations to the newly promoted Engineers. Commissioner Browning indicated that there will be a meeting of the Manatee County Fire Commissioners Association on October 2, 2017. He will not be available, but requests that Commissioner Alderman attend in his absence.

Captain Joel Baker briefed Commissioners on the on-going relief effort that he is spearheading for victims of Hurricane Irma in the Keys. They are focusing on assisting firefighters and their families first and then will assist others in need.

Chief Rampino indicated that our Maintenance Supervisor, Mike Henry, had been deployed to the Keys through FEMA to assist.

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

PAUL J. PITCHER
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:
