
***MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE ALVA FIRE CONTROL &
RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT***

November 8, 2021

Meeting called to order by Chairman Crittenden, at 6:31 P.M, of the Alva Fire Control & Rescue Service District. Others present were Chief Kuhn and Commissioner's Crook, Watkins, Shearer and Fichter. Also, in attendance were three District Fire Fighters, Fort Myers Shores Fire Department Representative as well as Chaplain Paul Cords.

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of silence.

Prayer – Pastor Cords.

Award / Recognition – Chief Kuhn introduced newly hired Fire Fighter/EMT's, Patrick Cavanaugh and Travis Wright. Chief Kuhn also presented the new promotional backdrop that displays the district's shield/logo and name.

Commissioner Fichter made a motion to approve the October Minutes from the previous regular meeting. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Shearer and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Shearer made a motion to accept the October financial data. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and passed unanimously.

Chairman Crittenden called, "Is there any public input on any business agenda items?" There was no public input.

Chief Kuhn presented the Board with three proposals to paint the interior of the Administrative Office Building (copies attached hereto). He pointed out cracks in the drywall due to settling and stated some of the issues were created by previous hurricane damage as well as leak damage that was repaired in prior years. The proposals are as follows: 1.) 2-Nice Guys - \$3,922 plus wallpaper removal at an hourly rate, 2.) Liberty Custom Homes - \$4,400 which includes all painting and wallpaper removal and 3.) The Final Detail – approximately \$6,600.

Commissioner Watkins inquired if Insurance Funds would be used for this project as well as the balance of this account after the pole barn was completed? Kuhn stated, "yes", and the balance left in the account, after the pole barn construction, should be approximately \$34,000.

Commissioner Fichter made a motion to approve the Administrative Office Building's interior painting, through Liberty Custom Homes, in the amount of \$4,400. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Crook and passed.

Chief Kuhn presented the Board with a proposal, from Alan Jay Fleet Sales, for the new Command Vehicle (copy attached hereto). He stated that the quote reflects "turn-key" pricing as the equipment installation and vinyl lettering are included. Kuhn stated that he explored pricing for an Expedition, similar to the current Command Vehicle, and it was approximately \$10,000 more than the F150 truck. The proposal details a 2022 Ford F150 XL, with a bed topper, in the amount of \$56,874. Commissioner Fichter inquired on the completion timeframe and Kuhn stated 6-9 months. Kuhn informed the Board that the price included bed equipment and lights. However, he would have to make a few modifications on the cargo space which would be an additional \$3,000 investment. Therefore, total cost of the vehicle will be approximately \$63,000. Commissioner Crook asked Kuhn to inquire on the trade-in value for the current Expedition and Fichter stated that he was happy with the pricing. Kuhn stated that the F150 quoted is the color red and that he had also reached out to Sam Galloway Ford in order to request a proposal. Their pricing was similar to Alan Jay; however, they do not offer the installation equipment, lighting and lettering. Kuhn then discussed with the Board this First Responder bidding process through Sourcewell. Commissioner Crittenden asked if the topper was solid or if it had side windows? Kuhn stated that the topper quoted was solid and the side windows would be an additional \$300. Commissioner Shearer voiced his concern of spending these additional funds and Fichter detailed his concern of the continued repair costs on the aging Expedition as well as its deterioration. He stated that he felt Kuhn did a great job in collecting the most competitive cost for a quality vehicle. Chief Kuhn asked the Board as to their thoughts on the color? The Board stated that it was up to him.

Commissioner Fichter made a motion to approve the Capital expenditure for the new Command Vehicle, through Alan Jay Ford, in an amount up to \$63,000. This motion was seconded to Commissioner Watkins and unanimously approved.

Chief Kuhn presented the Board with his Chief's Report. Kuhn stated that the Fire Fighter/EMT's will attend the Alva Elementary/Middle School Fall Festival next Wednesday afternoon and that they visited Riverside Retreat once again. He also informed them that they took the engine, also meeting with the Pink Heels fire truck, to visit a local teacher diagnosed with cancer. He stated that there was a total of 31 calls last month of which 19 were EMS calls and 3 were fire related. He stated that the new flag pole had arrived and they held employment interviews with nine prospective employees. He stated that he has reached out to several individuals and is waiting for their responses. Commissioner Fichter inquired if any existing Fire Fighters have voiced leaving the district. Kuhn stated, "yes". Commissioner Watkins inquired if any of the new employees could potentially "bump-up" into the Engineer position quickly? Kuhn stated that they were all a

couple of training classes short but he is checking into that at the moment. He also wanted to give current employees the initial opportunity to qualify for these open positions. Kuhn briefly described the qualifications of the individuals that he is considering for the open Fire Fighter/EMT positions. Kuhn also reminded the Board that he is interested in using part-time employment to help fill some of the vacant shifts. Commissioner Crook stated that Tice Fire Department uses part-time employees to drive vehicles and Watkins inquired on the pay scale. Sunny Sipes informed that Board that previous part-time employees, approximately 10-years prior, were paid at a rate of \$15 per hour. Kuhn stated that he was planning to use experienced fire fighters. The Board stressed the importance of employing experienced, qualified part-time employees and agreed to a rate of \$15 per hour. Discussion also ensued about current employees taking education/training classes in order to fill these vacancies. Kuhn stated that he wanted to finalize this discussion with current Fire Fighters to be sure that they were all in agreeance. Chief Kuhn informed that Board that Union President, JP Duncan, has agreed to continue bargaining discussions and is currently preparing meeting dates.

Crittenden called for the Union Report. There were no Union Representatives present.

Crittenden called for Volunteer / public comments. There were no Volunteer comments.

Chairman Crittenden called for Commissioner comments. Commissioner Crook stated his desire for the bay ceilings to be cleaned up right away. He also stated that on duty employees could take care of this task. Watkins inquired on the status of the pole barn? Kuhn stated that he is going to order the supply kit, the vendor is 6-8 weeks out and he is going to contract with Kitz, Inc. who is then prepared to begin the project. He also stated that TECO is in the beginning stages of preparing to run the gas lines for the station generator.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Crittenden at 8:10 PM and seconded by Commissioner Fichter. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya R. Sipes
Administrative Assistant