

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
2660 STYLES ROAD, ALVA, FLORIDA 33920
DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Call to Order

Commissioner Watkins convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Control & Rescue Service District at 6:30 PM, on November 18, 2024. There were sufficient Board members present to establish a quorum.

Commissioners in Attendance

Henry Grant Fichter
Darren Watkins
Paul F. Meloy, Jr.

Also in Attendance

Jean P. Etcheverry, Chief
Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager
2-District Firefighters
1-District Volunteer
3-District Citizens
Lee County EMS Paramedic
Pastor Paul Cords

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence / Prayer

Prayer performed by Pastor Cords

Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments

Commissioner Watkins wished Commissioner Fichter a Happy Birthday.

Approval of the October 14, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the minutes of the, October 14, 2024, regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Meloy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Approval of the November 4, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Meloy moved to approve the minutes of the, November 4, 2024, special meeting. Commissioner Fichter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Approval of the Financial Data from October 2024

Finance Manager, Sunny Sipes, detailed District income and expenditures (copy attached hereto).

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the financial data from October 2024. Commissioner Meloy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Public Input on Business

None

New Business

➤ **Chief's Report**

Chief Etcheverry reported the following:

- ✓ Asked all in attendance to pray for the McMahan Family.
- ✓ Informed attendees that the District has support programs in place for those in need.
- ✓ Thanked Volunteer Linzalone for his help at the Trailways public education event.

- ✓ Informed all of the First Responder Prayer Service that is being held later in the week.
- ✓ Firefighters handed out candy on Halloween within the Charleston Park and Riverwind Cove Communities.
- ✓ Attended the Fall Festival at the Alva School as well as the Fall event at the Alva Museum.
- ✓ Chief attended the monthly Alva, Inc. meeting.
- ✓ The District's Christmas Toy Drive and animal food collection is now in progress and we will hold two "Fill The Boat" events at the LaBelle Walmart.
- ✓ 35-Total monthly calls / 3-required helicopter transport.
- ✓ Stated that Firefighter Barritt will be taking his Pump Operator test soon, himself and Sipes' completed the FASD 4-hour Ethics seminar and four new Firefighters will begin their employment during the current and following week.
- ✓ Made the Board aware that R-121 lights are to be installed in January 2025, B-121 will be going out for pump and engine repairs next week and a steel facility in Arcadia will be making necessary repairs for T-600.
- ✓ Informed the Board of new bunker gear bi-annual cleaning regulations.
- ✓ He and Sipes will be meeting with Dwight Philips this week to discuss health insurance renewal rates and benefits.
- ✓ He is looking into related costs of developing a helicopter landing area here at Station 121.

Commissioner Fichter moved to accept Chief Etcheverry's Chief's Report. Commissioner Meloy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

- Discussion ensued on the two vacant Board of Commissioner's seats.
 - ✓ Commissioner Watkins stated that there is now three interested parties in the vacant seats and asked each individual to introduce themselves (resume's were provided to Commissioners).
 - ✓ Chris Meo, Henry McCarty and Debbie Whitney were present as the interested parties.
 - ✓ Discussion ensued and the decision was made to postpone, until the December board meeting, appointment selections until each Commissioner had an opportunity to familiarize themselves with each individuals qualifications.

Old Business

None

Union Report

None

Volunteer / Public Comments

- Volunteer Support Coordinator, James Barritt, stated that the District currently has 15-Volunteers of which two were hired to fill the open Firefighter positions. He stated that three individuals that participated in the hiring process are now Volunteering with the Department.
- Finance Manger, Sunny Sipes, informed the Board that she is working on the implementation of a Commissioner Handbook as well as a new Commissioner Orientation with legal counsel Richard Pringle. She also reminded current Commissioners of their requirement to complete the 4-hour Ethics training course prior to December 31st.
- Engineer Johnson suggested the development of a memorial, here at Station 121, in memory of John McMahan. Commissioner Fichter asked Johnson to head the initiative.

- Pastor Cords stated his desire to present a class on the signs and symptoms of suicide to district Firefighters.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Fichter congratulated Chief Etcheverry on the signing of his 5-year employment contract and thanked all interested parties, in the open Commissioner seats, for their attendance at this evening's meeting.
- Commissioner Meloy thanked Chief Etcheverry for his steadfast commitment to the Alva Fire District.
- Commissioner Watkins stated his approval of the John McMahan Memorial concept and thanked all in attendance for their Board participation interest.

Reminders

- The December Board Meeting will be held Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Commissioner Fichter moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 PM. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Meloy, and the vote was unanimous. Commissioner Watkins closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager / Administrative Specialist

Minutes Distributed Electronically to Board Members