

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
ALVA FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
2660 STYLES ROAD, ALVA, FLORIDA 33920
DATE: DECEMBER 09, 2024

Call to Order

Commissioner Watkins convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Control & Rescue Service District at 6:30 PM on December 09, 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
4-District Firefighters
1-District Volunteer
5-District Citizens
Pastor Paul Cords

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence / Prayer

Prayer performed by Pastor Cords

Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments

None

Approval of the November 18, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2024, regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Meloy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Approval of the Financial Data from November 2024

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

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the financial data from November 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:

- ✓ Introduced newly hired Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Allen and Firefighter/EMT Anthony Carmona.
- ✓ District Firefighters participated in the McMahan funeral procession.
- ✓ Holiday "Fill The Boat" will take place at the LaBelle Walmart on December 15th from 11 AM - 4 PM. Items will be donated to local children on December 24, 2024.
- ✓ 14-total calls during the previous month / 18% EMS / 14% Fire.
- ✓ Firefighter/EMT Barritt passed his Pump Operator course to gain an incentive.
- ✓ District bunker gear has been cleaned and repaired.
- ✓ Cascade System has been serviced.

- ✓ B-121 pump is currently being installed.
- ✓ E-121 compartment shelving is currently being installed.
- ✓ B-123 brake issues are being addressed.
- ✓ Class-A uniform fittings are being completed between today and tomorrow.
- ✓ FASD quarterly meeting is approaching.
- ✓ HAZMAT training opportunity is approaching.
- ✓ Discussed upcoming seminar on mental health struggles.
- ✓ Discussed additional bunker gear concepts.

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

- Finance Manager, Sunny Sipes presented the Board with the health and life insurance proposals from United Healthcare, Transamerica and Humana through Philip Financial Group.
 - ✓ 10% increase in premiums which was included in the current year's budget.
 - ✓ Stated it was most beneficial to remain with the District's grandfathered health plan coverages when comparing other available options.
 - ✓ The Humana Life Policy had a minor increase in premiums and the dental and vision coverage's reflected a slight decrease.

Commissioner Fichter moved to accept the life and health insurance proposals from United Healthcare, Transamerica and Humana, through Philip Financial Group, effective December 15, 2024. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Meloy and approved.

- Sunny Sipes presented the Board with information regarding "Mini-COBRA" elections, for employers with less than 20-employees, for departing and/or retiring individuals.
 - ✓ Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Fichter motioned for no change to the District's current offerings. His motion stated that only retiring employees will be eligible for long-term COBRA benefits. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously passed.

- A call was made to discuss officer elections of the Alva Fire District's Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Fichter motioned to elect Darren Watkins as Chairman of the Board and Paul F. Meloy, Jr. as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Meloy and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Watkins motioned to elect Grant Fichter as Vice Chairman of the Board. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Meloy and unanimously approved.

Old Business

- Discussion ensued on vacant Board Seats #3 & 5.
 - ✓ Commissioner Fichter addressed the interested parties in attendance; Debbie Whitney, Henry D. MacArty and Chris Meo. Fichter discussed the qualifications of MacArty within the fire industry and approved of his appointment. He stated that Whitney had Board experience and was a long-time citizen of the Alva District. He voiced his thanks to Meo as a devoted Volunteer, impressive military background and eagerness to always help the Department.
 - ✓ Commissioner Watkins also voiced his approval of Mr. MacArty and reiterated Whitney's qualifications.

- ✓ Commissioner Meloy stated that he was more interested in the individuals familiarity with and the time residing within the District. He stated his approval of appointing Debbie K. Whitney.

Commissioner Fichter moved to appoint Henry D. MacArty to vacant Board Seat #3. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Watkins and passed.

Commissioner Watkins moved to appoint Debbie K. Whitney to vacant Board Seat #5. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

Union Report

District Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Allen introduced himself to Board members stating that he was appointed as the new Local 1826 DVP for the Alva District Union members.

Volunteer / Public Comments

- Volunteer Support Coordinator, James Barritt, stated that two new Volunteers will be participating this week bringing the new Volunteer total to twelve. He reminded the Board that two previous Volunteer's were hired as full-time employees.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Watkins inquired with Chief Etcheverry on the Station remodel quotes? Etcheverry stated that he had two quotes and was hoping that response would increase after the holiday's.
- Commissioner Fichter thanked all parties interested in the vacant Board seats and congratulated Mr. MacArty and Mrs. Whitney on their appointments.

Reminders

- The January Board Meeting will be held Monday, January 13, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Commissioner Fichter moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 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