

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
ALVA FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
2660 STYLES ROAD, ALVA, FLORIDA 33920
DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Call to Order

Chairman Watkins convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District at 6:30 PM on February 10, 2025. There were sufficient Board members present to establish a quorum.

Commissioners in Attendance

Henry Grant Fichter - **Absent**
Darren Watkins
Paul F. Meloy, Jr.
Henry D. MacArty
Debbie K. Whitney

Also in Attendance

Jean P. Etcheverry, Chief
Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager
3-District Firefighter
1-Local 1826 DVP
1-District Citizen
1-Lee County EMS
Pastor Paul Cords

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence / Prayer

Prayer performed by Pastor Cords

Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments

None

Approval of the January 13, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Commissioner MacArty moved to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2025, regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Meloy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Approval of the Financial Data from January 2025

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

Commissioner Meloy moved to approve the financial data from January 2025. Commissioner Whitney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Public Input on Business

None

New Business

➤ Chief's Report

- ✓ Happy Birthday to Commissioner Watkins and Firefighter/EMT's Nader, Entwistle and Mastres.
- ✓ Total Calls-37 (81% EMS / 19% Fire)
- ✓ Significant rollover on Palm Beach Blvd. with entrapped occupant.
- ✓ Three fire inspections completed during the month with a firefighter walk through at Syngenta scheduled for February 26-28.
- ✓ The Hazmat Symposium was very informative with three individuals accumulating over 70-hours of training.
- ✓ Four district firefighters have signed up for Pump-Op classes and Chief Etcheverry is working on his Fire Service Training Manager to fulfill a new

requirement for Instructor III. He also stated that two personnel will attend the Lee County Fire Boat Class.

- ✓ He informed the Board of a multi-agency collaborative gathering in Hendry County at the Harry Pepper Reservoir.
- ✓ Firefighters conducted fire extinguisher training for 70-individuals at Child Care of SW Florida, a truck attended the Trailways event and the Alva Fire District was chosen to participate in the Edison Light Parade on February 15th.
- ✓ Equipment repairs in process were reviewed with Board members.
- ✓ Additional notes: Oak Park dinner responses are required by Friday, crews are beginning the screen room clean up process preparing for the Volunteer Chicken Barbecue, Volunteers are considering the purchase of a larger gear shed for the district's staff expansion, electrical maintenance and updates on station property are being discussed, EVO training is approaching in April or May and the first quarter review/test is coming up for three of the District's probationary firefighters.

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

- Finance Manager, Sunny Sipes, presented the Board with Resolution #25.02.01 concerning the renewal of the \$500,000 Line of Credit with First Bank of Clewiston.
 - ✓ She stated that the renewal fee is \$265.92 and will be deducted from the District's bank account via EFT.

Commissioner Whitney made a motion to approve Resolution #25.02.01 concerning the renewal of the District's \$500,000 Line of Credit with First Bank of Clewiston (copy attached hereto). The renewal fee EFT of \$265.92 was also included in this motion. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meloy and unanimously approved.

- Discussion ensued on setting the date for the Volunteer Chicken Barbecue.
 - ✓ March 30, 2025, from 11:30 am - 3 pm.
- Chief Etcheverry presented the Board with the Kelly Blue Book values of Asset #50003 (old Asset #168) 2006 Ford Expedition (old) ALVA-1 (copy attached hereto).
 - ✓ He stated that the value is less than \$1,000 and the asset is no longer useful to the district's needs.

Commissioner Whitney made a motion to surplus/dispose of Asset #50003 (old Asset #168) 2006 Ford Expedition (old) ALVA-1. This motion was seconded by Commissioner MacArty and unanimously approved.

- Chief Etcheverry presented the Board with a proposal from Motorola Radio Solutions for the progressive tone base radio equipment.
 - ✓ He informed the Board that the progressive alert is beneficial to good health especially when the tones are signaled during the overnight hours.

Commissioner MacCarty made a motion to approve the purchase of the progressive tone base radio equipment, from Motorola Radio Solutions, in the amount of \$5,720.61 (copy attached hereto). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitney and unanimously approved.

- Chief Etcheverry presented the Board with a proposal from MES for (5) new sets of bunker gear for District Firefighters.
 - ✓ Stated the sets include helmets, gloves, additional protective gear, webbing, etc. Reminded the Board that this gear was included in the originally

approved fiscal year budget. He stated that this gear is essential to the District's expanding staff and will also relieve existing gear for the growing Volunteer program.

Commissioner MacArty made a motion to approve the purchase of (5) new sets of bunker gear, through MES, in the amount of \$25,367.59 (copy attached hereto). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Meloy and approved.

- Chief Etcheverry presented the Board with an electrical proposal, from Power Cords Electric, of the electrical installation for the Station Bay ceiling fan.

Commissioner MacArty motioned for approval of the electrical installation, through Power Cords Electric in the amount of \$2,025.00, for the Station Bay ceiling fan (copy attached hereto). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitney and unanimously approved.

- Chief Etcheverry presented the Board with the final proposal and specs, from Big Ass Fans, for the Station Bay ceiling fan.
 - ✓ He reminded the Board that this is an approved item in the original fiscal year budget and that it will be a benefit to Firefighters during the Summer months.

Commissioner MacArty motioned for approval of the Station Bay Big Ass Fans purchase in the amount of \$10,617.81 (copy attached hereto). Commissioner Whitney seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Old Business

- Chief Etcheverry tabled discussions regarding the Kenworth tractor (T-600) repairs and related additional district costs.
 - ✓ Volunteer Chris Meo informed the Board that multiple attempts have been made to repair the rails and he feels that the tractor is no longer safe to operate on public roads. He believes it could be sold to operate on private and/or agricultural lands.
 - ✓ Discussion ensued on the possibility of sending interested District Firefighters to gain their CDL license, with a manual transmission endorsement, in the event of a future semi-tractor purchase.
 - ✓ Etcheverry stated that CDL classes are approximately \$5,000 per applicant.
 - ✓ A used tractor to replace T-600 would run approximately \$40,000.
 - ✓ Discussion ensued on the District's ISO rating.

Union Report

District Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Allen DVP Local 1826

- Stated no Union Report

Volunteer / Public Comments

- Chief Etcheverry stated there are currently 12- Volunteers that gained 189-hours of training during the previous month. He thanked all participants.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Watkins inquired if Commissioner MacArty had any items prepared to discuss his thoughts on Board members "specializing" in certain areas of repairs, equipment and/or maintenance?
- Commissioner MacArty stated that the Lehigh Fire Department no longer practices this concept and the Fort Myers Shores Fire Chief stated that he typically contacts the Board Chairman or Vice Chairman with any needed assistance. MacArty also suggested Chief

Etcheverry consider employing/staffing an Acting or Secondary Chief who would be in charge of operations upon his absense.

- Etcheverry responded that an Acting Chief may be an option for this department when current employees meet necessary qualifications.
- EVOC discussion ensued.
- CDL discussion ensued.

Reminders

- The March Board Meeting will be held Monday, March 10, 2025, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Commissioner Meloy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitney, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Watkins closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager / Administrative Specialist

Minutes Distributed Electronically to Board Members