

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

**Call to Order**

Chairman Watkins convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District at 6:35 PM on March 10, 2025. There were sufficient Board members present to establish a quorum.

**Commissioners in Attendance**

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

**Also in Attendance**

Jean P. Etcheverry, Chief  
Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager  
2-District Firefighters  
1-Local 1826 DVP  
2-District Volunteers  
FMSFD Chief, Bobby Rewis  
Pastor Paul Cords

**Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence / Prayer**

Prayer performed by Pastor Cords

**Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments**

Chief stated that local Telegraph Creek citizen, Mrs. Davis, had passed. Her daughter called to thank the District for all they had helped her mother with during previous years. She is asking that any memorial funds be sent to the Alva Fire District.

**Approval of the February 10, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner MacArty moved to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2025, regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Meloy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

**Approval of the Financial Data from February 2025**

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

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the financial data from February 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 Engineer Wright.
- ✓ Total Calls-29 (79% EMS / 21% Fire)
- ✓ Finance Manager, Sunny Sipes, is now a commissioned Notary.
- ✓ Reviewed a thank you letter from an individual who received care from Firefighters.
- ✓ Probationary Firefighters completed their first quarterly test.
- ✓ Volunteers are getting property ready for the annual barbecue, which will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

- ✓ Thanked Oak Park citizens for their hospitality and \$3,500 donation to the Volunteer program at the Annual Pot-Luck Dinner.
- ✓ Participated in Read Across America at the Alva Elementary School.
- ✓ Performed a Sygenta walk-through to identify hazards that may need to be addressed.
- ✓ Informed the Board that he had reached out to a local land owner to inquire on his thoughts of considering the sale of land to the Alva Fire District.
- ✓ Commissioner Watkins inquired on the land location versus the area of possible development in the Babcock Community? Etcheverry stated approximately 4-5 miles from that particular area.
- ✓ Commissioner Fichter inquired on desired acreage? Etcheverry stated that 2-3 acres would be optimal.
- ✓ Chief stated that an individual on Persimmon Ridge will be installing the fitting to a pump that is supplied from a spring fed lake in this area. He stated that this pump will be available to the Fire Department.
- ✓ Informed the Board that crews pumped from the hydrant on Captain Nelson Court with great success.
- ✓ Watkins inquired on any new updates in regard to the future school on Joel Boulevard? Commissioner Meloy stated that he understood it was on hold until March 27-28 due to federal permitting.
- ✓ Discussion ensued on the District's ISO rating.
- ✓ Discussion ensued on the sale of old ALVA-1 for a value less than \$1,000. Chief stated that he had several interested parties.

Commissioner MacArty moved to approve the sale of old ALVA-1 (Asset #50003 / #168 ) by a sealed bid process collected through Friday, March 14, 2025. He moved that Chief Etcheverry could accept the highest bid. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously passed.

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, asked the Board to approve the return of \$250,000 to the Assigned Funds Account that was used for October-December 2024 operations.

Commissioner Meloy made a motion to approve the transfer of \$250,000 in operational funds back to the Assigned Funds account. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

- Finance Manager, Sunny Sipes, reviewed with the Board the need to update signers and representatives on the District's SBA / Florida Prime accounts. Board composition modifications created this need.

Commissioner Whitney made a motion to approve the update of signers and representatives to the District's SBA / Florida Prime accounts (copy attached hereto). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

- Finance Manager, Sunny Sipes, informed the Board of Local 1826's desire to receive Union Dues via ACH. She asked for the Board's approval to create this biweekly ACH transaction with First Bank.

Commissioner MacCarty made a motion to approve the biweekly ACH transactions for the submittal of employee Union dues. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

- Discussion ensued on SBA-Florida Prime interest returns versus First Bank's High Yield Account returns and CDAR options (information attached hereto).
  - ✓ Sipes reviewed the information with Board members making them aware that the District's Florida Prime account is offering a 1% higher interest rate than First Bank's High Yield account.
  - ✓ Commissioner MacArty added insight.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the transfer of \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) from the District's Assigned Funds account with First Bank to the District's SBA / Florida Prime account. This motion was seconded by Commissioner MacArty and approved.

- Chief Etcheverry presented the Board with proposals for electrical repairs to the station and administrative buildings.
  - ✓ Three proposals included: Power Cords Electric - \$4,000, Coharbor Electric - \$4,188 and Biggerstaff Electric - \$10,000.
  - ✓ Discussion ensued on proposal specifications.

Commissioner Fichter motioned for approval of the electrical repairs, including labor, supplies and related permits, through Power Cords Electric in the amount of \$4,000.00 (copy attached hereto). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitney and unanimously approved.

- Chief Etcheverry presented the Board with the proposal for the District's gear dryers.
  - ✓ He reminded the Board that this is an approved Capital item in the original fiscal year budget.
  - ✓ He informed the Board that due to station building limited electrical capacity, the district will need to purchase two smaller gear dryers versus one large dryer. He stated that the proposed amount is equal to what was previously budgeted for one device.

Commissioner MacArty motioned approval for the purchase of (2) Groves Vortex DC2 gear dryers, through MES, in the amount of \$5,300 each (copy attached hereto). Commissioner Whitney seconded this motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **Old Business**

- Chief Etcheverry tabled discussions regarding the Kenworth tractor (T-600) repairs and related additional district costs.
  - ✓ Chief mentioned that he and Volunteer's Meo and Phelps, had researched available equipment that would service the District's large tanker hauling needs.
  - ✓ Chief presented the Board with a proposal from Rush Truck Center, Houston, for a 2019 Peterbilt tractor, in the amount of \$50,614.51 (details attached hereto).
  - ✓ Discussion ensued on the vehicle's accessories and benefits to the District.

Commissioner MacArty made a motion to accept the proposal from Rush Truck Center, Houston, in the amount of \$50,614.51, for the 2019 Peterbilt tractor. He motioned that these funds will be pulled from the District's Emergency Assigned Funds due to its timely acquisition during brush season. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

- Discussion ensued on the sale of T-600 (Asset #169 / #50004 )1993 Kenworth semi-tractor.

Commissioner Meloy made a motion to post the sale of the 1993 Kenworth semi-tractor T-600 (Asset #169 / #50004) on a public website accepting the highest bidder. This motion was seconded by Commissioner MacArty and unanimously approved.

### **Union Report**

District Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Allen DVP Local 1826

- Stated no Union Report

### **Volunteer / Public Comments**

- Chaplain Cords stressed placing a reserve amount on the listed Kenworth semi-tractor T-600 sale.
- Volunteer/Support Coordinator, James Barritt, stated that Volunteers clocked 217 hours during the previous month, we have new Volunteers joining the program and the barbecue progress is coming along nicely.

### **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner MacArty stated that he is impressed by the Probationary Firefighter's progress.

### **Reminders**

- The April Board Meeting will be held Monday, April 14, 2025, at 6:30 PM.
- The Volunteer Chicken Barbecue will be held Sunday, March 30, 2025 at 11:30 AM.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Watkins moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Meloy, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Watkins closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager / Administrative Specialist

Minutes Distributed Electronically to Board Members