

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
**ALVA FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT**  
2660 STYLES ROAD, ALVA, FLORIDA 33920  
DATE: APRIL 14, 2025

**Call to Order**

Chairman Watkins convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District at 6:33 PM on April 14, 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  
4-District Firefighters  
1-Local 1826 DVP  
1-District Volunteer  
Pastor Paul Cords

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

Prayer performed by Pastor Cords

**Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments**

None

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the financial data from March 2025. Commissioner MacArty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

**Public Input on Business**

None

**New Business**

➤ **Chief's Report**

- ✓ Thanked Volunteers, staff, Commissioners, Alva Country Diner, women of the Oak Park Community, Alva citizens and Smokin' Pit Barbecue for their help and participation in the Volunteer Chicken Barbecue.
- ✓ Chief thanked Board-up America for their offer to attend the Gala at Fire Day in Tallahassee, Florida.
- ✓ 73-total calls during March / 73% EMS, 27% fire calls.
- ✓ Staff participated in multiple local events, training exercises, COOP training and Chief also attended the FDIC Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- ✓ Equipment update: M-121 back in service, T-121 is at RUSH in Tampa for multiple repairs, B-123 brake service will be completed next week and the top bid on the 1993 Kenworth semi-tractor was \$2,500. Chief stated that this did

not meet the set minimum reserve. Chief stated that an individual contacted the District after the posting expiration and offered \$6,000 for this asset.

Commissioner MacArty made a motion to approve the sale of the 1993 Kenworth semi-tractor (T-600 / Asset #50004) for \$6,000. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

- ✓ Chief informed the Board that the District was awarded the Firehouse Subs Grant for a new set of extrication tools with a value of \$43,520.08. He and Sipes are in the process of ordering plaques and, once the items are received, they will begin to schedule a promotional event.
- ✓ Property update: Administrative Office electrical work permit has been applied for and the new gear shed has been delivered.
- ✓ Discussion ensued on a second station land acquisition. Chief informed the Board that communication was made with a local property owner who stated that he would possibly entertain an offer for a 2-3 acre parcel. Discussion continued on local land values and Chief reminded the Board that the District has assigned funds for this project. He stated the importance of continually improving service to the community as well as following through with the projections listed within the District's Five Year Plan. Chief suggested the Board consider establishing a Development Committee and would like to continue these discussions at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Commissioners unanimously agreed.

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/Approval to open full Union Contract negotiations with SW Florida Firefighters & Paramedics, IAFF, Local 1826, District 24 for fiscal year beginning, October 1, 2025.
  - ✓ Chief informed the board that only non-monetary Articles will be TA'd until the District receives tentative/final ad valorem proceed projections during the months of June and/or July.
  - ✓ Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Fichter made a motion to approve the opening of full contract negotiations between the Alva Fire District and SW Florida Firefighters & Paramedics, IAFF, Local 1826, District 24 for fiscal year beginning, October 1, 2025. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitney and unanimously approved.

- Discussion/Approval to establish the District's Union Negotiating Team to include the Fire Chief, Finance Manager/Administrative Specialist, District Labor Counsel and District Legal Counsel.
  - ✓ Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Whitney made a motion to approve the District's Union Negotiation Team to include the Fire Chief, Finance Manager/Administrative Specialist, District Labor Counsel and District Legal Counsel. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

- Discussion/Approval to remove the following outdated assets from the District's Capital Asset listing: #220 / BLDG-2008-6 - Tile/Labor/Material Station 1 (2008), #60 / BLDG-2003-20 & #61 / BLDG-2003-21- Pulley Bros. Remodel for EMT & Cabinet (2003).

Commissioner Fichter made a motion to approve the disposal of outdated capital assets #220 / BLDG-2008-6, #60 / BLDG-2003-20 and #61 / BLDG-2003-21. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Watkins and unanimously approved.

### **Old Business**

- Discussion ensued on the current Station remodel.
  - ✓ Chief informed the Board that Alva Bros. Construction will begin the project, within two weeks, with a final estimate of \$2,800 plus materials.
  - ✓ Discussion ensued on material specs.

### **Union Report**

District Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Allen DVP Local 1826

- Stated no Union Report

### **Volunteer / Public Comments**

- Chief updated the Board on the Volunteer Chicken Barbecue proceeds stating the event profited \$2,318.56.

### **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Fichter thanked the Alva Firefighters and Volunteers for their participation with public events and for also protecting the community. He also thanked the District's large tanker drivers, Meo and Phelps, for their help and time.
- Commissioner's Meloy and Watkins thanked the Volunteers for their participation with the annual barbecue.
- Commissioner MacArty stressed to the Board his belief that the District needs to be operationally self-sufficient. He reiterated the importance of continual training and adequate Administrative staffing.

### **Reminders**

- The May Board Meeting will be held Monday, May 12, 2025, at 6:30 PM.
- Sipes informed the Board that Jeff Tuscan, with HSC/Tuscan & Company, PA, will be present at the May meeting to present the final financial Audit for FY end 9/30/24.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Fichter moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Watkins, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Watkins closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager / Administrative Specialist

Minutes Distributed Electronically to Board Members