

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
ALVA FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
2660 STYLES ROAD, ALVA, FLORIDA 33920
DATE: MAY 12, 2025

Call to Order

Chairman Watkins convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District at 6:32 PM on May 12, 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
1-District Firefighter
Local 1826 Vice President Tim Jones
1-District Volunteer
Jeff Tuscan - HSC/Tuscan Assoc., PA

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence / Prayer

Prayer performed by Commissioner Fichter

Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments

None

Approval of the April 14, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2025, regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Whitney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

Approval of the Financial Data from April 2025

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

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

Public Input on Business

None

New Business

➤ **Chief's Report**

- ✓ Happy Birthday to Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Allen on May 23rd.
- ✓ Total calls - 33: Medical calls - 22 / Fire calls - 11
- ✓ Several public outreach events: 75th Birthday celebration for Alva Church of God and Josh The Otter event at Alva Elementary School on May 19th.
- ✓ Training events: Chief attended a Leadership Conference in Arcadia and three Firefighters attended a 3-day fire boat training course in Sanibel.
- ✓ Additional updates: New donated Hurst tools are now in service, newly hired employees are completing their physicals, Union negotiations are ongoing, new gear shed is completed, waiting on FPL to connect Administration building to the new power supply, station bunk room renovations are now

completed, R-121 is now being equipped and should be in service next month and Chief presented Live Fire Training photos.

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

- Jeff Tuscan, with HSC/Tuscan & Company, PA, was in attendance to present the final financial audit for FY end 09/30/24.
 - ✓ Jeff Tuscan stated that all requested documents were submitted by Finance Manager, Sunny Sipes, in an efficient and timely manner.
 - ✓ Tuscan stated that the Audit results reflected an "unmodified opinion" continuing that there were "no financially significant comments" (attached hereto and electronically posted on District's website).
 - ✓ Tuscan detailed the audit results also reminding the Board that \$116,440 in Impact Fees were used to purchase R-121 as well as reimburse the District's General Fund for a past engine payment.
 - ✓ He also discussed the Board's movement of Unassigned Funds to the Assigned Funds account in order to aid in securing future required equipment.

Commissioner MacArty made a motion to accept the final financial audit for FY end 09/30/2024 as presented by Jeff Tuscan with HSC/Tuscan & Co., PA. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

Old Business

- Discussion ensued on the land purchase for a possible second station as well as the inception of a Development Committee.
 - ✓ Commissioner Fichter produced land development plans for the Babcock Ranch areas, that lie within the Alva Fire District, stating that mileage to these parcels will be approximately 4.7 miles from the desired land purchase area. Fichter believes that the Board should consider a local "going-rate" offer for this parcel.
 - ✓ Current property zoning, as well as department equipment, discussions ensued.
 - ✓ Commissioner MacArty voiced his opinion that the Board should move timely on this proposition stating the needs to the District as well as the many years that this development has been discussed.
 - ✓ Fichter stated that zoning, surveying, land preparations as well as site development costs needed to be researched. Fichter would like the Board to consider allowing himself and Firefighter Mastres to initiate discussions with the land owner regarding location of available acreage. He would also like the Board to consider a cost per acre threshold.

Commissioner Meloy motioned to allow Commissioner Fichter and Firefighter Mastres to begin talks with land property owners in regard to the purchase of a future second station site. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitney and unanimously passed.

Union Report

Tim Jones, Vice President Local 1826

- Stated Union Representatives, Chief and Finance Manager had a pleasant opening negotiations session. Discussions to resume after receipt of "soft numbers" on, June 26, 2025.

Volunteer / Public Comments

None

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Fichter thanked Sunny Sipes and Jeff Tuscan for their work on the District's financial audit.
- Commissioner Meloy thanked Fichter for his work on the future land purchase information and materials.
- Commissioner Watkins thanked Fichter for his willingness to help with the land purchase project.
- Sunny Sipes thanked Jeff Tuscan and his team at HSC/Tuscan & Co., PA, for their efficient work on the District's final audit for FY end 09/30/24.

Reminders

- The June Board Meeting will be held Monday, June 09, 2025, at 6:30 PM.
- Firehouse Subs promotional event will be held Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 9 AM, at the Firehouse Subs location on Forum Blvd.

Adjournment

Commissioner Meloy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Watkins closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager / Administrative Specialist

Minutes Distributed Electronically to Board Members