

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
**ALVA FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT**  
2660 STYLES ROAD, ALVA, FLORIDA 33920  
DATE: FEBRUARY 09, 2026

**Call to Order**

Chairman Watkins convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District at 6:30 PM on February 09, 2026. 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 - **Absent**  
1-District Firefighter - Local 1826 DVP  
Pastor Cords

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

Prayer performed by Pastor Cords

**Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments**

None

**Approval of the December 08, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner MacArty moved to approve the minutes of the December 08, 2025 regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Whitney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

**Approval of the January 12, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting Cancellation**

Commissioner Fichter moved to formally approve the cancellation of the January 12, 2026 regular monthly meeting. Commissioner MacArty seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed.

**Approval of the Financial Data from December 2025 & January 2026**

Jean P. Etcheverry, Chief

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the financial data from December 2025 & January 2026 (copy attached hereto). 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 Finance Manager Sunny Sipes, Commissioner MacArty and Firefighters Mastres and Entwistle.
- ✓ Congratulations to Volunteer Jade Martinez for her graduation from Braxton College with Fire 1 & II certifications.

- ✓ Thank you to our District tender drivers for their volunteer service on several brush fires.
- ✓ Thank you to Firefighter Carmona for his service as the new Safety Coordinator.
- ✓ Total calls December and January 105; 70% EMS and 30% fire calls
- ✓ Commercial inspections are taking place, collaboration training at the Calloosahatchee bike park was performed, RSW MCI was attended and the Chief's Summit was excellent.
- ✓ Search and rescue, peer support training, pediatric emergency preparedness and rural community courses were attended by Firefighters.
- ✓ Touch A Truck was successful and the mayor of Lee County requested that any unused or out of service equipment be donated to a fire department in the Dominican Republic. The Alva District had unused fire hose, that was not on the asset list, that was donated to this cause.
- ✓ Sunshine Extension Project is being discussed by Lee County once again. This roadway will connect Sunshine Parkway and Bateman Road.
- ✓ Trackable Asset purchase and Capital improvements are underway.
- ✓ Chief discussed a proposal for the widening of the station gravel roadway. Discussion ensued on the details of said proposal. Commissioner Watkins will reach out to his source to provide a quote as well.
- ✓ Discussion ensued on the helipad lighting.
- ✓ Chief presented the Board with information on an available 2019 Ford Expedition, from the Fort Myers Beach Fire Department, for \$12,000.00. He stated that the price includes the lighting package as well as the command center build out. Chief proposed utilizing the assigned funds for a future utility vehicle be used to procure this vehicle for additional services.

Commissioner MacArty proposed that Chief Etcheverry has permission to secure the purchase of the 2019 Ford Expedition, for \$12,000.00, should the equipment be satisfactory after a mechanical evaluation. Commissioner Fichter seconded this proposal and the motion unanimously passed.

- ✓ Chief reminded the Board of the exhaust removal system discussions scheduled for this fiscal year. He presented the board with a new concept for this equipment and will be searching for available grants.
- ✓ Chief stated that the Volunteer's have secured the date for the Volunteer Chicken Barbecue as April 12, 2026. He stated that the Braxton Fire College will be in attendance to present Volunteer Jessica Sanchez's family with an honorary diploma for her fire certification. He also stated that the District will offer sales of the Alva Fire Department's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Jessica Sanchez Memorial t-shirts.
- ✓ Chief informed the Board that he would like to substitute the budgeted brush truck shelving for the purchase of two AED's. He stated that the station, as well as ALVA-1, did not have AED equipment.
- ✓ The Oak Park Volunteer pot luck dinner will be held this Thursday evening. The Volunteer program will also be donating a new AED to the Oak Park Community. They will also be presenting a Lifetime Achievement award to Volunteer David Phelps and a Volunteer of the Year award to Christopher Meo.

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

- Chief Etcheverry presented the Board with the First Bank \$500,000 Line of Credit renewal.
  - ✓ Commissioner Watkins stated that this is an annual approval process.

Commissioner MacArty made a motion to approve the \$500,000 First Bank Line of Credit renewal (copy attached hereto). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Meloy and unanimously approved.

- Chief Etcheverry presented the Board with bank transfer documents in order to replace assigned funds used for the October - December operations.
  - ✓ Chief Etcheverry stated that this \$500,000 in funds will be transferred from the Operations account to the SBA Assigned Funds account.

Commissioner Meloy made a motion to approve the transfer of \$500,000 from the Operations account to the SBA Assigned Funds account. This motion was seconded by Commissioner MacArty and unanimously approved.

- Chief Etcheverry presented the Board with modifications to District policies #120.75.00 - Vacation/Annual Leave Policy and #120.75.10 - Sick Leave Policy
  - ✓ Chief stated that these policies are being modified to reflect agreements made within FY 2025-2028 Union contract negotiations and modifications.

Commissioner Whitney made a motion to approve the modifications to District policies #120.75.00 - Vacation/Annual Leave Policy and #120.75.10 - Sick Leave Policy. Commissioner MacArty seconded this motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Old Business**

- Discussion ensued on the water farm location preparations.
  - ✓ Chief stated that approximately \$18,000 was budgeted for this project. He presented a proposal from Precision Welding & Fabrication for \$16,850. This proposal would address the water tank leg fabrication and welding, crane service as well as the permanent concrete footers. Chief believes the set-up should be completed and operation perfected, then the tank painting can be budgeted for next fiscal year. The Board agreed for the Chief to secure this proposal.
- Discussion ensued on the land purchase for a possible second station.
  - ✓ Commissioner Fichter stated that Chief Etcheverry will be meeting with the land attorney tomorrow. Fichter asked the land owner to finalize on his thoughts as to pricing, land development specifications and architecture that he would like to propose to the District. The attorney should have the title commitment and title search completed soon.
  - ✓ Chief stated that he will send an email to Commissioners with an update from his discussions with the land attorney.

### **Union Report**

Jason Allen, DVP Southwest FL Professional Firefighters & Paramedics, IAFF Local 1826  
“Everything is going great.”

### **Volunteer / Public Comments**

None

### **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioner Fichter thanked all for a great meeting.

- Commissioner MacArty voiced his belief that projects started should be completed in full and not in stages based on Board approval. He would like to minimize staff “hand’s on applications” for projects in order to streamline operations.
- Commissioner Watkins reminded Chief to be sure to collect three proposals for each requested project.
- Commissioner Fichter inquired with Chief Etcheverry as to the well progress and/or delays? Chief stated that we are in an interim period and he would like to be able to collect and store water in the meantime. Discussion ensued on the well specifications.

**Reminders**

- The March board meeting will be held on Monday, March 09, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Fichter moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM. This motion was seconded by Commissioner MacArty, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Watkins closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager / Administrative Specialist

Minutes Distributed Electronically to Board Members