

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
ALVA FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
2660 STYLES ROAD, ALVA, FLORIDA 33920
DATE: APRIL 13, 2026

Call to Order

Chairman Watkins convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District at 6:30 PM on April 13, 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
Pastor Cords - **Absent**
Union DVP - Engineer Jason Allen
1 - District Firefighter

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence / Prayer

Prayer performed by Commissioner Fichter

Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments

None

Approval of the March 09, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Commissioner MacArty moved to approve the minutes of the March 09, 2026 regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Meloy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Approval of the Financial Data from March 2026

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager/Administrative Specialist

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the financial data from March 2026 (copy attached hereto). Commissioner Whitney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Public Input on Business

None

New Business

➤ **Chief's Report**

- ✓ Chief thanked all who volunteered and helped with the annual Volunteer Chicken Barbecue. He specifically thanked Volunteer/Support Coordinator James Barritt for his organization, Commissioner Meloy for his grill assistance, Commissioner MacArty for providing the bounce house and the Oak Park Community for their collaboration on all things.
- ✓ Chief thanked Braxton College for presenting the honorary Firefighter diploma to the family of Jessica Sanchez, as well as Lee County EMS for both industries offering a scholarship to Jessica Sanchez's son should he decide to pursue a career in public service.

- ✓ He thanked the Fire Chief's Association for their \$500 donation to the Volunteer's Jessica Sanchez Honorary Scholarship Fund as well as Ms. Sanchez's family for offering their own \$1,000 donation to this fund.
- ✓ Total calls in March-29; 15-EMS and 14-fire calls.
- ✓ The following training is/has taken place: mutual aid training with the Fort Myers Shores Fire Department, live fire training, two firefighters and Chief Etcheverry will attend the FDIC event in Indianapolis this month as well as an upcoming Search Culture class.
- ✓ Public Outreach: the Alva School's Spring Fling will be held on April 17th and we will be teaming up with the Lee County Mosquito Control for a public outreach event.
- ✓ Chief informed the Board that he is waiting for the helipad lights to be installed and that he is also waiting on confirmation from ISO on the date of their visit.
- ✓ Chief made the Board aware that there are 10,000 gallon water storage tanks available through the Lee County Water Treatment Plant. He is considering a plan in which these tanks can be strategically placed throughout the District to provide bulk water storage.
- ✓ Stated that District Firefighter Mastres is organizing a non-profit for an anonymous donor that will aid local residents in need.
- ✓ Chief attended the Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach Fire District's new station grand openings.
- ✓ Informed the Board that he has an upcoming meeting with appointed Lee County Commissioner Patricia Petrosky and that he also gave a station property tour to the State of Florida Regional Representative, Cherie Denham.
- ✓ Chief provided the Board with a new District call volume chart and reminded the Board to keep these figures in mind when preparing for the upcoming budget.

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

- Review/Approve the audit professional services proposal from HSC/Tuscan & Co. PA for fiscal years 2027, 2028 and 2029.
 - ✓ As requested, Sipes re-addressed this topic from the March Commission meeting. She informed the Board of the RFP process should they decide to seek proposals from additional vendors regarding the District's annual financial audit process. Sipes also provided a copy of Florida Statute 218.391 dictating the auditor selection process; she provided statistics on auditors providing services to other local fire districts and informed the Board of Tuscan's history and services delivered to the Alva Fire District.

Commissioner MacArty motioned to accept the proposal from HSC/Tuscan & Co., PA for their terms and objectives in completing the District's financial audit for fiscal years 2027, 2028 and 2029 (copy attached hereto). Commissioner Fichter seconded this proposal and the motion unanimously passed.

- Review/Approve GASB-75 OPEB actuarial services proposals for the years 2026 and 2027.
 - ✓ Finance Manager, Sunny Sipes, presented the Board with three proposals for the GASB-75 actuarial services for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.
 - ✓ She stated that she inquired with surrounding districts as to whom they used for these services and presented the Board with her findings.

- ✓ After reviewing quotes from VIA Actuarial Solutions, Foster & Foster Actuaries & Consultants and Bolton, the Board offered their decision.

Commissioner MacArty made a motion to accept the proposal from VIA Actuarial Solutions for its services in preparing the District's GASB-75 OPEB actuarial reports for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 (copy attached hereto). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

- The Board was presented with a proposal from Lambros Computer Solutions in regard to the District's managed IT services.
 - ✓ Sipes and Chief Etcheverry reviewed the proposal with the Board. Sipes stated that after discussions, she and Etcheverry agreed that the Lambros360 Basic services were appropriate for the District's needs.
 - ✓ Discussion ensued in regard to the proposal details.

Commissioner Fichter made a motion to accept the proposal from Lambros Computer Solutions for the District's managed IT services (copy attached hereto). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Meloy and approved. Commissioner MacArty voted "nay".

Old Business

- Discussion ensued over the second station land purchase.
 - ✓ Commissioner Fichter informed the Board that he met with the proposed site's landowner in order to discuss the building layout, existing building plans and the possibility of developing a multi-agency location. The land owner was receptive to this idea as well as the possibility of purchasing additional acreage.
 - ✓ Commissioner MacArty inquired on Fichter's thoughts as to a timeline for securing the land purchase.
 - ✓ Fichter stated that he believed he would have the parcel outlay and confirmation of pricing to present at the May board meeting.

Union Report

Jason Allen, DVP Southwest FL Professional Firefighters & Paramedics, IAFF Local 1826
"All good!"

Volunteer / Public Comments

None

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner MacArty informed the Board of his decision to vote "nay" in regard to the IT contract for computer and software services. He stated that he didn't believe there was a rush to secure these services and noted the current difficulties that we have had with computer equipment. MacArty believed that we should have gathered three quotes for these services.
- Sipes informed the Board that Lambros Computer Solutions has been servicing the District's equipment for over 15-years and they are working on a resolution for the current equipment/software troubles. She also reminded the Board that there is a clause in the contract that gives the Board 90-days to rescind during the commitment term.
- Commissioner Watkins stated that the Volunteer barbecue was "delicious and a great time."
- Chief Etcheverry informed the Board that a tree had fallen on one section of the screened room during the week prior to the barbecue.

Reminders

- The May board meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

- Sipes informed the Board that Jeff Tuscan, with HSC/Tuscan & Co., PA, will be present at the May gathering to present the financial audit results for fiscal year end September 31, 2025.

Adjournment

Commissioner Whitney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 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