

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
**ALVA FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT**  
2660 STYLES ROAD, ALVA, FLORIDA 33920  
DATE: MAY 11, 2026

**Call to Order**

Chairman Watkins convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District at 6:35 PM on May 11, 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**  
Jeff Tuscan - HSC/Tuscan & Co., PA  
1 - District Firefighter/Volunteer Coord.

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

Prayer performed by Commissioner Fichter

**Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments**

None

**Approval of the April 13, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner MacArty moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026 regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Fichter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

**Approval of the Financial Data from April 2026**

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager/Administrative Specialist

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

**Public Input on Business**

None

**New Business**

➤ Chief's Report

- ✓ Chief wished Engineer's Allen, Johnson, and Firefighter Aviles a happy birthday.
- ✓ Total calls in March-59; 51-EMS and 8-fire calls.
- ✓ Chief stated that the FDIC Conference was very informative and the district presented a plaque to the Gary Senise Foundation for its contribution to the department.
- ✓ He stated that there were two inspections during the month and that there is ongoing training, including a boat operator certification course that was attended by two District Firefighters.
- ✓ Chief Etcheverry detailed current events making the Board aware that the Josh the Otter presentation was upcoming, County Commissioner Petrosky will be

- touring the facilities on Wednesday, the Alva First Baptist Church has a pie-eating contest coming up at which a Firefighter will judge, he is still waiting on the helipad lighting to be installed, the incorrect pump that was delivered has now been returned and additional anniversary T-shirts have been ordered.
- ✓ Chief inquired with Commissioner Watkins if he could provide additional 10-foot concrete pilings to the district for the plastic water tank mounts. Watkins confirmed and inquired about the quantity.
  - ✓ Chief informed the Board that the Broadway Bridge will be closed on May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> from 9 PM - 5 AM, and the department is staging additional response at the Community Center on the north side of the river.
  - ✓ He informed the Board that Lightning Wireless will be at the station tomorrow to provide an estimate for additional lighting on T-300 per Commissioner MacArty's request. Discussion ensued.
  - ✓ Chief also informed the Board that Firefighters are constructing a new training prop in the screened room and that Administration should be receiving the District's preliminary ad valorem predictions around June 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

- Jeff Tuscan with HSC/Tuscan & Co. PA presented the final financial audit for fiscal year ending 09/30/2025 (report posted to District website).
  - ✓ Tuscan informed the Board that the District received the highest opinion offered by auditors and that there were no financially significant comments.
  - ✓ Tuscan reviewed the Fund Balance figures, the MD&A as well as a briefing on annual expenditures. He reminded the Board that they will need to amend the current budget to reflect the final audited figures as well as reviewing prepared charts, graphs and new compliance reporting.
  - ✓ Discussion ensued with the Board on Governor DeSantis' special assessments on property tax and how this may affect ad valorem collections by the District.

Commissioner Fichter motioned to accept the final financial audit for FY ending 09/30/2025 from HSC/Tuscan & Co., PA. Commissioner Meloy seconded this proposal and the motion unanimously passed.

- Discussion ensued on amending Chief Etcheverry's employment contract to reflect overtime benefits for shift and/or State of Emergency hours worked.
  - ✓ Chief Etcheverry informed the Board that during the most recent audit, it came to light that his contract does not reflect overtime benefits for additional hours worked outside of his normal chief duties. However, it does reflect his receipt of Engineer incentives. He explained the circumstances in this small department that occasionally require him to perform as an engineer on shift duty. He stated that this has not happened often and should be minimal in the future now that he has implemented the Acting Engineer positions on each shift. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner MacArty made a motion to approve Chief Etcheverry to direct Attorney Pringle to draft an addendum to his employment contract to reflect overtime benefits for State of Emergency periods that are implemented by the State of Florida or Lee County leaders. MacArty also motioned for Board approval, on a "case by case" basis, for any additional overtime related to shift performance by the Chief. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and approved.

- The Board was presented with proposals from Copy Concepts and Accent Business Products in regard to the District's copier services.
  - ✓ Sipes reviewed the proposals stating that Copy Concepts is the district's current provider and that its services have been superb.
  - ✓ Discussion ensued in regard to pricing, contract terms and equipment specifications.

Commissioner MacArty made a motion to accept the 5-year term proposal from Copy Concepts for the district's copier services (copy attached hereto). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitney and unanimously approved.

- Discussion ensued in regard to the screened room damage claim submitted to VFIS as well as two received repair quotes. This discussion will resume at subsequent meetings.

### **Old Business**

- Discussion ensued over the second station land purchase.
  - ✓ Commissioner Fichter discussed the potential building land site, design, as well as a possible public service center.
  - ✓ Commissioners discussed two versus four acre purchase pricing.
  - ✓ Discussion ensued to have Commissioner Fichter inquire on the future land use of an adjoining parcel owned by Lee County.

### **Union Report**

Jason Allen, DVP Southwest FL Professional Firefighters & Paramedics, IAFF Local 1826

None

### **Volunteer / Public Comments**

James Barritt, Volunteer/Support Coordinator

- ✓ Barritt thanked the Commissioners who helped with and supported the Volunteer Barbecue. He informed the Board of future plans to enact the Jessica Sanchez Honorary Scholarship Fund, as well as enabling a separate Board and bank account for this endeavor. Discussions will be held with district legal counsel.

### **Commissioner Comments**

- Commissioners thanked Jeff Tuscan for his professionalism and audit services.
- Sunny Sipes informed the Board that after discussions with the District's Auditors, she and VIA Acuarial Services were able to streamline their services, which will reflect a reduction in costs.

### **Reminders**

- The June Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 08, 2026, at 6:30 PM.
- Sipes informed the Board that the Independent Special District candidate qualifying timeframe with Lee County is from noon on June 08, 2026 through noon on June 12, 2026. She informed the Board to visit [www.lee.vote](http://www.lee.vote) for more information.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner MacArty moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 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