

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

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Fichter convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District at 6:33 PM on July 13, 2026. There were sufficient Board members present to establish a quorum.

Commissioners in Attendance

Henry Grant Fichter
Darren Watkins - **Absent**
Paul F. Meloy, Jr.
Henry D. MacArty
Debbie K. Whitney

Also in Attendance

Jean P. Etcheverry, Chief
Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager
Pastor Paul Cords

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence / Prayer

Prayer performed by Pastor Paul Cords

Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments

None

Approval of the June 08, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Commissioner MacArty moved to approve the minutes of the June 08, 2026 regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Meloy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Approval of the Financial Data for June 2026

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager/Administrative Specialist

Commissioner MacArty moved to approve the financial data for June 2026 (copy attached hereto). Commissioner Meloy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Public Input on Business

None

New Business

➤ **Chief's Report**

- ✓ Chief wished Firefighter Osne a happy birthday.
- ✓ Training Update: Chief informed the Board that he has organized a structural demolition training and has invited the Fort Myers Shores Fire Department to join the exercise. He also stated that several District Firefighters were invited by Training to Perform Under Pressure to participate in a free training exercise that will take place in Tennessee next fiscal year. Chief relayed information on the Safety & Security Conference in August, Lee Flight training with live landings as well as the Gary Sinise Foundation training seminar in September.
- ✓ Total monthly calls - 36
- ✓ Public Outreach: Chief discussed with the Board his research to purchase an inflatable educational training building next fiscal year. Board members stated to continue his inquiries and report his findings when they are complete.

- ✓ Old Business: Chief stated that the helipad lighting has been installed and the water tank is connected and pumping.
- ✓ New Business: Chief informed the Board that a safety compliance inspection is in the near future in order to qualify for state grants and ISO inspectors stated that an 8B rating looks very possible for the District. They are planning a site visit soon. He also stated that he attended a local meeting regarding the Property Tax Relief Bill for Florida homeowners. Discussion ensued.
- ✓ Chief Etcheverry made the Board aware that he is researching the possibility of implementing a 40-hour Deputy Chief position for the upcoming fiscal year. Discussion ensued.
- ✓ Commissioners Meloy and Whitney voiced their thoughts on the position fitting into the budget.
- ✓ Commissioner MacArty stated that he is “100% in favor of this position” if the budget permits. Discussion ensued, and MacArty offered his assistance in drafting a job description.

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

- Review/Approve the modified addendum to Chief Etcheverry’s employment contract to reflect pay for State of Emergency overtime hours.

Commissioner MacArty moved to accept the addendum language (copy attached hereto) to Chief Etcheverry’s employment contract, noting minor numerical modifications to be made, and asked for Vice Chairman Fichter to initial and sign the agreement. Commissioner Whitney seconded this motion and the motion passed.

- Sipes presented the Board with the final ad valorem proceeds expected for fiscal year end 09/30/2027.
 - ✓ She informed the Board that the District can expect \$2,239,335 at a 100% collection rate.
 - ✓ She stated that this is a \$164,382 or 8% increase over current year totals.
- A call was made to set the proposed millage rate for fiscal year end 09/30/2027.
 - ✓ Discussion ensued on millage rate variations and future commercial inspections.

Commissioner Meloy called to set the proposed millage rate for fiscal year end 09/30/2027 at 3.7500% mills. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitney and unanimously approved.

- A call was made to set the Tentative Budget Hearing date for fiscal year end 09/30/2027.

Commissioner MacArty motioned to set the Tentative Budget Hearing date for fiscal year end 09/30/2027 on Monday, September 14, 2026, 6:15 PM, at Station 121, 2660 Styles Road, Alva, Florida 33920. Commissioner Whitney seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Old Business

- Discussion ensued over the second station land purchase.
 - ✓ Commissioner Fichter stated that he has daily discussions with the landowner, who is waiting for his Professional Planner to present sale and project strategies.

- Sipes' presented the Board with findings related to the requested legal counsel data collection.
 - ✓ Sunny Sipes and Chief Etcheverry collected names and rates for firms contracted by seventeen local Lee County fire departments.
 - ✓ Discussion ensued among Commissioners.

Commissioner MacArty motioned to table the legal counsel discussion for 120-days. He asked Sipes to budget for these services accordingly and reach out to Attorney Pringle to discuss the Board's decision. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitney and unanimously approved.

Union Report

Jason Allen, DVP Southwest FL Professional Firefighters & Paramedics, IAFF Local 1826
None

Volunteer / Public Comments

None

Commissioner Comments

None

Reminders

- The August Board meeting will be held on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Commissioner Whitney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Meloy, and the vote was unanimous. Vice Chairman Fichter closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager / Administrative Specialist

Minutes Distributed Electronically to Board Members