

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
ALVA FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
2660 STYLES ROAD, ALVA, FLORIDA 33920
DATE: JUNE 8, 2026

Call to Order

Chairman Watkins convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District at 6:32 PM on June 8, 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**
1-District Firefighter

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence / Prayer

Prayer performed by Commissioner Fichter

Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments

None

Approval of the May 11, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2026 regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Whitney seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Approval of the Financial Data for May 2026

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager/Administrative Specialist

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the financial data for May 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 Engineer Johnson a happy birthday.
- ✓ Chief informed the Board that this is the first time in over seven years that the District has no active Probationary Firefighters.
- ✓ Total calls - 80% EMS and 20% fire.
- ✓ Chief Etcheverry gave the training update. He stated two Firefighters completed the Fire Boat Operator course in Boca Grande, two additional Firefighters are now Pump Operator certified and one new Firefighter has enrolled in the class, and Chief is participating in the FO3 course.
- ✓ Chief informed the Board of the following updates; Josh the Otter public event took place last month, he is currently in discussions with the ISO evaluators to schedule their site visit, the helipad lights will be installed next week, the correct float-a-pump will arrive soon and he is currently drafting paperwork

for a grant that will assist the District in the purchase of an exhaust removal system for the station bay.

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

- Review/Approve Resolution #26.06.01 concerning Budget Amendment #1 for FY end 09/30/2026.
 - ✓ Finance Manager, Sunny Sipes, informed the Board that this budget amendment reflects the financial audit results from FY end 09/30/2025. She also discussed additional line item modifications that coincide with biannual activity.

Commissioner MacArty motioned to accept Resolution #26.06.01 concerning Budget Amendment #1 for FY end 09/30/2026 (copy attached hereto). Commissioner Whitney seconded this proposal and the motion unanimously passed.

- Chief Etcheverry presented the Board with the State of Emergency overtime pay addendum to his employment contract.
 - ✓ Chief made the Board aware that legal counsel, Richard Pringle, drafted the contract addendum.
 - ✓ Commissioner MacArty stated his disagreement with the verbiage in the addendum and directed Chief Etcheverry to have Mr. Pringle modify the language. MacArty voiced his preference for this verbiage to reiterate his statements made in the May board meeting.
 - ✓ Local 1826 DVP, Engineer Jason Allen, voiced his thoughts on the topic, and discussion ensued.

Commissioner MacArty made a motion to approve Chief Etcheverry to direct Attorney Pringle to modify the 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 and stated that Comp time would also be an option for the Chief to offset his excessive overtime hours. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and approved.

- The Board was presented with the projected ad valorem proceeds for FY end 09/30/2027.
 - ✓ Sipes reviewed the proposals stating that the initial projected figures show a 4.1% increase in ad valorem proceeds, which equates to approximately \$88,290.
 - ✓ Discussion ensued regarding the proposed property tax amendment by Governor DeSantis.

Old Business

- Discussion ensued over the second station land purchase.
 - ✓ Commissioner Fichter suggested that the Board and the landowner move forward with discussions, stating that this land would be an asset for the Alva District. Fichter inquired with the Board to grant him negotiating rights in order to bring back the landowner's proposal for them to review. He informed the Board that the alternate parcel they had discussed was not in the Alva Fire District.

Commissioner MacArty motioned to provide negotiating rights to Commissioner Fichter for the second station land purchase on an “acre by acre” basis. He stated that all discussions with the landowner are to be presented to the Board at the subsequent monthly Board meeting for final approval. Commissioner Meloy seconded this motion, and the motion was unanimously passed.

- ✓ Fichter stated that a Special Meeting could be advertised should his discussions with the landowner require immediate attention by Board members.
- ✓ MacArty stated that he would like to have legal representation present should this occur.

Union Report

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

- Engineer Allen stated that Local 1826 has posted scholarship availability for firefighters and their families.
- Allen informed the Board that he and Chief Etcheverry are encouraging staff to continue pursuing education in order to help alleviate additional overtime costs. He discussed techniques for individuals to get registered for high-demand classes and shared seating options at high-volume departments. He also stated that the Alva District has two firefighters currently enrolled in the paramedic course.

Volunteer / Public Comments

- Finance Manager, Sunny Sipes, informed the Board that VFIS had approved and disbursed funds for the screen room damage proposal from TPI Aluminum Specialties, Inc. per the provided quote less the District’s \$500 deductible.

Commissioner Whitney made a motion to accept the proposal from TPI Aluminum Specialties, Inc. for the repairs to the screened room, caused by a falling tree, in the amount of \$16,660. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Fichter thanked the Board for their confidence in the land negotiations.
- Commissioner Meloy thanked Fichter for his willingness to do so.
- Commissioner MacArty voiced his concerns related to Mr. Richard Pringle’s response time to district legal needs and requests. He asked the Board to consider allowing Chief Etcheverry and Finance Manager Sunny Sipes to research attorneys who are representing surrounding Districts for their general counsel needs. He would like for them to report their findings to the Board at a subsequent meeting.
- The Board agreed to allow them to proceed.

Reminders

- The July Board meeting will be held on Monday, July 13, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

Adjournment

Commissioner Fichter moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 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