

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
ALVA FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
2660 STYLES ROAD, ALVA, FLORIDA 33920
DATE: AUGUST 10, 2026

Call to Order

Chairman Watkins convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District at 6:30 PM on August 10, 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 Paul Cords - **Absent**
3-District Firefighters

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence / Prayer

Prayer performed by Vice Chairman Fichter

Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments

Chief Etcheverry thanked Mr. Michael Elliot, with the State of Florida Fire Marshal's Office, for his help in completing the Safety Compliance Inspection Certification.

Approval of the July 13, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

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

Approval of the Financial Data for July 2026

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager/Administrative Specialist

Commissioner MacArty moved to approve the financial data for July 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 Commissioner Meloy and Firefighter Barrett a happy birthday. The Board also wished Chief Etcheverry a happy birthday.
- ✓ Total calls - 56; Total inspections - 2
- ✓ Training Update: The Alva Fire District hosted co-op training with the Fort Myers Shores Fire Department, Lee Flight training is scheduled for the 25th and 26th and Chief Etcheverry attended multiple training classes.
- ✓ Public Outreach: Tuesday the 11th is the first day of school and firefighters will be out in the community with awareness signs.
- ✓ Old Business: The ISO property visit is scheduled for August 18th, the Deputy Chief position discussed at the July meeting will not fit into the District's fiscal year end 09/30/27 budget, Chief will present Property Tax Reform Act

information soon, LifeScan evaluations are coming up at the end of the month and Chief presented information on the public education inflatable house.

Commissioner MacArty 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 following new District Policies / SOG's.:
 - SOG #100.90.00 - Testing of Department Apparatus & Equipment
 - SOG #200.01.00 - Atmospheric Air Monitoring
 - SOG #200.20.01 - Post-Fire Air Quality & Respiratory Protection
 - POL #200.80.00 - Respiratory Protection Program for Fire Service
- Discussion ensued on equipment testing frequency and the above policy guidelines.

Commissioner MacArty moved to approve the implementation of SOG's #100.90.00, #200.01.00, #200.20.01 and Policy #200.80.00 (copies attached hereto). Commissioner Meloy seconded this motion and the motion passed.

- Review/Approve the CHUBB Blanket Cancer Insurance Policy for FY end 09/30/2027 through VFIS.
 - ✓ Sipes presented the Board with the policy declarations as well as the annual premium of \$1,212.00
 - ✓ Commissioner MacArty asked Administration to research additional cancer policies for added firefighter benefits next fiscal year.

Commissioner MacArty motioned to accept the CHUBB Blanket Cancer Insurance Policy for FY end 09/30/2027. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

- Discussion ensued on the Tentative Budget and capital expenditures for FY end 09/30/2027 (copy attached hereto).
- Review/Approve ATX audio, UPS backup and warranty purchase through Lee County Public Safety.
 - ✓ Chief Etcheverry informed the Board that the updated equipment will cost the District \$17,172.75 which is a discounted rate through Lee County Public Safety. He stated that he was planning to budget for this purchase during FY end 09/30/2027 but was informed that the equipment must be secured by September 30, 2026. Chief explained the district's need for the systems' immediate alerts in order to increase response time within our rural fire district.
 - ✓ Commissioner MacArty inquired if this purchase qualified for the use of Impact Funds? Chief Etcheverry responded that he would research this possibility.
 - ✓ The Board instructed Chief Etcheverry to also reach out to other Fire Chiefs, who were not on the purchase list, to ask why they were not taking advantage of this offer. Chief stated that there is a possibility that they have already acquired this updated system.
 - ✓ This purchase discussion was tabled for a later date.

Old Business

- Discussion ensued over the second station land purchase.
 - ✓ Commissioner Fichter stated that the land owner is still in discussions with his development planner to be sure that the presentation and price proposed fits-in with his current development order.

- ✓ Commissioner MacArty would like to have a price proposal presented to the Board prior to the November elections.
- ✓ Commissioner Meloy voiced his concerns with the potential property costs due to the possibility of property tax reductions.
- ✓ Discussions ensued on additional available parcels on the North side of the Calloosahatchee River.

Commissioner MacArty proposed Board approval to grant Commissioner Fichter permission to seek alternate locations off Highway 78 west of Broadway Street. Commissioner Whitney seconded this motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Union Report

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

None

Volunteer / Public Comments

- Chief informed the Board that the Jessica Sanchez family has started a foundation that will be donating funds to the Volunteer program for Firefighter I & II education benefits.
- Sipes informed the Board that a transfer of assigned operating funds may be required to complete obligations for the current fiscal year due to unexpected annual costs. She stated that she will reach out to two Commissioners should this need to take place prior to the September gathering.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Fichter informed the Board that Matt Caldwell will be attending the Alva, Inc. Meeting tomorrow evening at 7 PM at the Alva Community Center. He stated that he would also be willing to attend a future Alva Fire District meeting if the Board deemed it necessary.
- Commissioner MacArty reminded Board members that if multiple Commissioners attend the Alva Inc. meeting, they should refrain from comment or discussion due to ethical guidelines.

Reminders

- The September Board meeting will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 6:30 PM.
- The Tentative Budget Hearing for FY end 09/30/27 will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 6:15 PM

Adjournment

Commissioner Meloy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Whitney, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Watkins closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager / Administrative Specialist

Minutes Distributed Electronically to Board Members