REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

ALVA FIRE PROTECTION & RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT

2660 STYLES ROAD, ALVA, FLORIDA 33920

DATE: OCTOBER 12, 2026

Call to Order

Chairman Watkins convened the regular monthly meeting of the Alva Fire Protection & Rescue Service District at 6:30 PM on October 12, 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 **- Absent**

Also in Attendance

Jean P. Etcheverry, Chief
Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager
Pastor Paul Cords
3-District Firefighters

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence / Prayer

Prayer performed by Pastor Paul Cords

Presentation of Awards & Acknowledgments

None

Approval of the September 14, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Meloy moved to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2026 regular monthly meeting. Commissioner Fichter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Approval of the September 14, 2026 Tentative Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes for FY end 09/30/2027

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the minutes of the FY end 09/30/2027 Tentative Budget Hearing. Commissioner Meloy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Approval of the September 28, 2026 Final Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes for FY end 09/30/2027

Commissioner MacArty moved to approve the minutes of the FY end 09/30/2027 Final Budget Hearing. Commissioner Fichter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the motion passed.

Approval of the Financial Data for September 2026

Sunny Sipes, Finance Manager/Administrative Specialist

Commissioner Fichter moved to approve the financial data for September 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 Adam Barrett a happy birthday.
  - ✓ Chief congratulated Firefighter's Anthony Camona and Richard Aviles on their successful completion of the Paramedic course at Braxton College.
  - ✓ Total monthly calls - 34 / Inspections - 1
  - ✓ Training Update - Quarterly Safety Meeting was held, TMS Therapy informative session was held in Naples, Florida, Fire Marshal Seminar will be held in Tampa, radiation training was performed and Lee Flight night landing training has been postponed due to weather conditions.
  - ✓ Public Awareness Events - Trailwinds event is tomorrow, the event at the Verandah Publix will be held this weekend, the Alva Museum and the Alva School Fall Festivals will be held this month, and employees will attend a public awareness event at the Golisano Children's Hospital.
  - ✓ Chief informed the Board that he forwarded emails to the Lee County School Board as well as our local Representative regarding its questions and concerns related to the new Alva High School construction. He has yet to receive a response.
  - ✓ Chief stated that the annual bunker gear inspection, as well as the pump, ladder, hose and nozzle testing, will be held over the next few weeks.

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

- Discussion ensued regarding the impact of Florida's Amendment 3 on district funding, as well as fire rescue assessment analysis information.
  - ✓ Chief presented a chart displaying the expected income loss to local fire districts as a result of an approved Amendment 3 proposal. He stated that the Alva District could expect a loss of approximately $413,537 during fiscal year 2027-28 and $602,912 during fiscal year 2028-29. Chief stated that this information was sent out to Alva citizens by Local 1826.
  - ✓ Discussion ensued on researching an assessment-based collection option, as well as analysis firms and/or the district attorney collecting the necessary data for the Board to consider this direction.
  - ✓ Commissioner MacArty voiced his approval to proceed with this research even if Amendment 3 is not passed by voters.
  - ✓ Commissioners Fichter and MacArty stated their desire to have District Counsel Richard Pringle plan to attend the November and December Board Meetings.

- Review/Approve the Notice of Intent To Use Uniform Method of Collecting Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessment.
  - ✓ Finance Manager, Sunny Sipes, informed the Board that in order to proceed with these discussions, this Notice of Intent must be approved and published in local News-Press for four consecutive weeks. She stated that the Board can then review and approve a resolution at the November meeting in order to proceed with non-ad valorem special assessment research.
  - ✓ Sipes reminded the Board that they individually approved this notice via email, which will be published on October 16th, 23rd, 30th and November 6th .

Commissioner MacArty motioned to approve the publication of the Notice of Intent To Use Uniform Method of Collecting Non-Ad Valorem Special Assessment in the Fort Myers News-Press for four consecutive weeks on the dates noted above. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

Old Business

- Station 2 land purchase discussions ensued.
  - ✓ Commissioner Fichter informed the Board that he had the rough draft of a property agreement with the landowner. He stated that he is not certain of the attorney fees associated with having a formal proposal and/or final contract prepared.
  - ✓ Commissioner MacArty confirmed that his original motion for Fichter to negotiate on the Board's behalf included the incurred costs of related attorney fees.
  - ✓ Commissioner discussion ensued on the importance of securing a parcel on the north side of the Caloosahatchee River within the Alva Fire District. Fichter stated that he did speak with Lee County officials regarding a long-term lease on county property. The feedback he received was that a 30-year lease is typically the longest term that would be considered, that it must be county-owned land, not a State parcel, and 20/20 conservation land would not be considered.
  - ✓ Board discussion ensued on proposing a 90-day due diligence period within the final offer.
  - ✓ Commissioner Fichter stated that a final draft will be presented to and approved by the Board prior to its proposal to the landowner.

Union Report

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

Volunteer / Public Comments

None

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Fichter thanked Chief Etcheverry and Finance Manager Sipes for their proactive diligence in gathering information regarding future assessment discussions.
- Commissioner Meloy inquired about the stoplight functioning at Highway 80 and Styles Road and thanked firefighters for their attendance at his father's birthday celebration.
- Commissioner Watkins informed the Board that the Babcock Ranch Community will unveil its newest cul-de-sac structure on First Responders' Day, October 28, 2026. He invited all to attend from 5:30 - 7:30 PM.

Reminders

- The November Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 9, 2026, at 6:30 PM.
- Sipes reminded Board members to complete their annual Ethics Training prior to December 31, 2026.

Adjournment

Commissioner Meloy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 PM. This motion was seconded by Chairman 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