

To: General Membership

From: Secretary

Subject: Minutes of the North Okaloosa Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners
Monthly Meeting.

Date: February 18, 2021

Members Present: Craig Shaw, Chairman, Commissioner Group IV
Todd McGirr, Commissioner, Group I
Dan Bowers, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Commissioner, Group II
Rodney Lancaster, Commissioner, Group V At Large
Willie G. Terrell, Commissioner, Group III

Advisors Present: Jonathan Holloway Legal Council
Dennis McMaster Chief

Advisors Absent: Annette Rayburn, Administrator

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Shaw at 5:00 p.m.

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer were given.

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Bowers motioned to approve the agenda Commissioner McGirr seconded the motion. Vote 5/0.

Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2021: Motion to approve the minutes as written Commissioner McGirr, 2nd Commissioner Bowers. Vote 5/0.

New Business:

a. Mutual Aid – Chief McMaster told the board that in front of them there are two agreements, a lease agreement and an inter local agreement. With the purchase of new engine, we have been talking whether we would be surplus a truck. In talking with Holt, they are interested in a truck. Apparently a one time we entered into a gentlemen’s agreement with Almarante with them utilizing a bay at Station 81. When talking with Almarante that they recently had an ISO assessment and got credit for a truck that they have in our Station 81. It helped to improve their ISO rating. So, in turn with their mutual aid agreement, he would like to enter into a lease agreement with them that would require that truck to come to us first for fires and with tracking that information and data that it could help us with our ISO rating. He would also like to do that with Holt. The difference with Holt is that he would like to enter into a long-term agreement and not a year to year. He would like to do a trade for services a ten-year agreement and donate Engine 82 to Holt which would be housed in the Milligan station 83 and they will respond to calls in the Milligan area out of our station. This should improve our ISO rating. Baker also showed interest in using one of our bays at Station 83. Apparently, they had an Engine that they had loaned to Munson and it has been returned to them. Commissioner Bowers asked if there was any ramification with a 10-year lease. Attorney Holloway said that there are no problems with they way it is

written. Commissioner Bowers said that it sounds like a good deal. Commissioner Terrell asked ISO rating is this going to help it or are you just hoping it does? Chief McMaster said that he is waiting on a meeting with an ISO representative to discuss all this information. Commissioner Terrell then asked what if in two years Holt wants out of this agreement do, we get our truck back? Chief McMaster responded no. Chairman Shaw said that this is a benefit to all of us. Chairman Shaw said that he is glad to see all the North end departments working together. Commissioner Bowers made a motion to go ahead with the leases and agreements. 2nd Commissioner Lancaster. Vote 5/0.

Old Business:

a. Contract Update – Chairman Shaw said that they were suppose to have a meeting with Vertex in the next couple of weeks. Attorney Holloway said that the government is saying to expect the 24hrs to go into effect in July. Commissioner Bowers asked how the other tenants on the airport are treated as far as response. Attorney Holloway said that they are covered by 911.

Public Input – Someone asked how much is Engine 82 worth and Chief McMaster responded that he had it appraised and it is around \$35,000.00.

Advisory Reports:

Attorney Report-

Chief's Report –Chief McMaster briefed the report as follows- personnel which now lists 2 management, 14 paid firefighters, 2 part-time firefighter, 3 relief firefighters, no certified volunteers and 1 support personnel, there were 194 calls for the month January 2021.

Chief McMaster informed the board Engine 85 is fully back in service.

We had a problem with one of our air conditioners here at Station 82 and were given a quote of around \$4,000.00, and Annette has been working diligently with Casey about calls that were done previous to the warranty running out and they are trying to do something else to reduce the cost.

In house Fire Office I series is complete, we had 4 personnel complete the series. Now they are just waiting to schedule their test.

CRV81 and the extrication equipment will be surplused back to the Division of Forestry. Motion Commissioner Bowers to return CRV81 and the extrication equipment back to Forestry. 2nd Commissioner McGirr. Vote 5/0. Motion to accept the Chiefs report Commissioner McGirr, 2nd Commissioner Bowers, Vote 5/0.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report- Commissioner Bowers reviewed the monthly reports he reviewed the combined budget the only thing that stands out is the purchase of the truck there is nothing else out of line. Motion to approve the Treasurers report Commissioner McGirr, 2nd Commissioner Lancaster. Vote 5/0.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Lancaster said that the Chief has covered one of them and that is meeting with the ISO representative and discussing the pros and cons. The thing that we need to consider is that we have a minimum wage increase coming up and it is going to affect us here. When doing his ISO meeting, he is going to find out is that the main thing we have to do to help our rating is to increase manning. He said that we really need to educate the public on the impact fees and discuss increasing taxes. He pulled stuff off of the internet on showing that if you are paying \$566.00 for a class 5 rating and ISO comes along and makes it a class 9 your homeowners' insurance would to up to 1,200.00. A minimal increase in taxes to get extra manning I don't see where there is going to be an issue. We might need to do a town hall meeting or some open-houses. We have only two years and we get caught behind the 8 ball we are going to have to do something to be able to keep fire-fighters and hire new ones. If we are paying minimum wage, we won't get any. Commissioner Lancaster

said that he would like to talk to the county about a fee to be added to the water bill that we could collect. Chairman Shaw said that what Commissioner Lancaster discussed would take a referendum. Chairman Shaw said that the only thing we can do is increase our rate is the growth rate up to 3%. Attorney Holloway said that there is not much we can do being a special district as far as assessing fees. Chairman Shaw said that every year we are losing revenue to the City of Crestview. Commissioner Bowers asked Chief McMaster in your meeting with the ISO with these agreements that we are signing are you calling and asking a question or are you inviting an assessment? Chief McMaster said that the he is not inviting an assessment, but however they will so that. ISO is getting better at doing them every 5 years. One thing that I have gotten from other departments is that the new guy is very helpful at getting you the best rating that you can get and help you to get there. I am scheduling a meeting to ask how I need to present the information to them. Commissioner Bowers said that we invited a pre-emperty assessment at one time and our rating went up I believe it was Chief Cutler. Commissioner Lancaster said that the ISO is coming to help us answer questions not to assess us. Commissioner Bowers said that the rates that we charge are always fair to one person and not fair to another. Chairman Shaw said that the only way for us to now gain revenue is new builds and tax increases.

Set Agenda for next meeting March 18, 2021

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Craig Shaw
Chairman