

To: General Membership

From: Secretary

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

Date: May 20, 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
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 McGirr motioned to approve the agenda Commissioner Lancaster seconded the motion. Vote 5/0.

Approval of Minutes of April 18, 2021: Motion to approve the minutes as written Commissioner McGirr, 2nd Commissioner Terrell. Vote 5/0.

New Business:

a. Tax Roll - Chairman Shaw reviewed the figures for the tax roll for this coming year. He went over how much a 3% increase would affect tax payers. (Example: for single family the increase would be \$2.97 per year). Commissioner Bowers said that he is not in favor of a tax increase. He said that he doesn't see how 26k will help us. Chairman Shaw said that he would like to see the Commercial rates changed to per square foot. Commissioner Bowers said that we are not going broke so he sees no need for an increase. Commissioner McGirr asked Chief McMaster what would he do with this money. Chief McMaster said that our expenses have increased and the money that has been put aside has decreased. Vehicles do need to be replaced here and there. Commissioner Lancaster said that the tax needs to be increased for increased manpower. Commissioner McGirr said that he has always been in favor of increasing manpower. Chief McMaster said that the 3% increase will not get us manpower, but it will get us increased funding for operations. Commissioner Bowers said that our area is decreasing due to annexation from the city. Chairman Shaw said that everybody keeps mentioning our savings but it is designated for certain things. Chairman Shaw also stated that we are running as efficiently as we can. He said that inflation is another reason for an increase. He does not want to get behind, he would rather try to stay 1 step ahead. Chairman Shaw said that he is very hesitant about asking for any increase but he feels it is time. Public input by Dave Skarzynski said that the annexation does pose a problem we our tax

roll decreasing. He said that he personally does not have a problem with the increase, but there are people that are on a fixed income and he doesn't know how that will affect them. But with the annexations that will be decreasing our budget we need to start now to cover that and that if the annexations continue, we need to do this now. Commissioner McGirr said that he agrees and he would like to move forward with trying to get the impact fees on the ballot so this could help the department too. Commissioner Terrell said that in the past he has voted against an increase but he feels that it is time to increase the 3%. Commissioner McGirr made the motion for the maximum increase allowed by our Charter of 3%. Second Commissioner Lancaster. Vote 4/1 with Commissioner Bowers voting nay.

Old Business:

a. Contract Update – Chairman Shaw said that he has nothing at this time.

b. Cost Recovery – Chairman Shaw said that everyone should have been e-mailed a packet and he said that under the services agreement he read through it, he does not find much flaw with it. They want to charge a fee of 22% and return 78% to us they included a fee schedule and it looks good. The things that we talked about last month as far as a little more work on the scene. Commissioner Lancaster said that you sign a year agreement and if you are not happy with it you just stop sending the reports. He said that Argyle is using the same system and they are satisfied with it. Everything that is on their list is billed to the insurance company not to the owner. Commissioner Lancaster said that we can pick and choose what we send for them to bill. Chief McMaster said that he would like to give it a try this is another way to collect funds and not have to increase taxes possibly. Commissioner Bowers asked what is the percentage rate of success. There is no way to determine this. Commissioner McGirr said that if the Chief wants to try it, he is for it. Commissioner Lancaster made a motion to authorize Chairman Shaw and Attorney Holloway to revise the resolution and sign the contract. 2nd Commissioner McGirr. Vote 3/2 with Commissioners Bowers and Terrell voting nay. Commissioner Terrell said that he thinks that this will increase insurance. Chairman Shaw said that he would like to try it and see if it works.

Public Input – Dave Skarzynski said that the 40k that the district received for the Cares Act that the budget should be amended and to show the public how these funds were used.

Advisory Reports:

Attorney Report- Nothing to report but he would like to change the June meeting because he will not be available on the 17th. The board moved the meeting to the 10th.

Chief's Report – Chief McMaster said that the Cares Act funds were going to be used for operating supplies and the remainder to be used for payroll for the coverage of employees who's shifts had to be covered for COVID exposure. Commissioner Bowers made a motion to show additional funds of 40k in our income, 12k to operating supplies and 28k to payroll. 2nd Commissioner McGirr. Vote 5/0. 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 no support personnel, there were 224 calls for the month April 2021. Engine 84 has been returned from Ten-8, but it may have to go back the brakes seem to be dragging. Rescue 84 is out of service we think that there may be a sensor problem. The T-3000 that we originally leased is out of service and Company Two will be getting us another truck next week. Captain Miller has completed his state instructor I test. Captain Clarke has completed his Fire Office I task book and is waiting to take his state exam. We are still waiting on Baker's lease and interlocal agreements. Motion to accept the Chiefs report Commissioner Bowers, 2nd Commissioner McGirr. Vote 5/0.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report- Commissioner Bowers reviewed the combined report. We will increase the budget the 40k and expense to payroll and operating expense. Commissioner Bowers complemented Chief

McMaster on his management of his expenses. Motion to approve the Treasurers report Commissioner McGirr, 2nd Commissioner Lancaster. Vote 5/0.

Commissioner Comments: Commissioner McGirr found out that the Dorcas Fire Commission had a problem with their paperwork and do not have a board at this time.

Set Agenda for next meeting June 10, 2021

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Craig Shaw
Chairman