

To: General Membership

From: Secretary

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

Date: May 24, 2022

Members Present: Craig Shaw, Chairman, Commissioner Group IV
Todd McGirr, Vice Chair Commissioner, Group I
Dan Bowers, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer Commissioner, Group II
Rodney Lancaster, Commissioner, Group V At Large
Thomas Ashworth, Group III

Advisors Present: Dennis McMaster Chief
Annette Rayburn, Administrator

Advisors Absent: Jonathan Holloway Legal Council

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 21, 2022

Motion to approve the minutes as written Commissioner Lancaster, 2nd Commissioner McGirr. Vote 5/0.

New Business:

- a. **Tax Roll** -Chairman Shaw spoke with the board about a 3% rate increase. He stated that he is not one to increase taxes, but with inflation the way it is we can not afford to fall behind. He said that he will look at this on a year-to-year basis. The tax roll for this year we found an additional \$58,000.00 in new housing this alone will not keep up with inflation. The contract is a contract and it can possibly go away and we will be relying on the Special Assessments alone and if we do not do an increase we will be falling behind. Commissioner Bowers asked about simplifying our property type. Chairman Shaw said that we could do a per acre fee. We can do some more research and bring it back to the board. Commissioner Bowers motioned to keep the rate the same. Due to no second the motion failed. Commissioner Lancaster asked if we knew how much we are losing to annexations? Attorney Holloway said that we can find out. Chairman Shaw said that we are gaining enough on the new builds to cover it. Commissioner Lancaster made a motion to increase the tax roll 3%. 2nd Commissioner McGirr. Commissioner Bowers said that in the past when the economy goes down, he has never heard of anyone suggesting we lower the tax rate. Chairman Shaw said that yes, it is possible for fuel to go down, but the payroll and the

cost of trucks does not. Chairman Shaw said that our surplus is due to the contract. Vote 4/1 with Commissioner Bowers voting nay.

Old Business:

a. Contract update: Nothing new to report.

b. Insurance: Chairman Shaw brought to the board that three administrative employees have been on the medical insurance through the end of the policy and it ends May 31st 2022. The rest of the employees had pay adjustments and there were none done for these three. In the e-mail you received were quotes showing the costs of how much the equivalent insurance will be. He suggested pay increases to cover their expenses. Chairman Shaw reviewed a sheet which shows the cost to the district. He said that in his mind we had decided to get out of the insurance business. Chairman Shaw and Attorney Holloway spoke with a payroll company which said that we could get on their insurance plan. The only problem is that we would need 50% participation and we would pay them around 30k a year. We concluded that we would not be able to get the 50% participation. Commissioner Bowers made a motion to go ahead with the pay increases, 2nd Commissioner McGirr. Vote 5/0.

Public Input: None

Advisory Reports:

Attorney Report- Attorney Holloway said that he had asked Chief McMaster to gather some volunteers to come a donuts for Dad event at Walker School and he also asked Commissioner Lancaster for his department in Crestview. Chief McMaster brought Capt. Miller, Capt. O'Brien, Capt. Clarke and FF Kyle Wilson along with the new engine. I may or may not have been a little late to order the donuts Capt. Miller helped me to get them made. 1 Child Attorney Holloways wife teaches that has been hard to communicate with said that he now wants to be a Fire Fighter and drew a picture a nice digital picture. The Fire Fighters gave the children a tour of the engine and answered questions just really good one on one time with them. The department brought the kids fire helmets and the big hit was latex gloves, they blew them up like balloons. The City of Crestview brought their engine. Attorney Holloway thanked the board for letting Chief McMaster have so much flexibility to be involved with the community.

Chief's Report – Chief McMaster briefed the report as follows- personnel which now lists 2 management, 21 paid firefighters, 4 relief firefighters, and 1 support personnel, there were 229 calls for the month April 2022. We did do a few standbys for Lockheed Martin 10.5 hours.

We are still waiting on equipment to arrive to outfit the 2 new Command Vehicles.

Station 82 roof leaks are awaiting repair.

Motion to accept the Chief's report Commissioner Bowers, 2nd Commissioner McGirr. Vote 5/0.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report- Commissioner Bowers please look at the combined we are looking a little behind last year's special assessments. But that is not something to worry about, as for the wages we just voted on the increase we have plenty to cover it. Commissioner Lancaster asked if we could change the grant aid to others to a public education line item. This helps our ISO rating that we show educating the public. Commissioner Lancaster said that this is for future budgets. Motion to approve the Treasurers report Commissioner McGirr, 2nd Commissioner Lancaster. Vote 5/0.

Commissioner Comments: Commissioner McGirr thanked the board for moving the meeting date.

Set Agenda for next meeting June 16th, 2022

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Craig Shaw
Chairman