

## **December 14, 2015 - Minutes Regular Meeting**

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Dunbar called to order the regular meeting of the East Niceville Fire District Commission at 6:00 p.m., December 14, 2015, at the East Niceville Fire Department. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

### **Roll Call**

The following individuals were present: Chairman Dunbar, Vice Chairman Schwab; Commissioners Brunson, McEntire, and McLeod, Chief Wright, Assistant Chief Birch and all on-shift firefighters. Dave Barton and Chris Schwantz, Barton & Associates were also in attendance.

### **New Commissioner**

Chairman Dunbar administered the oath of office to newly appointed Commissioner Ed McLeod. He also gave an overall summary of what is expected of each commissioner and distributed a list of the Florida Statutes for review.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the November 9, 2015 meeting had been emailed to everyone in advance of the meeting. Commissioner Schwab made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Commissioner McEntire. The minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Commissioner McEntire gave the Treasurer's Report and distributed copies for review. He also distributed updated budgets to each Commissioner. Commissioner McLeod motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report with a second by Commissioner Brunson. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

### **Old Business**

**Health Insurance:** David Barton presented six different plans for consideration by the commission. The department currently pays 100% of health benefits for full time firefighters and 50% of the premiums for dependents. There was a lengthy review of several of the plans with Mr. Barton providing answers to all questions. Commissioners expressed concerns about being able to stay within the approved budget.

Commissioner Schwab made a motion to move forward with the "JNT" Plan which was favored by Chief Wright after meeting with Chris Schwantz prior to the meeting. There was a second by Commissioner Brunson.

Chairman Dunbar asked if there was any discussion. There was an in-depth discussion bringing to light potential downsides of the plan and an overview of another plan, the "JLU" Plan had not been seen prior to the meeting.

There was a general consensus of the need to keep costs within the approved budget. Commissioner Brunson suggested funding the "JNT" Plan and offering individual employees the opportunity to pay the additional \$30 per month for the "JLU" Plan if it was a better fit for their individual needs. Chief Wright was not in favor of that option.

During the discussion it came to light that the budget line item for insurance had decreased as compared to the prior year, an oversight in the budget process.

Chairman Dunbar called for the vote. The motion was unanimously defeated.

Commissioner McEntire made a motion to approve the "JLU" Plan. There was a second by Commissioner McLeod. Commissioners Brunson, McEntire, McLeod voted yes, Commissioners Dunbar and Schwab voted no. Motion approved. A discussion followed about starting the process earlier next year and that the current budget must be amended in order for the district to stay within budget.

**Life and Dental Renewal:** Chief Wright stated that the Life and Health Benefits were renewed and changed over to Barton and Associates. There were questions regarding the rates and benefits for these products and if they were included under the same line item as the Health Insurance since the budget amendment will need to include these costs.

**Line of Credit:**

Commissioner McEntire gave an update on the line of credit and indicated that it would be paid off before the January meeting.

**Unemployment Fraud Issue:** Chief Wright reported that the issue is still open and he will monitor and report until it is resolved.

**Annual Audit:** Commissioner McEntire reviewed the progress and outstanding items that Carr, Riggs & Ingram is working on.

**District Lines/Response:** Commissioner Brunson did not have an update.

**New Business**

**Commission Elections:** Chairman Dunbar reminded everyone that the Commission is required to hold an election of officer in January. He stated that he would not be in attendance, but is willing to serve in any capacity for which he is nominated.

**FASD Membership:** Chairman Dunbar noted that the membership in FASD had expired and he will renew it so the district can receive industry updates and trends that are needed.

**Pension Fund Trustee Meeting:** Chairman Dunbar distributed a report from the most recent meeting of the Trustee Board. He asked that each commissioner plan to attend a meeting so that we are represented and informed.

**Chief's Report**

Chief Wright reported that they have been replacing the light bulbs throughout the station with ones that have a 10 – 15 year warranty. He wished everyone a safe holiday season.

**Other**

Chairman Dunbar inquired about the outcome of the choice between having a Christmas Party or a bonus for each employee. Chief Wright reported they had decided on the bonus which will be \$100 per person.

Chairman Dunbar also recognized the updates and improvements to the ENFD website and approved of the work.

Commissioner Brunson suggested to Chief Wright be cautious during discussions about benefits due to the fact that everyone is making difficult decisions about how to best meet the needs of their business or organization with the resources available due to rising costs and an uncertain economy.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Schwab with a second by Commissioner McEntire. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

**Commissioner Tricia Brunson**

**Next Meeting: January 11, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the East Niceville Fire Station.**