

East Niceville Fire District

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November 9, 2015 - Minutes Regular Meeting

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Schwab called to order the regular meeting of the East Niceville Fire District Commission at 6:00 PM, November 9, 2015, at the East Niceville Fire Department.

Roll Call

The following individuals were present: Vice Chairman Schwab; Commissioners Brunson and McEntire, Chief Wright, Assistant Chief Birch and all firefighters that were on shift. Rick White, The Insurance Center and Chris Schwantz, Barton & Associates were also in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 12, 2015 meeting were read and Commissioner McEntire made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Vice Chairman Schwab. The minutes were unanimously approved with one correction.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner McEntire gave the Treasurer's Report and reported a carry-over balance of \$72,808.44 into the next Fiscal Year. He also reported that the Line of Credit was reestablished with no annual fee. \$36,000 of the available \$50,000 has been drawn. A copy of his report and a copy of the amended budget was distributed and will be included as part of the official record book. Commissioner Brunson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; there was a second by Vice Chairman Schwab. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Old Business

Health Insurance: Vice Chairman Schwab asked Rick White with The Insurance Center, to give an overview of the current health plan and information about his experience and how he can best serve the ENFD. He spoke to the commission and answered questions from the Commissioners. Vice Chairman Schwab then asked Christopher Schwantz to provide the same information. After answering questions, both Mr. White and Mr. Schwantz offered to follow-up with more information if requested then both exited the meeting. There was a general discussion of the increased rates and the best way to move forward to provide insurance and stay within the established budget. Commissioner Brunson made a motion to change the Agent of Record for the current AETNA plan from The Insurance Center to Barton & Associates, Mr. Schwantz. There was a second by Commissioner McEntire. The motion carried unanimously. Chief Wright will process the appropriate paperwork and work with the new agency to propose a new plan at the December meeting.

Life and Dental Renewal: Chief Wright stated that they are pleased with the current plan and rates, but he will research options available through the new agency and report back to the commission.

Unemployment Fraud Issue: Chief Wright reported that two more invoices on the fraudulent claim will be sent to the ENFD before the issue is closed according to the Department of Economic Opportunity. Chief Wright will continue to monitor and report on the situation.

Audit: Commissioner McEntire reported that he is working with Carr, Riggs & Ingram and Chief Wright on the Annual Audit with planned completion by the end of the calendar year.

New Business

Appointment of New Commissioner, Group 1: Vice Chairman Schwab referred to the letters that had been submitted by two individuals, Tony Evans and Ed McLeod who are interested and qualified to fill the vacant position on the Commission. Commissioners present reviewed the information. Mr. McLeod was present to answer questions at the meeting. Commissioner Brunson made a motion to appoint Mr. McLeod to fill the vacancy

for the term ending with the General Election in November of 2016. There was a second by Commissioner McEntire. The motion was approved unanimously. Chief Wright will submit the appropriate paperwork for newly appointed Commissioner McLeod.

District Lines/Call Process: Commissioner Brunson brought attention to a subject that she had been made aware of via social media (Facebook). She stated that an anonymous profile had been set up and the person or group behind the profile had concerns regarding how calls for assistance (other than fires) are distributed. She stated that normally an anonymous post would not be worthy of discussion, this one had been commented on by many firefighters and/or their relatives. She reported that this subject has been brought to her attention many times over the past three years and she felt it was time to bring it up in a meeting.

Assistant Chief Birch and Chief Wright explained that generally speaking, each district is called only for emergencies within their own district lines, without consideration to where the closest available unit may be located. For example, calls only a few blocks away from ENFD may be routed to Niceville FD because of district lines. Commissioner Brunson stated her desire to keep the best interest of those in need of assistance as a first priority. After a discussion, it was decided to initiate a conversation with the neighboring fire departments to clarify the process and establish a better way of distributing calls keeping the best interest of those in need of assistance at the forefront of the conversation. Commissioner Brunson will pursue a resolution and report back as appropriate.

Chief's Report

Chief Wright gave a general report and asked if the Commissioners wanted to have a Christmas Party or if they favored a small Christmas Bonus for each firefighter instead of a party. All Commissioners present felt that was a decision best left to the Chief, Assistant Chief and Firefighters.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner McEntire with a second by Commissioner Brunson. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Tricia Brunson

Next Meeting: December 14, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at the East Niceville Fire Station.