

# *East Niceville Fire District*

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## **September 9, 2015 - Minutes Regular Meeting**

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Dunbar called to order the first of two September TRIM meetings of the East Niceville Fire District Commission at 6:00 PM, September 9, 2015, at the East Niceville Fire Department.

### **Roll Call**

The following individuals were present: Chairman Dunbar; Commissioners Brunson, McEntire, and Schwab, Chief Wright, Assistant Chief Birch.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 10, 2015 meeting were read by Commissioner Brunson. Commissioner McEntire made a motion to approve the minutes with a second by Commissioner Schwab. Chief Wright asked that the section covering the new Workmen's Compensation Policy under Old Business be corrected as follows; the words "pay period" were replaced by "28 day pay cycle". The minutes were approved unanimously with the change noted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Commissioner McEntire provided copies of the Treasurer's Report and copies of the revised budget. He also gave a verbal report. A motion was made by Commissioner Brunson to approve the treasurer's report and a second was made by Commissioner Schwab. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

### **Public Hearing on tentative Millage and Budget**

Chairman Dunbar stated the first order of business is the proposed millage rate and budget. He reviewed the history of the district's property values and tax rate since 2006 and gave a forecast using a PowerPoint presentation. The review included data showing wage amounts paid to ENFD employees compared to wages across the region. This data shows our firefighters are paid 70% less than the average wage in the panhandle region. There was a review of potential areas for reduction in expenses and a discussion about the total appraised property values as provided by Okaloosa County.

Commissioner McEntire made a motion to establish the tentative millage rate at 2.7000 which is a 12.450% increase over the rollback rate of 2.4011. There was a second to the motion by Commissioner Schwab. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Proposed Budget**

Chairman Dunbar presented a proposed budget, providing printed copies and projected the budget on the wall for Commissioners to make adjustments during the meeting. Several line items were discussed and a few were adjusted staying within the proposed millage rate.

Commissioner Brunson made a motion to adopt the Tentative Budget for FY 2015-16. There was a second by Commissioner McEntire. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Brunson made a motion to make the 3% wage increase to the firefighters effective beginning October 1, 2015, the beginning of the new fiscal year. There was a second by Commissioner McEntire. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Old Business**

**Unemployment Fraud Problem:** Chairman Dunbar and Chief Wright gave an update on the issue. It was thought to have been resolved until another invoice for the claim was received. They will continue to monitor the problem.

**Retirement Plan contribution, FY 2014-15:** Chairman Dunbar reported that he is working to resolve a problem with underfunding of the pension plan. Additional information will be provided as appropriate.

#### **Chief's Report**

Chief Wright recognized the firefighters and others who assisted with the funeral of the late Commissioner and founder of the ENFD, Michael Marcolongo.

Commissioner Marcolongo's daughter, Sherry Marcolongo was in attendance and expressed gratitude to the department on behalf of her family. The family members were touched by the outpouring of support in the days following his passing.

#### **TRIM Meetings**

The next TRIM Meeting will take place as previously approved and will be advertised as follows:

Wednesday, September 23 2015 at 6:00 PM at the East Niceville Fire Station.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Schwab with a second by Commissioner McEntire. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

**Commissioner Tricia Brunson**