



# *Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue*

**304 FIRST STREET  
INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, FLORIDA 33785-2587**

**(727) 595-1117 FAX: (727) 250-0111  
www.psfrd.org**

**FIRE CHIEF  
JEFFREY DAVIDSON**

**MINUTES  
MAY 21, 2024  
WORKSHOP AND REGULAR MEETINGS**

**Indian Shores Municipal Building  
19305 Gulf Boulevard  
Indian Shores, FL 33785**

**WORKSHOP CALLED TO ORDER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Commissioners answering roll call were Chair Louis Snelling, Vice Chair Elizabeth "Betsey" McKenna, Commissioner David Gardella, and Commissioner Heather Koskinas. A quorum was present with Chair Louis Snelling presiding. Attorney Jeff Albinson, Fire Chief Jeffrey Davidson, and Finance Director Erin Brooks were also present. Secretary/Treasurer Lawrence Schear was excused.

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**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:** None.

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**GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None.

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**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**24-07 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Reopener  
Presentation**

**Discussion:** Chief Davidson made a presentation to the Board on the District proposal extended to the Union during collective bargaining and related information.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The Workshop was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

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**REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

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**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA:**

Fire Chief Davidson requested that **Action Item #23-45 Church of the Isles (COTI) Property – Shade Session** be moved until the last item of the meeting.

Fire Chief Davidson updated the Board that **Action Item #24-11 Fortress Secured, LLC – Interim Agreement – Delivery of 3 Fire stations** no longer requires action to be taken at this meeting.

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**MONTHLY BUSINESS:**

1. Approval of Minutes: April 16, 2024 Workshop and Regular Meetings

*Discussion:* None.

**A motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024 Workshop and Regular Meetings.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER KOSKINAS SECOND: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA**

**All in favor, MOTION PASSED unanimously.**

2. Treasurer’s Report: April, 2024

*Discussion:* Vice Chair Koskinas read the Treasurer’s Report. Vice Chair Koskinas stated that the investment program is in accordance with policy at \$10.5 million held in interest earnings accounts and \$516,000 in non-interest checking. General fund: Fiscal year to date tax receipts total \$7.68 million. Fiscal year to date Prevention revenue is \$94,000. The FEMA claim for reimbursement for Hurricane Idalia has been closed out and reimbursement is expected in full, totaling \$252,000. All other general fund revenues and operating expenses are projected within budget.

**A motion to approve the April, 2024 Treasurer’s Report.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA SECOND: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA**

**All in favor, MOTION PASSED unanimously.**

3. Correspondence: None.

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**GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** Chief Davidson read a letter from Brian Bentley, Region 4 EMS Coordinator, Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight, Department of Health, commending the District on a successful recent on-site audit and review.

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**REPORTS:**

1. **UNION:** Pinellas Suncoast Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 5374 Secretary Mary Miller, informed the Commission that the Union would like to begin providing updates again to the Board on a regular basis. She stated that their membership has participated in many events, including Rotary Runs the Beach, Fire Ops 101 with Engine 26, a dog wash at Station 27 on National Pet Fire Safety Day, the annual 9/11 Memorial Walk, as well as providing food and drinks for the 9/11 memorial sunset vigil at Station 27. She stated that the Union was unable to do a breast cancer donation this year but did donate \$2,000 the year prior to a breast cancer patient. Secretary Miller stated that firefighters always participate in the chili cookoff at the Taste of Indian Rocks Beach event and would like to continue that. She stated that they hold the Cookies and Cocoa with Santa event each year and provide \$500 worth of gifts to children who attend. She explained that their members like to be involved as much as possible on their time off. She stated that this past January, they held their first car show at Church of the Isles which was a big success.

Secretary Miller explained that future events the Union is planning include car washes, dog washes, a first responder and military golf tournament, a bike night in conjunction with the car show, a kids' fishing tournament, and their own Fire Ops 101 beach challenge. She stated that, despite all of the disparities happening right now, their membership has always had these goals and plans to continue them and recited the Union's mission statement. She stated that they also hope to expand their charity organization to help firefighters in times of need, donate to non-profit organizations they can collaborate with, as well as provide scholarships to high school students who want to attend the fire academy. Secretary Miller stated that they are hosting a family day on June 1<sup>st</sup> to show appreciation for their families and loved ones. On that same day, she stated that they are starting a legacy luncheon for former firefighters and volunteers to be able to connect with current firefighters. She stated that they hope to get a website up and running to keep everyone abreast of what is going on, but informed the Commission members that they are always more than welcome to reach out to members of the Union. She stated that if they see an event going on in the community, it is usually the Union who has planned it.

Chair Snelling stated that he would like to keep the Union report as a recurring item on the agenda so that they may attend to provide updates when there is information to be shared. Attorney Albinson stated that this was regular practice 10 or 15 years ago but had stopped some time ago. Secretary Miller confirmed that they would like to bring these updates back.

2. **COMMISSION:** None.

2. **ATTORNEY:** Attorney Albinson stated that he and Chief Davidson have been working with Church of the Isles related to the shade session on Item #23-45. He also stated that he and Chief Davidson have been working on the bargaining issues going on and attempting to find resolutions to those. He mentioned that the audit firm sent him a letter, as they do every year, and he has sent it back. Attorney Albinson stated that he and the Chief have also been working with the Manson Bolves Law Group to work on getting the Fortress Secured contract in place. With regard to the ongoing EEOC employment issue, Attorney Albinson informed the Board that the firefighter had been alleging that the District had retaliated against him, but that has been resolved for less than the cost of litigation and is completely paid for by the insurance carrier. He confirmed there is no admittance of liability by the District. He stated there is a contract settlement agreement

that Chief Davidson will sign, and the matter will be closed.

**3. CHIEF'S REPORT:** Fire Chief Jeff Davidson explained that there is a lot going on, and a lot of work is being done. He stated that the District is moving forward with the Station 28 project, as well as the purchase of property to build a fourth station, which staff is working with Pinellas County on. The Chief stated that Division Chief Schwab and other members of the District are currently at the final inspection for the new engine that has been built and should arrive next month. After training is conducted and Fleet Mechanic Tom Bruno has conducted a mechanical checkout on the apparatus, there will be a ceremony to bless the engine and the firefighters and it will be placed in service.

Chief Davidson stated that the District's legislative appropriations request is on the agenda and does not appear that it is going to be vetoed, which will allow for a renovation of Station 27 to last for a while and allow it to come to ADA compliance, have an elevator and sprinkler system installed, and provide better living areas for the firefighters.

The Chief stated that one vacancy is coming as Lieutenant Livernois is retiring after more than 25 years of service, and that position has been advertised. He added that he would like to plan something in honor of this retirement.

Chief Davidson that the new full-time administrative finance assistant, Kristin Cresswell, has begun work, and that she, Finance Director Brooks, and District Administrator Hampton have been working many hours on the annual financial audit.

He stated that staff are still working with Pinellas County on the ALSFR Agreement and good things are coming related to that.

Chief Davidson stated that the jet ski reimbursement money is being donated by very generous supporters and the training has almost been completed.

Assistant Chief David Karpinecz stated that the marine training is a continuity effort in Pinellas County by departments that have marine units. Deputy Chief Brennan with Treasure Island Fire Rescue coordinates this training which includes 12 separate agencies. He explained that there were 74 attendees for the classroom portion with the USCG, and training is still being conducted on the water portion due to a 5:1 ratio requirement in the water. Chief Karpinecz commended Lt. Chip Bodine, Lt. Chris Wilfong, Lt. Josh Coley, Lt. Greg Hott, and DC Todd Grantham on completing the train-the-trainer program. He also commended Lt. Wilfong for the new jet ski training program he put together. He added that the jet ski should be in service by July.

Chief Davidson informed the Board that a new firefighter, Justin Daum, has begun employment with PSFRD, and brings about five years of experience in the fire service with him.

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**GENERAL REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE:** None.

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**ACTION ITEMS:**

**24-10 ZHA, Inc. Proposal  
Fire Station #28 – Owner’s Authorized Representative Services**

**Discussion:** Chief Davidson explained that ZHA, Inc. is the company that was selected to be the District’s owner’s representative for design, construction, and delivery of Station 28, which is a requirement by Florida Statute. He explained that ZHA has been working with District staff the entire time so far and they have been great. He explained that, so far, they have only been paid through the point of the RFP process, and now a price had to be negotiated to oversee the building phase of Station 28 from start to finish. Chief Davidson stated that ZHA staff have attended design meetings and provided input on specifications required for the station and ensure the District is receiving what has been promised. He explained that ZHA submitted a proposal for this phase in the amount of \$360,000, but, after learning that it should not be higher than 3%, that amount was negotiated down to a maximum of \$250,000. Commissioner Gardella asked how much has been paid to ZHA so far. Finance Director Brooks stated that ZHA has been paid \$10,000, which included the design criteria package. Commissioner Gardella asked if their payments are in addition to the \$8 million construction cost, to which Chief Davidson stated that it is not in addition to, but is included in.

**A motion to authorize the Fire Chief to enter into the Owner’s Representative agreement with ZHA, Inc.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA SECOND: COMMISSIONER KOSKINAS**

**Commissioner Gardella opposed; MOTION PASSED 3 – 1.**

*Remarks from the audience:* None.

**24-11 Fortress Secured, LLC  
Interim Agreement – Delivery of 3 Fire Stations**

**Discussion:** Chief Davidson stated that no action is needed at this time, as the interim agreement required adjustments to include only the Station 28 project as opposed to three stations.

*Remarks from the audience:* None.

**24-12 Purchase Order for Rescue Vehicle**

**Discussion:** Chief Davidson stated that he and Chief Karpinecz have been working with Pinellas County for a full-time rescue funded by the County, to include personnel. He added that the District currently is using a rescue truck on loan from the County that has been able to be put in service as needed, but the District is in need of its own full-time rescue truck. He stated that PCEMS Administration has stated that the District will be reimbursed for this, up to \$350,000. Chief Davidson stated that Division Chief Schwab has identified a rescue truck and drafted a letter of intent, as they are difficult to come by, but no other movement has been made. Chief Davidson stated that there is no written agreement yet from the County, as it has to be approved by the BOCC in September; however, the ambulance company requires a purchase order to hold it for us. The

Chief stated that he is very confident that the District will be reimbursed, but, as a failsafe, he stated that he will not have decals added to the vehicle until the very end, as the ambulance company will be able to sell it to someone else at no charge to us if the County backs out. A tentative agreement should be in place with the County by next month's meeting. The Chief added that he does not yet have a dollar amount, but not more than \$350,000. Chair Snelling asked if they will hold the truck, to which Chief Davidson stated they will, and reiterated how much the District is in need of the rescue truck.

After the initial motion was made, Commissioner Koskinas asked if the County chooses to not reimburse and the District must write a check, would that be one payment or a one-time cost, to which Chief Davidson responded that it is a one-time cost. Commissioner Koskinas then asked where it fits into the budget year, to which Chief Davidson responded September. Finance Director Brooks stated that it will require a budget amendment either way. Chief Davidson stated that Chief Karpinecz just reminded him that reimbursement is very likely, as the District's request did make it through the County's process as part of a phased-in plan which includes personnel. He stated it has been authorized by the committees and approved to move forward in the process.

*Remarks from the audience:* None.

**A motion authorizing a purchase order to be created and approved by the Fire Chief for a rescue truck not to exceed \$350,000.**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA SECOND: COMMISSIONER KOSKINAS**

**All in favor, MOTION PASSED unanimously.**

### **24-13 Budget Meeting Dates**

*Discussion:* District Administrator Hampton offered suggestions to hold the required public budget hearings for FY24/25. There was consensus to hold the first public hearing to adopt the tentative budget on September 17, 2024, prior to the regularly scheduled Workshop and Regular Meetings, and a second public hearing to adopt the final budget on September 24, 2024.

*Remarks from the audience:* None.

### **23-45 Church of the Isles (COTI) Property SHADE SESSION**

The Regular Meeting was closed at 7:52 p.m.

The shade session began at 7:57 p.m.

The shade session concluded and was closed at 8:11 p.m.

The Regular Meeting was resumed at 8:12 p.m.

**A motion to authorize the Fire Chief to enter into a contract with Church of the Isles for the purchase of property as it was presented.**

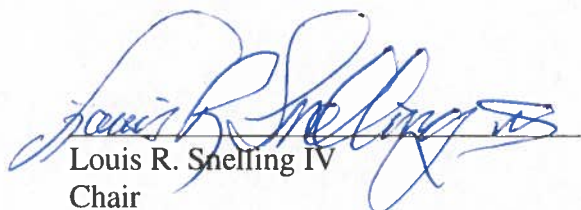
**MOTION: COMMISSIONER GARDELLA SECOND: COMMISSIONER MCKENNA**

**All in favor, MOTION PASSED unanimously.**

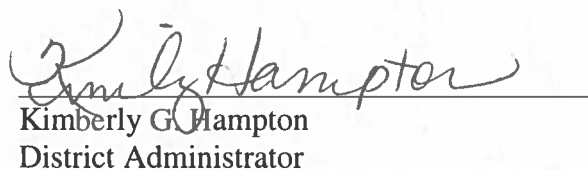
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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned in due form at 8:14 p.m.

**APPROVED:**

  
Louis R. Snelling IV  
Chair

**ATTEST:**

  
Kimberly G. Hampton  
District Administrator

  
Date Approved