



SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

Interoffice Memorandum

TO: The Southern Manatee Board of Fire Commissioners
FROM: Brian Gorski, ^{Blg} Fire Chief
RE: **Chief's Report**
DATE: February 21, 2019

January 24, 2019 – I attended the monthly Manatee County Fire Chief's meeting. The main topic for discussion was over the upcoming COG meeting (January 29) in which Manatee County Commissioner Betsy Benac placed the topic of Fire District consolidation on the COG agenda. Everyone agreed to the idea of creating speaking points for this meeting so if we are asked to speak that we focus on these points. I volunteered to create this document and did circulate to all Fire Chief's for input prior to a meeting that Chief Whitehurst and Commissioner Gary Lawson had the day before the COG meeting with Commissioner Benac. Additionally we agreed that at the COG meeting we listen more and speak less and if we do, let only a few speak and stick to the "speaking points".

Commissioner Center and I attended the COG meeting and when this topic came up by Commissioner Benac, we learned that no one really put her up to it, other than she has been made aware of some issues with taxing in one District and another having internal problems. But we all focused on the mergers that have occurred and the many functional agreements that we have completed with more coming in 2019. Like I said at our last Commission meeting, we need to make certain that we have one or more of you attend these quarterly COG meetings. The other Fire Districts are stressing this same information to their commissioners as well.

January 29, 2019 – Commissioner Center, Chief Bounds and I attended the COG meeting. See above for the information over the topic of consolidation. Other

items discussed was global warming and its effects, this was a very interesting topic that I did volunteer to attend their monthly meetings and their upcoming workshop. These people were amazed that a Fire Department wants to participate and become a partner in saving our planet. They did state that they wished other Fire Departments would have joined in. I will keep you all posted on this.

January 18 – February 21, 2019 – We all have been busy working on producing our 2018 Annual Report. We should have it completed by the end of February and present you with a copy at our March meeting or before.

February 7, 2019 – Chief Bounds, Chief Blanco, Chief Perry and I had a meeting with Karen Morinelli over a new annual evaluation that we want to implement. This new evaluation is similar to a 360 evaluation that utilizes multiple people in an annual evaluation. The current evaluation being used is one that has been in place since 1990 and it is very generic and really does not allow an opportunity for employee to truly be evaluated based on their job.

Battalion Chief Perry took this project on and has been working on this for about a year and did present other types of evaluations including one version that was electronic – paperless but the one that had the most support by everyone was the evaluation completed by multiple evaluators (360 evaluation).

The reason for meeting with Karen was to get some questions answered that we had over the 360 evaluation before we go any further with this one. Additionally we all agreed that we need to have a separate evaluation for probationary employees, currently they are evaluated but are using the same evaluation that is used on all employees and it really does not contain the information needed to be evaluated while on probation.

February 11, 2019 – Captain Thayer scheduled a mock drill at the request of Rowlett School pertaining to a child in cardiac arrest. The drill involved school employees, SMFR and Manatee County EMS. Chief Bounds, Chief Blanco and I were asked to be evaluators. The scenario that Captain Thayer gave them was a child in the lunch room goes unconscious, the school then activates their plan, calls 9-1-1 to report, school employees go to the aid of the child while waiting for Fire and EMS to arrive. Fire and EMS arrives and takes over the care while still working with the school employees. This drill went extremely well and the school was very appreciative of Captain Thayer doing this for them. At the conclusion

of this drill, we did provide them with some feedback on improvement but overall, they all did an outstanding job.

February 14, 2019 – Personnel from Physio-control were here all afternoon programming all of the brand new Life Pack 15 defibrillators and establishing dates for in-service training for all personnel.