



SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

Interoffice Memorandum

TO: The Southern Manatee Board of Fire Commissioners
FROM: Robert Bounds, Fire Chief
RE: **Chief's Report**
DATE: January 20, 2021

NOTE: From this point forward until, an unspecified time, we are going to generate a separate report regarding all COVID-19 issues, to include personnel updates, cumulative numbers, vaccine administration, the latest updates from CDC, etc. This report will be an addendum to the "Chief's" report

January 04, 2021 – First day as Chief. Received letter from VFIS regarding engine damage to E-14 which was struck by a vehicle in October. The engine was repaired and is back in service. The driver did not have sufficient coverage for the amount of damage and the letter was a notice of a pending subrogation claim to the driver's insurance. Our insurance covered the total amount of damage, less the deductible (\$500).

January 05, 2021 – The Health Savings Accounts (HSA) were funded 100% per the Commission's direction.

I spoke with Karen Morinelli (Labor Attorney) and received the requested amendment letter for FF Tucciarone which extends her time to obtain her Candidate Physical Assessment Test (CPAT) until 03/31/2021.

January 06, 2021 – Myself, Chief Blanco, Chief Gorski and Capt. Thayer met with FF Tucciarone and at her request Union DVP Foss attended via conference phone. We discussed the extension time frame and her reporting requirements to Capt. Thayer. The extension letter was signed, and a copy was given to FF Tucciarone.

January 7 & 8, 2021 – I obtained the names of three (3) construction firms regarding the repairs to station 5. I spoke with two (2) of the firms (Atlas & Magnum) and they expressed interest in “bidding” the job, the third contractor (Swift Const.) did not return my call. I emailed you earlier this month that I did consult with Maggie Mooney (Gen. Counsel) and we were not bound by Florida Statutes regarding this bidding process. I made appointments to meet with both firms the week of 1/11/2021. I also received an itemized claim estimate from VFIS (Glatfelter) for station 5 repairs and spoke to the claim specialist Greg Masimore who informed me that the checks in the amount of \$50,552.51 (estimate, less \$2,500 deductible) and \$398.56 (extra expense cost) were in the mail to us.

January 11, 2021 – Conducted first meeting with staff regarding a variety of issues. Crew meetings that were originally scheduled for this week were postponed until sometime in February due to COVID-19 precautions or possibly done through “gotomeeting” sometime in January.

The checks from VFIS (Glatfelter) for the damage to station 5 arrived today.

January 12, 2021 – Chief Blanco and I met with one of the construction firms, Magnum Builders, at station 5. Mark Talcott, Project Superintendent for Magnum Builders was on site. Mark “guesstimated” that the project, once permitted would take somewhere between a month to two (2) months to complete. The estimated time frame for permitting Station 2’s renovation is around four (4) months, according to Todd Sweet. This will hopefully allow for the completion of repairs to station 5 and not delay the beginning of the renovations to station 2.

We were not able to conduct the regularly scheduled Pension meeting due to the fact that we did not have physical quorum. One department member was COVID positive and Trustee Somers and Trustee Corigliano attend via “gotomeeting” given their ages and comorbidities. The physical quorum mandate covers all bodies that are subject to Sunshine Law requirements and the Pension Board falls into that category.

January 13, 2021 – Capt. Thayer and Fire Marshal (FM) Adent are working in concert to develop a test for the Deputy Fire Marshal’s (DFM) position. FM Adent is retiring effective April 1, 2021. The DFM position will be posted at all stations for those who have the required credentials/experience for the position. The testing will be given in the last week of February with a specific date TBD. The

effective date of promotion will be in the first week of March to allow for a one (1) month overlap with FM Adent. The candidate that is awarded that position will have one (1) year as such with the intent to make that person the FM within that time frame.

January 14, 2021 – Chief Gorski, Chief Blanco, Capt. Thayer and myself met to discuss aspects of the Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Program.

We also discussed the upcoming June 2021 paramedic class and the selection process for interested personnel. We have three (3) paramedic tuitions budgeted and per the agreement with Sarasota Technical College we get the fourth (4) free.

January 19, 2021 – Made contact with Manatee County Director of Public Safety (Jake Saur) and provided him with a copy of our response to a letter from Lakeridge Falls subdivision regarding an ongoing gate issue. It is Lakeridge Falls intention to deactivate their remotes due to the fact that the front gate has a 24/7 security officer. In the letter we (SMFR) explain that any changes to the approved original plans is strictly at the sole discretion of Manatee County.

January 20, 2021 – I have a scheduled call with Maggie Mooney this day to discuss the possible use of “impact fees” toward the renovation costs of station 2, given the fact that the expansion is necessary due solely to the addition of the Hazmat apparatus and it’s personnel. Since this is a new service we (SMFR) should be able to apply a percentage of impact fees to offset the renovation costs. I will keep you all posted.

January 20, 2021 – Chief Gorski and Capt. Thayer are in the process of developing the Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Program. A first draft of the document has been completed and is currently being reviewed by myself and Chief Blanco. As the program is developed I will update you with it’s progress.