



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: July 15, 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.

June 14, 2021 – All plans were submitted to Manatee County for the renovation to station 2.

Our bank, Center State was taken over South State. They are reviewing our accounts and may begin charging us monthly fees far in excess of what we currently pay. We are awaiting their fee structure and then exploring the possibility of changing banks if they are too much.

June 15-17, 2021 - Commissioner Center and I attended the Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD) and learned specific details of some important legislation, including HB 1103 (government accountability). The specifics of the bill are very daunting and will pose many challenges to the District. The bill is set to take effect October 2021 and the provisions within the bill must be met by October 1, 2022.

June 15, 2021 – Acting Battalion Chief Chevalier was involved in an accident in the Battalion Chief vehicle while responding lights and sirens to a call, Adam was uninjured as was the other driver. The accident occurred at the intersection of 15 Street and 63 Avenue. The other driver was cited for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. The B/C vehicle was heavily damaged and is undriveable. It was taken to station 1 to await directions from the other driver's insurance company.

June 21, 2021 – I spoke with Phill Baker from Boyd Insurance about the lack of communication from Allstate Insurance who insures the person who struck the B/C vehicle. Mr. Baker contacted Allstate on our behalf and was not satisfied with their answers. Mr. Baker suggested we proceed with the claim from our insurance (VFIS) and subrogate with Allstate. This is the direction we are proceeding in.

June 22, 2021 – We were only able to get two (2) viable candidates for our three (3) job openings. After consulting with the Hiring Committee, it is believed that the limited number of candidates was due to the fact that the job posting was only on NTN for two (2) weeks, and this simply was not enough time for candidates to find the posting and apply before the deadline. So, we will have four (4) job openings in October. We have posted the “job opening” on NTN as of June 22 and it will run until mid-August. At that point we will evaluate the number of candidates we have at that point to see if it is sufficient, otherwise we may have to adjust our minimum hiring criteria of FF/Paramedic. With school closures due to COVID and the number of competing agencies it has become a very competitive field. I will keep you all advised.

June 29, 2021 – The pre-bid meeting for station 2 renovation was well attended by six (6) construction firms. One of the main concerns by the attending firms was how quickly we would be willing to sign a contract once the firm was chosen. I told them we are prepared to fully commit at the soonest regular BOC meeting following the selection. They were all good with this timeline.

June 30, 2021 – This was Chief Gorski’s official last day. Hopefully we can have him attend a BOC meeting or have him come to admin for a small celebration and present him with the tokens of appreciation from the Department and shifts. I will let you know when/if this is scheduled.

July 5, 2021 – All personnel were notified to “stop spending” via the annual memo. This is done in order to allow outstanding invoices/checks to clear and be reconciled for the end of the fiscal year. The spending going forward to end FY21 is limited to regular/emergency purchases to maintain the District.

July 5 & 6, 2021 – We made preparations for Tropical Storm/Hurricane Elsa. Although we did not feel any “true” effects from the storm, the preparation was seamless and timely. The department responded with an OUTSTANDING effort in preparation.

July 13, 2021 - This is the regularly scheduled FF Pension Meeting at which time we will officially adopt the new credited service amount of \$30 per month with a cap of \$750 monthly. This is a “pension” supplement and not a “healthcare” supplement which means it is integrated in the pension and not a stand-alone benefit that could be changed without contractual bargaining as well as an adoption amendment to the pension.

July 12,13,14 - Jeremy Langley with the Florida League of Cities (FLC) will be here to meet with all personnel to review our pension plan(s) and 457 offering as well as answer any questions about retirement preparation.