

**JULY 15, 2021**  
**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT**

**Date:** Thursday, July 15, 2021

**Location:** Administrative Offices, Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District, 2451 Trailmate Drive, Sarasota, Florida, 34243 and via teleconference.

**Call to Order**

Chairperson Marken called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**Invocation/Pledge**

A moment of silence was observed. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Meeting Instructions**

Chairperson Marken read the meeting instructions.

**Roll Call**

Via Teleconference – None.

**At the Administration Office**

Melanie Marken, Chairperson; James Grote, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary; Dan Center, James Cena and Anthony Evans, Commissioners. Chief Robert Bounds, Assistant Chief Rick Blanco, Deputy Fire Marshal Meola, Captain Thayer and Executive Management Assistant Debbie Tuckerman were in attendance. There were other staff also in attendance.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS**

• **Promotions**

Deputy Chief Rick Blanco to Assistant Chief  
Training Director Robert Thayer to Training Captain

• **Length of Service Awards**

Chief Bounds - 25 years	Inspector Reed – 25 years
Assistant Chief Blanco – 30 years	Battalion Chiefs Smith & Gould – 30 years
Training Chief Thayer – 30 years	Inspector Washington – 30 years
Executive Mgmt Asst Tuckerman – 30 years	

**Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda was included in the Board packet. *Commissioner Center motioned to accept the Consent Agenda without the minutes. Commissioner Grote seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.* Commissioner Center requested the addition Chief Bounds and Commissioner Center were at FASD in Orlando during the meeting. *Commissioner Center motioned to accept the minutes with the change. Commissioner Grote seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson Marken called for Public Comment and there was none.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Station 2 Renovation - Update**  
Assistant Chief Blanco gave an update on the project.
  
- **Station 5 Repair**  
Chief Bounds gave an update on the project.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Draft DR420**  
Chief Bounds presented handouts outlining the proposed millage rate. *Commissioner Grote motioned to accept the millage of 1.2061. Commissioner Center seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- \* **Pension Committee**  
Chief Bounds updated the Board on the pension status. There was no quorum for July's meeting so there will be a meeting on August 9, 2021. The next regular meeting will be November 9, 2021.
  
- \* **Firefighters Pension Trustee Resignation**  
Chief Bounds reported that Trustee KC Corigliano resigned from the Board of Trustees. Trustee John Somers has noted that he will be resigning in January. In searching for a replacement, Leslie Adent was recommended and accepted the position, subject to board approval. Commissioner Center recommended that we do a search for both trustee positions before January 2022 and keep Leslie Adent on until the term ended in January. *Commissioner Center made a motion to appoint Leslie Adent to the board of trustees until January 2022. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*
  
- 2. **Resolution 2021-04 Firefighters Pension Plan Retirement Subsidy**  
Chief Bounds presented the resolution to increase the Firefighters Pension Plan Retirement Subsidy. *Commissioner Center motioned to approve Resolution 2021-04 Firefighters Pension Plan Retirement Subsidy. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*
  
- 3. **General Pension Plan 2022 Budget**  
Chief Bounds presented the General Pension Plan 2022 Budget. *Commissioner Grote motioned to accept the General Pension Plan 2022 Budget. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*
  
- \* **Union Report**  
Derek Foss noted that everything is status quo. He thanked the board for the increase of the Retirement Subsidy.

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

4. Chief Bounds, Training Chief Thayer and Assistant Chief Blanco gave brief reports.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson Marken called for Public Comment and there was none.

**COMMISSIONER'S/ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS**

Chairperson Marken asked for commissioner comments. Commissioner Grote congratulated the promotions and length of service awards. Commissioner Center spoke on the telephonic items that we have been continuing. He wanted no access by the public via Go to Meeting, only employees. He also inquired on the status of the Draft Budget, merit pay, the Safety House and hiring of two paramedics. Chief Bounds answered his questions. All other commissioners echoed the congratulations to employees. Commissioner Center also spoke on our relationship with Manatee County Emergency Services.

Chairperson Marken reported that the next meeting will be on August 19, 2021.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie A. Marken, Chairperson

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Grote, Vice Chairman/Secretary/Treasurer