



SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT

Interoffice Memorandum

TO: The Southern Manatee Board of Fire Commissioners
FROM: Robert Bounds, Fire Chief
RE: **Chief's Report (March & April)**
DATE: April 21, 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.

Additionally, Chief Blanco will include all information related to the construction of station 2 as a separate item, including change orders, time schedules, etc.

March 21, 2022 – At the direction of the BOC at the March 17 meeting I contacted the Director of Public Safety Jake Saur with an offer from SMFR to extend the length of the current Hazmat ILA to September 31, 2022 to allow for consideration of fiscal budgets. All commissioners were copied with the letter that was sent to Director Saur.

March 23, 2022 – DFM Meola and I had a meeting with Tropicana management in reference to a "whistleblower" complaint. The complainant sent a letter to the State Fire Marshal's office in reference to a recent fire at the feed mill and various unsafe conditions. The letter was mistakenly sent to the City of Bradenton FD, who in turn forwarded it to us. We conducted another inspection of the feed area and found the company to be in compliance with NFPA adopted codes and disclosed other items contained in the letter that were not part of our (FD) purview.

March 24, 2022 – EMA Tuckerman, A/C Blanco, Comm. Marken and I met in reference to the upcoming implementation of FS 189.0695 (Independent special districts; performance review). This "audit" is in effect as of October 1, 2022 and

due by July 2023 and every five (5) years thereafter. We have posed the question to our counsel about the possibility of “piggy-backing” onto WMFR since they are releasing their RFP first. The MCFCA group agreed to this approach in order to have a sense of commonality to all of our reports and also the fact that FASD has only provided a list of two (2) firms who are capable of meeting the statutory requirements of reporting and experience.

The personal income growth (PIG) was released today. The number and discussion will be presented at the next BOC meeting.

March 28, 2022 – Firefighter/Paramedic Wojcik is replacing Larry Betts, who recently retired. The FPB is now back to full strength. Inspector Wojcik will be a great addition to the bureau.

Adam Chevalier was promoted to the rank of Captain as the Logistics Officer started today. This position is greatly needed to relieve the burden of some of the bigger projects that have been shouldered by line officers. This promotion will alleviate a good amount of “administrative” responsibility from our line officers and allow them to concentrate their time on improving operational tasks.

Chuck Akers from FASD picked up the donated vehicle today. Chuck was very thankful and complimentary to the District for its continued support of FASD.

March 31, 2022 – We had a brief retirement ceremony today for Inspector Betts. He had nineteen years of service with the District. It was very well attended.

Debbie Tuckerman and I attended Phill Baker’s retirement party. Phill has been our insurance representative for over 20 years and has been a great advocate of SMFR. We presented Phill with a certificate of appreciation from the District. He was very thankful.

Today was the last day to submit form #125 for consideration. This is the form used by personnel to request budget items for the upcoming fiscal year. The officially begins our budgeting process. I am hopeful to have a first draft of the FY23 budget to you by June. I am waiting for dates from the union to begin negotiations, which is the biggest part of the budget.

April 6, 2022 – FF/PM Kenniff was cleared by Dr. Nonell today and will resume her normal duties, effectively immediately.

April 11, 2022 - I attended a meeting in preparation of a presentation that will be given this year @ FASD. In coordination with our work comp. carrier (PGIT) and attorney George Helm we will deliver a 45 minute presentation on wellness programs, how to create them and the effects of overall wellness on work comp. claims.

Our five (5) new hires began their orientation today. We have a total of two (2) Firefighter/Paramedics and three (3) Firefighter/EMTs. This will bring our FTE count to ninety-seven (97) and fills all vacancies.

April 12, 2022 – Our quarterly FF pension meeting was held today. Chuck Carr, actuary for the plan, delivered his presentation on the annual valuation. The plan is doing well, although the second quarter has erased the first quarter gains. The plan remains very well funded at 122%.