

**January 18, 2024**  
**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**SOUTHERN MANATEE FIRE & RESCUE DISTRICT**

**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024

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

**Present:** Melanie Marken, Chairperson  
Daniel Center, Commissioner  
Anthony Evans, Commissioner  
Rick Blanco, Assistant Chief  
There were other staff also in attendance.

**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.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS**

A/C Blanco spoke with Commissioners Jim Cena and James Grote in their absence. They both expressed that they would like to keep everything the same as stated on the annual election's memo.

*Commissioner Center motioned to keep everything the same as stated on the annual election's memo. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*

**Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda was included in the Board packet.

*Commissioner Center motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson Marken called for Public Comment and there was none.

**OLD BUSINESS**

• **Station 4 Remodel**

A/C Blanco received general plans for review on Thursday, January 18. The start of construction is scheduled for the end of February, beginning of March.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

\* **Pension Committee**

Trustee Chairperson Chevalier updated the board on the pension plan status. The pension trustees are having the firefighter plan summary reviewed to clarify details when a firefighter is able to enter into DROP.

\* **Union Report**

LT. Foss: Gave updates on FRS and HB 637/SB 808 Heart & Lung presumptive bills. HB 7013 eliminated section 5 from the bill. The MDA Boot Drive will be held in March at the University Parkway intersection.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

AC Blanco: Fire Chief James Steffens memorial service will be held here at administration.

Deputy Fire Marshal Meola: Fire prevention has been working with Manatee County to help enforce food trucks. Fire prevention has been doing fire extinguisher training with new apartment complexes and businesses. We hosted Safe Kids (affiliated with All Children's Hospital) this week to teach their annual car seat class.

EMS Officer Wernet: BLS training with staff is halfway complete. Two firefighters have started paramedic school.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairperson Marken called for Public Comment and there was none.

**COMMISSIONER'S/ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS**

Commissioner Marken inquired about the new engine for station 1. The engine is still in production and expected to be received February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.**

  
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Melanie A. Marken, Chairperson

Attest:

  
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James Grote, Vice Chairperson/Secretary/Treasurer

