

Iona McGregor Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners  
December 12, 2018  
6:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 6:13 pm

Roll Call of Commissioners

Present are Commissioners Walker, Langford, Andersen, Louwers, and Barbosa

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance observed

Amendments to the Meeting Agenda

Vice-Chair Barbosa informed that a walk-on item for participation in the legislative efforts to amend FS 191 was brought before the board by Chief and Attorney Pringle. He then questioned Board if there were any other additions or deletions from agenda. Hearing none, meeting continued.

Presentations/Awards – there were no presentations, per Chief Howard.

Public Input on Business Agenda Items – no public present

Business Agenda Items (Agenda Items Requiring Action)

1) Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2018

Commissioner Barbosa stated that minutes had been presented prior to the meeting and asked if there were any questions or changes. Hearing none, Commissioner Langford made a **motion** (5598) to approve the minutes as presented with Commissioner Andersen offering a second... carried.

2) Financial Report – November 2018

It was noted that the financial reports had been received prior to tonight's meeting. Commissioner Andersen **motioned** (5599) with Commissioner Langford seconding to approve the financial reports. After a brief procedural discussion, Commissioner Walker commented to CFO Winzenread that he has no comment, following comment, motion carried.

3) Election of Board Officers

Attorney Pringle addressed the election of the officers that is required by statute noting that it does not define process used and is up to Board to decide process to be used. Most formal is nomination process with each office being open for nominations, close nominations, vote to close nominations, and vote for office. Middle of road is for board to entertain motion to elect x as chair, with second could be voted upon. Least formal is with one motion for filling of all offices in one motion.

Following information, Commissioner Louwers said that he looked to senior members to start. Commissioner Barbosa suggested that Commissioner Walker hold office of Chair, with himself, Barbosa, as Vice Chair and one of the other three for the Secretary/Treasurer or one as Secretary and another as Treasurer. Anyone want to be treasurer? Commissioner Andersen indicated that he will be Secretary and Commissioner Langford agreed that he will be treasurer. Following discussion, Commissioner Barbosa made **motioned** (5600) for Commissioner Walker to be Chair, Commissioner Barbosa Vice Chair, Commissioner Langford Treasurer, and Commissioner Andersen Secretary. Motion was seconded by

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Commissioner Langford ... carries. Following vote, Commissioner Walker began Chairing meeting.

4) 2019 Monthly Meeting Dates

It was mentioned that the proposed dates were included with the commission packets, and all dates were on Wednesday; adding that most occurred on the third Wednesday of each month, but not all. During the meeting date discussion, Commissioner Walker suggested meeting an hour early in January for a workshop; and made a **motion** (5601) to approve the scheduled dates as presented and add January 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. for another workshop, second received by Commissioner Andersen... carried.

5) Walk on – Legislative participation

Attorney Pringle began with the chapter 191 proposed participation of amending the chapter to allow for imposing of assessment by Special Districts without the approval of the voters as is the practice with cities. There is a desire to have Special Districts on same footing as cities. Also, effort by Lee County to have greater amount of control of special district's Advanced Life Support (ALS) services. Currently district must receive Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (COPCN) from county and would like to have provision whereby approval would be automatic without substantial reasoning to deny COPCN. Chief addressed the issuance of practice by going to county for approval and then submitting the approval to state for final issuance of ALS license. County stresses that we comply with their protocols and metrics. If we do not meet metrics, their medical director or other entity could remove our COPCN thereby removing our ability to provide ALS. Chief added that he supports the District's participation in the proposed legislative process – county trying to tell what we can and cannot provide, infringing on our Independent nature of our operations. We do not know the ultimate goal of county. There are fire services that provide transport as well as ALS, we do not. Very restrictive and negates the authority of our medical director. Quality Assurance issues can step in and affect our employees with their ability to provide services. Strongly oppose this. Discussion as to the authority of County Commission and the Emergency Medical Services.

Attorney Pringle added that County has oversight of ALS services but nothing else which contradicts the independent status of the district. The assessment is an alternative funding method in addition to ad valorem funding. First step for the Board would be to support the effort and next to contribute financially to the effort in the amount of \$3500.00. Chief added that he would support additional funding for getting out from the County regarding COPCN. Special counsel has been working on this from Tallahassee, Mark Lawson, along with John Wayne Smith, lobbyist, gave presentation to Lee County Fire Chiefs Association and stated if joined together in group effort, could get at least 10 other districts in the state to join in as well and move this forward with a significantly higher chance of success. Chair Walker questioned if there are any departments in Lee County against this. No, replied Chief, adding that he was informed that many of districts have already taken action to participate in this. Mr. Pringle mentioned that the organization will be primarily the Lee County Fire Chiefs Association and there are legislative leaders locally. Local delegation meeting is chaired by Dan Eagle. Lobbying group is Peebles, Smith, and Matthews. **Motion** (5602) to support the group effort to amend the chapter 191 legislative change and contribute not to exceed amount of \$3500.00 in support of same made by Commissioner Louwers with second from

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Commissioner Andersen... carried. Attorney Pringle and Chief apologized for not having information to Board in advance of meeting.

6) Executive Report

Chief Howard mentioned that we are looking at establishing 2019 strategic areas, and we have completed two Collective Bargaining Agreements; and there is nothing else to add except that on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> we will be having a light refreshment holiday gathering at Station 74 and if Commissioner interested, welcome to attend. Walker suggests updating strategic plan for next meeting and would like to see division chiefs at least at next meeting so all commissioners can meet them. Commissioner Louwers questioned the new engine delays. Chief responded that it is a que with the manufacturer of new truck orders and have been informed by Sutphen that the manufacturer of tank had relocated the sump and did not fit into truck and needed new tank to be reordered. They are still within the delivery window and we are receiving \$3000 credit which will be used for service. Following brief discussion, **motion** (5603) to accept Chief's report was made by Commissioner Barbosa with second from Commissioner Langford... carried.

7) Attorney Report – attorney provided in item 5 above.

8) DVP Reports

DVP Mascarelli mentioned that he attended a course in Arizona regarding the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), adding that it was interesting as was for fire departments and very informative

DVP Tansey – welcome new Board members.

Public Input on Non-Business Agenda Items – no public present.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioners Langford, Louwers, and Andersen all commented they were happy to be here. Commissioner Walker inquired of CFO Winzenread on the very antiquated structure of paying bills and would like to have recommendation to Board in writing with detail.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting was offered by Commissioner Louwers with second from Commissioner Andersen... carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.