

**Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District
Minutes for Regular Commissioners Board Meeting
January 25, 2023**

Call to Order: Commissioner Player called the meeting to order at 5:06p.m.

Invocation: Commissioner DeLacey led everyone in the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Player led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Commissioner Player, Cammick, and DeLacey were present. Commissioner Price is running late.

Assistant Chief Davis, Assistant Chief Allen, Administrative Assistant Miles, Accountant Renee Lynch and Attorney Sarah Spector were present.

Gerry and Lori Rossman, Gordon Short, Ila Valcarcel, John Pine, and Maureen Burges.

Setting of Agenda: No changes to the agenda as presented. **Commissioner DeLacey moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cammick. Motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes:

1. December 21, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes **Commissioner Cammick moved to accept the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner DeLacey. Motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurers Report: 12/17/22 – 1/20/22 Presented by Commissioner Cammick. **Commissioner DeLacey moved to accept the Treasurers Report as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Player. Motion passed unanimously.**

Ila Valcarcel had a question about how much ad valorem the District has collected compared to this time last year. Admin Assistant Miles responded that approximately 68% has been collected to date, which is much closer to where we usually are compared to last month.

Cash Disbursements: 12/17/22 – 1/20/22 Presented by Commissioner Cammick. **Commissioner Cammick moved to accept the cash disbursements as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner DeLacey. Motion passed unanimously.**

Accountants Compilation Report: Accountant Renee Lynch presented the month end report for December 31, 2022, **Commissioner Cammick moved to accept Accountants Compilation Reports. Motion seconded by Commissioner DeLacey. Motion passed unanimously.**

Ila Valcarcel asked if the District has moved any money from reserves to cover the additional expenses related to the storm. Accountant Renee Lynch responded that since the budget is run on a fund basis and the general fund as a whole is still within budgetary authorization an amendment was not necessary at this time.

Commissioners' Expenses: None.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment: Mr. Gordon Short asked if the minutes could be a little more detailed for those that cant make it to the meetings every month.

Firefighters: None.

Union: None.

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Old Business:

1. **Station 2 land acquisition:** BOCC meeting will be held 2/8/23 at 9:30am for the final approval of rezoning.
2. **Annexation Update:** Attorney Sarah Spector gave a brief update, the City is meeting internally on 2/6/23 and we expect to have a response soon after.
3. **Hurricane Restoration Update:** Assistant Chief Allen gave an update on resources still available on the island to residence. The County's plan is to demobilize some of the comfort stations as of February 14th, however there will still be some remaining past that date. He also gave an update on Station 1 repairs. The roof is almost complete and they will begin working inside shortly after.
4. **Open Board Position:** Since Commissioner Price had not yet arrived the Board decided to table this decision until he arrived and move on to the Chief's report.

Ila Valcarcel asks to speak on the topic before moving on. She voiced her opinion of what is needed in a good board member. She believes that a strong financial background is most important. Although it is good to have some understanding of how the fire service is run, a board member is responsible for the fiscal health of the organization and our staff is responsible for operations. She believes that Mr. Burges is the best fit for this reason.

Chief's Report:

- Performance Audit: Administrative Assistant Miles and Attorney Sarah Spector updated the Board and asked direction. Other local fire districts have reached out to the state in regards to meeting the deadline for this fiscal year, since the hurricane has significantly impacted budgets and time frames. The state did not give those districts a straight answer other than that there is no penalty to not completing the audit on time and to get it done when possible. **Commissioner DeLacey moved to go ahead with advertising the RFP and the audit to be completed in a time frame that is fiscally reasonable. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cammick. Motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Price arrived at 5:45pm

- Administrative Assistant Miles informed the Board of a \$2,000 donation from the U.S. First Responders Association. With board approval we will put these funds into public outreach. **Commissioner Cammick moved to use these donated funds for future public outreach. Motion seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Service Technician Gerry Rossman explained to the Board the need for a new brush truck pump. The pump on B-153 is in need of being replaced. We have a pump that was purchased and set aside for the new brush truck that is in the process of being build. We can use that pump on B-153, however we will need to purchase a new one for the new brush truck. This pump will cost roughly \$14,000. **Commissioner Price moved to purchase the new pump. Motion was seconded by commissioner DeLacey. Motion passed unanimously.**
- Assistant Chief Davis presented the quote for new handheld radios. This amount is already budgeted for and we have sole source letter. These radios are to cover the

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additional employees that we have hired. The board is in agreement to continue with this budgeted purchase.

- Assistant Chief Davis presented a breakdown of quotes received for new bunker gear. This purchase is also included in the budget. 5 personnel trialed 5 different sets of gear and have narrowed it down to two brands. One brand's current quote is under budget slightly while the other brand is about \$40,000 over the set budget. Additionally Chief Mickuleit has applied for and the District will be receiving a \$200,000 donation from the Gary Sinise Foundation to cover this cost! **Commissioner Cammick moved to authorize the Chief to purchase the gear that administration sees fit. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Price. Motion passed unanimously.**
- We have had two trash and one brush fire in the past month. All on C shift. The two trash piles were trailers that had been demolished and piled at the side of the road while still hot from the demolition.
- The VFW awarded three of our employees with firefighters of the year. Zac Robertson, Frank Vilchez, and Brittini Kelbe. Who were all instrumental in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian.
- Assistant Chief Davis gave an update on the service technician position. In the short time that Gerry has held the position he has accomplished a significant amount. Gerry spoke shortly about what he has been working on and what is next on his list.

Old Business: (continued)

5. Open Board Seat:

Commissioner Player opened the floor to discussion from the Board. Commissioner Cammick appreciates all of the applicants. Commissioner Price believes that any of the three applicants would be a great fit. Commissioner DeLacey believes that they are all strong options, however she hopes that no matter who is chosen they do not come in with preconceived notions and are open to understanding the way things are currently. Commissioner Player is thankful for all three applicants. She is impressed by Mr. Hernandez's ALS knowledge, Mr. Burges has been apart of the community for a very long time and Mr. Pine has a wealth of fire service knowledge. There was no additional public comment, so the board voted by secret ballot. Attorney Sarah Spector and Accountant Renee Lynch counted the votes. 2 for Bill Burges and 2 for Joe Hernandez. The board further discusses the two candidates. Ila Valcarcel, states again her support for Bill Burges. John Pine, stated that he believes that Joe would be a better fit. None of the Board members will change their vote, therefore Attorney Sarah Spector suggests pulling a name from a hat. Sarah and Renee facilitate the name drawing and pull Joe Hernandez.

6. Board Member Health Insurance:

Commissioner Cammick started the discussion. He feels that offering individual insurance to the board members could be a good idea. Commissioner Price feels that offering insurance would attract the wrong type of individual. This has always been an unpaid position and of all the other districts in the county there is only one other district that offers compensation to their commissioners. Commissioner Player agrees with Commissioner Price. Commissioner DeLacey disagrees, and feels that the work and effort that the board members put into their positions deserves to be compensated. She

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also feels that it would help to attract more possible members in the future because it would incentivize the position. Ila Valcarcel commented that she feels that although it is allowed by statute it doesn't seem right that the Board would basically be choosing their own insurance. She feels that the \$500 stipend that is also available to the Board would be more reasonable. John Pine believes that the Board should not be taking insurance because that just takes away from something else in the budget. Since the Board is split on the decision it is decided to table the discussion until the next meeting when there will be 5 members.

Public Comment: None.

Good of the District: Ila Valcarcel mentioned that she has been working with the debris removal companies to get the mulch delivered to local farms on the island instead of it all being taken off island. There will also hopefully be sites soon where individuals can get just what they need.

Adjournment:

**Commissioner Cammick moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Price.
Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Miles

District Administrative Assistant

Board Secretary