

**JEFFREY R. SMITH**

Clerk to the Board



**February 5, 2013**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES**

The Board of Commissioners of the Emergency Services District of Indian River County, Florida, met in Regular Session at the County Commission Chambers, 1801 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida, on Tuesday, February 5, 2013. Present were Chairman Joseph E. Flescher, Vice Chairman Wesley S. Davis, and Commissioners Peter D. O'Bryan, Bob Solari, and Tim Zorc. Also present were County Administrator Joseph A. Baird, County Attorney Alan S. Polackwich, Sr., and Deputy Clerk Maureen Gelfo.

Chairman Flescher called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

**15.A.1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2012**

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the December 4, 2012 meeting, as written.

**15.A.2. APPROVAL OF PHASE 3 WORK FOR FIRE RESCUE FLEET OPERATIONS SITE  
(4<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND 43<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE)**

Administrator Baird explained that this item pertains to the former State Forestry site on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, where the County is constructing a fleet maintenance facility for Fire Rescue.

Assistant Fire Chief Brian Burkeen provided background on the additional improvements that were proposed for Phase 3 of the fleet maintenance building, as outlined on pages 182.1 through 182.23 of the Agenda Package.

ON MOTION by Vice Chairman Davis, SECONDED by Chairman Flescher, the Board unanimously approved the Phase 3 improvements with Barth Construction for the Fire Rescue fleet maintenance facility being constructed at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (the site of future Fire Station 13), for the cost of \$61,345.00, as requested in the memorandum of January 15, 2013.

AGREEMENT ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO THE BOARD

*(Clerk's Note: The Chairman called a recess at 2:21 p.m., and reconvened the meeting at 2:30 p.m. with all members present).*

**15.A.3. UPDATE OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FIRE/EMERGENCY SERVICES (EMS) CONSOLIDATION AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

**ANALYSIS OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONSOLIDATION PLAN**

Director of Emergency Services John King stated that pursuant to Board direction on October 23, 2012, he was returning with an update regarding the consolidation of the former Fire Rescue and Emergency Services Divisions into one division. Using a PowerPoint Presentation (copy on file) and recap of his January 27, 2013 memorandum, he provided a comprehensive review of Emergency Services District (ESD) operations, past and present, and of the consolidation plan, which was initiated in 2005. He relayed management's intent for the plan, and stated that one key aspiration is accelerating emergency response time from 5.33 minutes to the national recommendation of 4 minutes. Director King conveyed that the Department is falling behind on capital replacement projects and needs operational and funding improvements.

**NEAR-TERM STRATEGIC PLAN**

Director King continued the PowerPoint presentation to outline the five-year goals and objectives for the Fire Rescue/EMS Department, which include implementing a comprehensive training program; replacing equipment; and maintaining the fire rescue stations. He spoke to the need to accommodate growth in the County, and relayed that the construction of Fire Station 13 at 43rd Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Street has been planned since 2005, but delayed for financial reasons. He noted that staff also proposes to construct future Fire Station 14 at 26<sup>th</sup> Street and 66<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Director King conveyed that there is a critical need to replace the aging fire engines and ambulances; special operations vehicles and brush trucks; and the cardiac monitors and other apparatus that the vehicles are equipped with.

## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Concluding the PowerPoint Presentation, Management and Budget Director Jason Brown gave a financial analysis of the Fire Rescue/EMS consolidation (effective September 18, 2006) from Fiscal Year 2005-2006 through Fiscal Year 2011-2012. He discussed the historical tax rates for the Emergency Services District (ESD) and the reductions in the millage rates and revenues. He mentioned that a number of cost-savings measures have been employed by staff, including reduction of administrative personnel, but deemed that further decreases were not feasible. He advised that the ESD has had to utilize fund reserves and that in order to maintain the fund balance, staff estimates that it will be necessary to raise the millage rate by approximately 18.5% which would increase the current millage of 1.72 to 2.03 mills. He pointed out that a homeowner's ESD taxes would still be less with the increase than they were in Fiscal Year 2000-2001. Director Brown added that an additional millage increase will be needed after Fire Station 13 is opened.

Commissioner Solari wanted staff to return with more information on the consolidation process; the organizational structure and training/promoting staff; and what impact additional resources would have on the desired increase to the emergency response time. He also wanted to see a long-term strategic plan to clarify what the citizens would be getting with the proposed higher millage rate.

Commissioner Zorc, after questioning staff about the breakdown of service calls and peak demand times, suggested that the EMS Department consider a flex vehicle for use during peak times to save the cost of setting up a whole new full-time position. He also sought and received confirmation that should taxable values increase, the millage rate could "float" in accordance with revenue demands.

Vice Chairman Davis posed questions about the possibility of reducing fire rescue personnel once an emergency patient is stabilized; however, staff informed him that the level of care at that point needs to be maintained or increased.

Commissioner O'Bryan voiced his support for an increase in millage rates to improve the District and deliver the best service possible, and spoke about making the County's ESD the finest in the state or country. He also requested that staff explore the cost of purchasing 2 ambulances and 1 engine per year; and that they calculate a 5-minute and a 4-minute radius around each fire station, with the goal of accelerating emergency response time.

Chairman Flescher extended kudos to the Emergency Services Director and staff for their work and community involvement. He pointed out that no one wants to see the millage rates increase, however, there is an obligation to put safety first. He also observed that any Commissioner who has not done so, should take Fire Operations 101 (sponsored by the International Association of Firefighters) to gain a better understanding of what is involved in saving lives.

Administrator Baird advised that staff's recommendations had inadvertently included a request for the Board to approve the proposed millage rate, which action can be taken only at a budget hearing. Therefore, the Board was being asked today solely to approve the portion of staff's recommendation dealing with the Fire/EMS Consolidation Report.

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner Solari,  
SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, to accept the  
Fire/EMS Consolidation and Financial Analysis Report.

Chairman Flescher asked whether the Motion included the anticipation of staff giving another report on this matter before the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget hearings.

Administrator Baird confirmed that staff would return with another update before the fiscal sessions.

Chairman Flescher inquired of Commissioner Solari whether his Motion included the directive for staff to provide additional analysis to the Board.

Commissioner Solari assented, recalling other requests for staff to return with updates when this matter was discussed in the past. He advised that he would specify the Board's directive by incorporating it into today's Motion.

MOTION WAS AMENDED by Commissioner Solari, SECONDED by Vice Chairman Davis, to direct staff to return with another report on the Fire/EMS Consolidation, prior to the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget hearings.

The Chairman CALLED THE QUESTION, and the Amended Motion carried unanimously. The Board: (1) accepted the Fire/EMS Consolidation and Financial Analysis Report; and (2) directed staff to return with another report on the Fire/EMS Consolidation, prior to the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 budget hearings.

ALL BACKUP DOCUMENTATION, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORDINANCES ARE ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO THE BOARD AND ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Emergency Services District meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Jeffrey R. Smith,  
Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

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Gary C. Wheeler, Chairman

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

BCC/ESD/2013 Minutes