

**Minutes of the Virtual Regular Meeting of the
Board of Fire Commissioners
Cedar Hammock Fire Control District
February 18, 2021**

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Getman at 6:00 p.m. The following commissioners were present in person: Ronald D. Getman, Marnie E. Matarese, and Samuel A. Reasoner. Richard G. Findlay and John H. Stevens attended the meeting virtually. Counselor Regina Kardash was also present in person.

Chairman Getman confirmed a quorum was present for the meeting. The meeting was properly advertised.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Pavkovich gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Getman asked if there was any discussion of the minutes. There was no discussion.

ACTION: Commissioner Findlay moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Reasoner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Chief Hoyle announced the promotion of John Stephenson to Second Class Firefighter.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OLD BUSINESS

- **SCBA Committee Update**

Deputy Chief Falcone said that three vendors have provided demonstrations for the committee. The committee has completed an internal review on the first vendor and will begin review of the second vendor next week.

- **Motorola Radio Update**

Deputy Chief Falcone has ordered new Motorola radios and equipment through Manatee County Radio Division. Approximate delivery is four weeks. We will work with the Radio Division for installation.

1. Thermal Imagers

Deputy Chief Falcone requested action by the Board of Fire Commissioners to trade in three outdated thermal imaging cameras and chargers. The Bullard Corporation has offered \$3,000 total for them. He reviewed the exhibit, which outlines the offer. The imagers are outdated and of no use to the District. He researched the resale price, and the offer is comparable.

ACTION: Commissioner Findlay moved to approve the trade in offer from the Bullard Corporation to purchase three outdated thermal imagers and chargers. Commissioner Reasoner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **RFQ Training Tower**

Deputy Chief Bradshaw requested action by the Board of Fire Commissioners for the appointment of a Short List Committee to evaluate and score the RFQ submittals. The Short List Committee will make a recommendation to the Board at the March 18, 2021 meeting.

ACTION: Commissioner Matarese moved to approve the appointment of a Short List Committee to evaluate the Request for Qualification submittals for the Training Tower. The committee is to make recommendations to the Board of the top three submittals at the next Board of Fire Commissioners meeting on March 18, 2021. Commissioner Findlay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

- **Social Media**

Deputy Chief Bradshaw stated that this item was brought up at the last meeting and tabled for discussion today. A long discussion ensued. Commissioner Findlay restated that he was in favor of establishing a social media page for the District. Counselor Kardash reminded Commissioners that all posts and comments are public record and subject to Florida Sunshine Law. She further stated that Commissioners could not comment to each other over social media. There have been multiple opinions from the Florida Attorney General over the past 10 years. She could provide a compilation of these opinions from her office. She also suggested a social media policy that would apply to both employees and elected officials. Chief Hoyle confirmed the District does have a policy in place. Deputy Chief Bradshaw stated that he had recently participated in an informative webinar geared toward elected officials and the use of Facebook. He will be getting a copy of the recording and slide deck. Chairman Getman directed Deputy Chief Bradshaw to provide copies of the webinar slide deck to the Board, Counselor Kardash to provide Attorney General opinions, and for Chief Hoyle to provide a cost analysis for manpower to manage social media.

ACTION: Commissioner Reasoner moved to table this item to the next meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners on March 18, 2021. Commissioner Findlay seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS

- **Annual Website Review**

Deputy Chief Bradshaw confirmed the annual audit of the District's website. The website has been certified as ADA compliant.

- **Legal Indemnification**

Counselor Kardash informed the Board of Commissioners of a confidential complaint against an individual facing a Civil Action. Persson, Cohen, and Mooney have received the request for indemnification and have determined the individual meets the conditions for indemnification by the District according to Resolution 2019-01 adopted by the Board on March 21, 2019. The retainer agreement has been received and the fees are within scope of acceptable legal fees. The individual is a protected party, the action is indemnifiable, and the document and written request was submitted to the District's legal counsel within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt.

ACTION: Commissioner Reasoner moved to provide indemnification in accordance with presented retainer agreement by the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District to the confidential individual against Florida Ethics Complaint #21-031. Commissioner Matarese seconded the motion. The motion passed four to zero (4-0). Commissioner Stevens abstained.

Counselor Kardash informed the Board of an additional complaint that is not a civil action but an internal affairs investigation. Upon review of counsel, this complaint does not meet standards set forth in Resolution 2019-01. Counsel recommends denying indemnification for the internal affairs complaint. Commissioner Stevens identified that he did not seek indemnification on this issue.

ACTION: Commissioner Reasoner moved to deny indemnification by the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District to the unnamed individual for an internal affairs complaint. Commissioner Matarese seconded the motion. The motion passed four to zero (4-0). Commissioner Stevens abstained.

Commissioner Stevens addressed counsel and said that he would like indemnification on Florida Ethics Complaint #21-017. Counselor Kardash confirmed receipt of this complaint and the request for indemnification meets standards outlined in Resolution 2019-01.

ACTION: Commissioner Reasoner moved to provide indemnification by the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District to Commissioner Stevens against Florida Ethics Complaint #21-017. Chairman Getman seconded the motion. The motion passed four to zero (4-0). Commissioner Stevens abstained.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Hoyle reviewed the departmental reports. He mentioned the Fire Prevention Code Board of Appeals has hired an attorney and will be updating the Board of Appeals policies, which will have to be brought back before each participating district for ratification.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Stevens asked how the contract was coming along. Chief Hoyle said very well.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Commissioner Findlay moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Chairman Getman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully submitted:

APPROVED MARCH 18, 2021

Chairman Ronald D. Getman