

**Regular Meeting Minutes of the
Board of Commissioners
Cedar Hammock Fire Control District**

April 16, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairman Litschauer at 6:00 p.m. The following Commissioners were present: Steve Litschauer, Bill Espy, Marnie Matarese, Beth Byron-Reasoner, and John Stevens. Deputy Chief French represented the District's staff due to Chief Falcone's absence.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pastor Pavkovich led the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

QUORUM

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Litschauer asked if there was any discussion of the minutes or the Treasurer's report. There was no discussion.

ACTION: Commissioner Stevens moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Matarese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Deputy Chief French presented several years of service awards and promotions.

1 Year of Service Awards-

Firefighter David Collier
Firefighter Jacob Procyshyn
Firefighter Eli Hild

10 Years of Service Awards-

Firefighter Dakota Sallis
Lieutenant Clint Brekhus

The Following employees were promoted to the rank of Third-Class Firefighter

Firefighter David Collier
Firefighter Eli Hild

RECESS REGULAR MEETING- Chairman Litschauer recessed the regular meeting at 6:06pm and reconvened the regular meeting at 6:07pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OLD BUSINESS

Union Negotiations-

Deputy Chief French updated the board about the ongoing negotiations with Local 2546. The next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2026, at Station 3.

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Financial Audit Update-

Deputy Chief French explained that the auditors are working to complete the audit and preparing to present the final report at the May commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Fleet Update

Deputy Chief French presented a memorandum to the board which explained the status of department vehicles. He updated the Board on the timeline for potential apparatus replacements. He also referenced the status of staff vehicles and their cycles for replacement.

Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Draft 1 Presentation

Deputy Chief French reviewed the first draft of the 2026-2027 budget. He explained that the draft maintains the same income as the previous year. The expenses represented normal budgeted items as well as capital improvement projects.

Personal Income Growth Index Presentation

Deputy Chief French presented a memorandum from Chief Falcone which explains the Florida Personal Income Growth Index and how the 5-year average could affect the District's Non-Ad Valorem Assessments. The current 5-year average is calculated at 8%. After some discussion the Board gave directions for the staff to prepare future resolutions and budget drafts to reflect the 8% increase in Non-Ad Valorem Assessments.

Manatee County Fire Commissioners Association Minutes

Deputy Chief Smith explained the information contained in the minutes from the last meeting of the Manatee County Fire Commissioners' Association. Chairman Litschauer was elected as the Chairman for that association and Deputy Chief Smith will serve as the Secretary/Treasurer.

ACTION: Vice Chairman Matarese moved to accept the Manatee County Fire

Commissioners Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

CHIEF'S REPORT

Deputy Chief French mentioned the burn ban video that was prepared by Manatee County with Chief Falcone representing CHFR along with Chief's from two other fire districts. Deputy Chief French then gave an update on the Operations Division and how the Fire Prevention Bureau continues to work with the public.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Stevens said he liked the way the District is operating.

Chaiman Litschauer stated he is very proud of the District and to continue the good work. He said he was proud of Chief Falcone for attending the badge pinning of his son at a neighboring fire district.

No other comments were made.

NEXT MEETING DATES

May 21, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Action: Commissioner Stevens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matarese. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.



APPROVED
Chairman Steve Litschauer