

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

May 16, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

QUORUM

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Getman asked if there was any discussion of the minutes from April 18, 2024. There was no discussion.

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

SPECIAL BUSINESS

Chief Bradshaw recognized Firefighter Jeffery Brindle with his one year of service award, Firefighter Blake Sullivan with his promotion to First Class Firefighter, and the presentation of new hire Firefighter Colton Wilson.

RECESS REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Getman recessed regular meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING / PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2024-01 OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CEDAR HAMMOCK FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO IMPOSE NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Chairman Getman resumed meeting.

Fire Chief Bradshaw presented proposed resolution 2024-01 into record. WHEREAS, the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District (“District”) is a special purpose fire district authorized under the provisions of Chapter 189 and 191, Florida Statutes (Fla. Stat.), and WHEREAS, the District is authorized to utilize a uniform method of collecting its authorized non-ad valorem fire assessments, and the District has elected to utilize the uniform method; and the District, held a

properly advertised public hearing on May 16, 2024.

WHEREAS, Section 191.009 (2), Fla. Stat., provides that non-ad valorem assessment rates set by the District's Board of Fire Commissioners may exceed the maximum rates established by the previous year's resolution in an amount not to exceed the average annual growth rate in Florida personal income over the previous five years; and, the District previously adopted Resolution 2014-04 and determined the average annual growth rate in Florida personal income over the previous five years should be determined by using growth rate data provided by the United States Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis ("BEA"); and, the BEA as the standard for determining the average annual personal income growth rate in Florida.

WHEREAS, at the May 16, 2024, public hearing, District Staff presented evidence and testimony to the Board of Fire Commissioners that the BEA data indicated that the average annual growth rate in Florida personal income over the previous five (5) years is 7.48%.

WHEREAS, at that same public hearing, District Staff applied the 7.48% personal income growth rate to the previous year's special assessment rates to develop the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 assessment rate schedule, attached as "Exhibit 1" to this Resolution; and the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby adopts the BEA standard for personal income growth rate increase and its application to the previous year's assessment rates to determine the applicable assessment rates for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Cedar Hammock Fire Control District that the following rates for non-ad valorem fire assessment charges within Cedar Hammock Fire Control District for the 2024-2025 tax year be as follows: The Board of Fire Commissioners of the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District hereby find that the recitals set forth above are true and correct and are hereby adopted fully the 2024-2025 Non-Ad Valorem Fire Assessment Rate Schedule and Reallocation Proposal attached as "Exhibit 1" to this Resolution is hereby approved and adopted fully by reference, subject to the public hearing scheduled for June 20, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at the District's Station #1, 5200 26th Street West, Bradenton FL 34207.

The Board of Fire Commissioners hereby authorizes the Fire Chief, or his designee, to review the non-ad valorem fire assessment roll prepared for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and beyond and note any corrections and or adjustments to such assessment roll against each parcel of real property within the District. The authorization granted hereunder includes the authority to transmit the assessment roll, including corrections and adjustments, to the Manatee County Property Appraiser for the purpose of placing the assessment on the annual property tax bill.

Chairman Getman opened the public hearing for proposed resolution 2024-01. Chairman Getman opened the meeting for public comments regarding proposed resolution 2024-01, there were no public comments.

ACTION: Commissioner Stevens moved to accept proposed resolution 2024-01, Commissioner Matarese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0). Chairman Getman closed the public hearing and resumed the regular meeting then closed the regular meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OLD BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2024-02 CEDAR HAMMOCK FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CEDAR HAMMOCK FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF TWO (2) PIERCE ENFORCER TOP MOUNT PUMPER FIRE ENGINES FROM TEN-8 FIRE & SAFETY, LLC AND THE PROCUREMENT OF A LOAN FOR SUCH ACQUISITION FROM FIRST SOUTHERN BANK FOR A NOT TO EXCEED AMOUNT OF \$1,735,144.00 WHICH SHALL BE PAYABLE FROM NON-AD VALOREM REVENUE SOURCES; PROVIDING AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE ALL LOAN DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED THEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF PARTS HEREOF IF DECLARED INVALID; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Chief Bradshaw presented resolution 2024-02. WHEREAS, the Cedar Hammock Fire Control District (“District”) is a special purpose independent fire district authorized under the provisions of Chapter 189 and 191, Florida Statutes (Fla. Stat.), and the District is also authorized to acquire firefighting and fire protection equipment deemed necessary to prevent or fight fires; and the District has determined there is a need for the acquisition of two (2) Pierce Manufacturing Enforcer Top Mount Pumper engines to provide fire protection within the District, and that the vendor Ten-8 Fire & Safety, LLC (“Vendor”) can provide such engines to the District under terms and conditions that are agreeable to the District; and the District seeks to finance the acquisition of the above referenced engines from the Vendor and is authorized under Florida law to “borrow money.

WHEREAS, the District has negotiated with First Southern Bank (“Lender”) to act as a lender and issue a private loan in the amount of \$1,735,144.00 to fund the District’s acquisition of the above referenced engines from the Vendor pursuant to terms and conditions set forth in the Lender’s loan documents which have been presented to and agreed upon by the District’s Board of Fire Commissioner; and

WHEREAS, the District has agreed to pledge its non-ad valorem revenue sources as the exclusive source of funding for the repayment of the above referenced loan to the Lender; and WHEREAS, the District finds that it is in the best interest of the District to enter into a loan with the Lender for the purposes of acquiring the fire engines.

BE IT RESOLVED The above recitals are true and correct and are hereby incorporated and adopted fully. The District hereby indicates its agreement to enter into a bank loan with First Southern Bank (“Lender”) in an amount of \$1,735,144.00 to be repaid by the District using non-ad valorem revenue source. The Chair, or in his absence the Vice Chair, of the District’s Board of Fire Commissioners and the District’s Fire Chief are hereby delegated authority to execute in the name of the District all necessary loan documents with the Lender associated with the acquisition of the above referenced loan amount.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Board of Fire Commissioners at the meeting in regular session this 16th day of May 2024.

ACTION: Commissioner Findlay moved to adopt resolution 2024-02 and Commissioner Matarese seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Station Sign Update

Deputy Chief Center provided an update on the installation of the station signs for Station 1 and Station 4. The sign for station 4 has been installed. Station 1 sign in the permitting process.

NEW BUSINESS

2024-2025 Draft Budget

A general discussion ensued with Chief Bradshaw explaining the current income versus expenses and requested the board to take into consideration adopting the 7.48 Personal Income Growth. Chairman Getman inquired what the average increase would be for a single-family home, the average increase would be around \$18 per single-family home.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Bradshaw reviewed the departmental reports and the run statistics. He mentioned that he has four speaking engagements scheduled with two for the U.S. Coast Guard.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

There was general discussion by the board on the consolidation of the independent special fire districts in relation to comments made by the county commission. The focus was on the special districts, which operate autonomously from the county. The board asked the Chief to write a letter to the editor outlining the pros and cons of these special districts and requested board support for the Chief to submit this letter.

Commissioner Stevens contributed to the general discussion, as did the Chief, who mentioned ongoing communications with county fire chiefs. Additionally, Chief Whitehurst of East Manatee Fire Rescue spoke with Chief Bradshaw that he would be talking to Commissioner Kruse regarding his statements. Bay News 9 reached out to Duette Fire Rescue for an interview, Duette Fire Chief is only intending to discuss ALS (Advanced Life Support) services in his district. The Chief read a draft of the letter to the editor during the meeting, the board reached a unanimous consensus to submit the letter to the editor.

The commissioners expressed their support for not consolidating the districts.

Charman Getman stated that the District is doing great things for community. He would like to find ways to better inform the citizens of the District.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for June 20th, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

**ACTION: Commissioner Findlay moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.
Commissioner Stevens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

Respectfully Submitted,

APPROVED 06/XX/2024