

**TICE FIRE DISTRICT
9351 WORKMEN WAY
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33905**

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 10, 2026

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Cannamela brought the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Tice Fire and Rescue District Station One located at 9351 Workmen Way, Fort Myers, Florida 33905.

Verification of Quorum:

Commissioners present:	Tim Barrett	Present
	James Burgess	Present
	T.J. Cannamela	Present
	Carolyn Miller	Present
	Ted Pickering	Present
	Chief Runk	Present
	Rena Smart	Present
	Attorney Pringle	Present

2. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, and a moment of silence and Chaplain Crump said a prayer for the meeting.

3. Adopt Agenda:

Commissioner Pickering made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for.

4. Recognitions:

Chief Runk received a thank you letter from Lehigh Acres Fire District for assisting in and participating in a funeral for their retired Assistant Chief Edwin Martin.

5. Financial Report

Rena Smart gave the financial report for August 2026. She stated the District received \$970.00 in miscellaneous revenues (including fire inspections and CPR classes), \$13,748.74 in interest income, which includes the CDs, \$976.38 in impact fee interest, and \$6,506.90 in proceeds from insurance, which is the PGIT worker's comp reimbursement for Brashear. The total income for the month of August 2026 was \$22,202.02.

The total expenses for the month of August 2026 were \$388,727.28. The only check that is out of the ordinary is the bunker gear payment to Ten-8 Fire Equipment for \$91,814.01.

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She stated that at the end of August 2026, the ending balance in the Synovus checking account was \$190,156.74, which earns 3.5 percent in interest and earned \$367.85 in interest. In the Synovus impact fee account, the ending balance was \$329,536.46, which earned 3.5 percent in interest and earned \$976.38 in interest. The ending balance in the Synovus money market account was \$1,821,655.57, which earned 3.5 percent in interest and earned \$4,265.72 in interest. The Synovus three-month CD ending in account #1936 opened in January and rolled over in April and just rolled over again in July, the balance was \$1,021,556.74, which earns 3.75 in interest and earned \$3,143.62 in interest. The Synovus six-month CD ending in account #8046 opened in February, the ending balance was \$1,017,916.63, which earns 3.60 percent in interest and earned \$3,012.87 in interest, which came due in August 2026 and was closed and transferred into the money market account and now has a 0 balance. The Synovus 12-month CD ending in account #7160 opened in February, the balance was \$1,017,153.71, which earns 3.43 percent in interest and earned \$2,958.68 in interest. She stated total interest earned in the month of August 2026 was \$14,725.12. Rena informed the Board that the District had total funds at the end of August 2026 of \$4,380,059.22 compared to August 2025, \$3,571,193.26 and compared to August 2024, \$3,155,584.89.

She asked the Board if they had any questions. The Board stated they did not. The Board reviewed the bills, and Commissioner Cannamela and Commissioner Burgess signed the checks.

6. Chief's Report

Chief Runk gave the Chief's report for the month of August 2026:

*During the month of August, the District responded to 315 calls for service. He went over the calls: 193 medical calls, 23 hazardous situations, 20 fires, 27 public service, and 50 no emergencies found.

*We conducted pump testing on our trucks. Two of them were not completed and required some additional repairs prior to testing.

*We facilitated an in-person ISO audit. Provided documentation to our auditor and answered applicable questions. We will receive the results at a later date.

*We assisted Lehigh Acres Fire District with a funeral for their retired Assistant Chief Edwin Martin. He was 111 years old at the time of his death. He was the oldest man in the USA and oldest firefighter in the world at the time of his passing.

7. Attorney's Report

Attorney Pringle stated he has comments on the agenda items when they come up, and he stated that's my report.

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8. Union Report

a) District 8

b) District 26 All good for both Districts by District 8 DVP Wooley.

9. Public Input on Consent & Business Agenda Items:

None.

10. Consent Agenda Items:

a. Approve prior meeting minutes:

Commissioner Barrett made a motion to approve the prior August 2026 Board meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for.

b. Approve District disbursements and required fiscal action:

Commissioner Barrett made a motion to approve the consent agenda items for the month of September 2026 and approve District disbursements and required fiscal action, seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for.

11. Old Business Agenda Items

None.

12. New Business Agenda Items

a. Equipment Repair

Chief Runk stated to the Board that Rescue 217 required an emergency repair. Chief Runk and Chairperson Cannamela approved the emergency repair according to our purchasing policy. He stated that he still needs an official action from the Board. The transmission went out in the truck. The cost of the repair from Sam Galloway Ford was \$10,643.97. Chief Runk explained the repair to the Board. He stated with all the issues with the transmissions, it should be a recall repair by Ford. Ford has agreed to change our warranty start date. Chief Runk stated we should be reimbursed for the repair cost from Ford. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to approve the repair by Sam Galloway Ford for R-217 in the amount of \$10,643.97, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for.

b. Closest Unit Response

Chief Runk stated:

- The interlocal agreement the District signed with the City of Fort Myers Fire District and North Fort Myers Fire District includes all calls for service.
- We are having a discussion at the Fire Chief level to amend that agreement to include only Delta and Echo level (the most serious) calls.
- The home agency would then be responsible for Omega, Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie (less serious) calls in their Districts if their units are available.

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- If the home agencies' units are all depleted, then the other agencies would still assist.
- Before continuing this discussion, I would like to ensure there is no objection from the Board

The Board discussed it. The Board stated they have no objection, and Chief Runk stated the changes will be brought back at a future date. No action required. This was for informational purposes only.

c. Bargaining Unit Contracts

Chief Runk presented the negotiations summary for District 8 and District 26 for year 2026-2027 to the Board to review, and it was already ratified by the bargaining units, District 8 and District 26. The Board discussed it. Chief Runk stated he would like to present it to the Board for ratification. Attorney Pringle stated he has already reviewed the language. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to ratify the 2026-2027 District 8 and 26 bargaining unit's contracts, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vote: Unanimously for.

d. Discussion on Non-ad Valorem Funding

Chief Runk spoke to the Board about the non-ad valorem funding. Chief Runk presented the Florida Statutes Section 191.009(2) on the non-ad valorem process to the Board in their packets. The District would need to hire a consultant in the \$60,000 range to do a study. Attorney Pringle explained the process to the Board. Attorney Pringle stated that if the District wants to do this under Florida Statutes 197.363, we will need to adopt a resolution by the end of the year that we intend to consider adopting non-ad valorem taxes in the next calendar year at the November's board meeting and publish a notice in the Fort Myers News-Press. Attorney Pringle continued to discuss the steps with the Board that need to be taken. Attorney Pringle used Lehigh Acres Fire District as an example to explain the non-ad valorem taxes.

Chairperson Cannamela recessed the Board meeting at 6:59 p.m. for the tentative budget hearing that will begin at 7 p.m.

Chairperson Cannamela called the Board meeting back into session at 7:25 p.m.

The Board began the discussion again with Attorney Pringle and asked questions about doing a study and if the referendum passes. He has discussed with others in government about not having to go to referendum to implement non-ad valorem taxes methodology for the Special Districts, which county and city governments do not have to go to referendum. Commissioner Cannamela discussed using lots and acreage of land methodology with Attorney Pringle. Attorney Pringle explained to Commissioner Cannamela the case law on this.

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Attorney Pringle discussed the different methodologies with the Board. Attorney Pringle stated the consultants should be smart enough to tell us which methodology to use that works best for our District. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to have Attorney Pringle bring the resolution to the November Board meeting that the District intends to consider non-ad valorem funding for our tax base and advertise in the Fort Myers News-Press, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for.

13. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

None.

14. Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Miller: She thanked each and every one of the employees for their response to the Buckingham Presbyterian Church. She discussed the step plan raises with Chief Runk.

Commissioner Barrett: He stated he's proud of everyone and all the good work.

Commissioner Pickering: He stated the department has had their hands full this past month and everyone has responded good and it's a benefit and makes him happy.

Commissioner Cannamela: He asked about the employee handbook. Chief Runk stated we would work on it after the first of next year.

Commissioner Burgess: He stated nothing.

Adjournment: Commissioner Burgess made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for.