

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

October 9, 2025

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	Excused absence
	Attorney Pringle	Excused absence

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

3. Adopt Agenda:

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

4. Recognitions:

None.

5. Financial Report

Chief Runk stated that at the end of September 2025, the District had a beginning balance of \$174,427.08 with deposits and credits of \$440,696.60, which earns 3.75 percent in interest and earned \$455.75 in interest and withdrawals/debits of 405,448.10 with an ending balance of \$209,675.58 in the Synovus checking account. A beginning balance of \$255,414.70 with deposits and credits of \$14,281.94, which earns 3.75 percent in interest and earned \$850.94 in interest and withdrawals/debits of \$0 with an ending balance of \$269,696.64 in the Synovus impact fee account. A beginning balance of \$3,141,351.48, \$11,608.81 in deposits and credits, which earns 3.75 percent in interest and earned \$9,320 in interest and withdrawals/debits of \$499,151.68 with an ending balance of \$2,653,808.61 in the Synovus money market account and compared to the money market in September 2024, the balance was \$2,561,088.50 at that time.

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Chief Runk informed the Board that the District had total funds at the end of September 2025: \$3,133,180.83. He showed a comparison of funds for this year's total funds compared to September 2024, which was \$2,846,689.96.

Chief Runk stated the expenses were normal for the month. He stated the District received \$2,288.81 in ad Valorem taxes, \$140 in miscellaneous revenues (including fire inspections and CPR classes), \$9,775.78 in interest income, \$850.94 in impact fee interest, and \$3,783.20 in proceeds from insurance (Dressel's worker's comp reimbursement). The total income for the month of September 2025 was \$16,838.73. The expenses were normal for the month. The total expenses for the month of September 2025 were \$382,655.51. He presented the profit and loss as of the end of the year and asked if there were any questions, and the Board stated there were none. 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 September 2025:

*During the month of September, the District responded to 243 emergency 911 calls. He stated the second page of the report shows the breakdown of those calls.

*Completed final budget requirements. All documents submitted for TRIM compliance review.

*Final step will be certification of DR-422. Waiting on Property Appraiser.

*DR-422 was certified on Tuesday.

*Crews completed aerial apparatus operator course.

*Completed union negotiations with Local 1826 D-8 and D-26.

7. Attorney's Report

Excused absence.

8. Union Report

a) District 8

b) District 26

None.

9. Public Input on Consent & Business Agenda Items:

None.

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10. Consent Agenda Items:

a. Approve prior meeting minutes:

Commissioner Barrett made a motion to approve the prior September 2025 Board meeting, Tentative budget hearing, and Final budget hearing 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 October 2025 and approve District disbursements and required fiscal action, seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for.

11. Old Business Agenda Items

a. None

12. New Business Agenda Items

a. 2026 Board Meeting Dates

The Board discussed the dates for the 2026 Board meetings, which are currently, the second Thursday of every month. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to approve the 2026 board meeting dates, seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for.

b. Bargaining Unit Contract District 8

The Board discussed the articles for District 8 Negotiations overview. The Board discussed Articles 12, 19, 32, and 39. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to approve the contract and accept the negotiations for District 8, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for.

c. Bargaining Unit Contract District 26

The Board discussed the articles for District 26 Negotiations overview. The Board discussed Articles 15 and 18. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to approve the contract and accept the negotiations for District 26, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vote: Unanimously for.

d. District Manager Contract

Chief Runk stated that the District Manager's three-year contract had expired as of September 30, 2025. The Board discussed the District Manager's proposed three-year contract. Commissioner Cannamela asked Chief Runk why she needs a contract. Commissioner Barrett asked questions on the 33 percent sick leave time at retirement and the limits on unused vacation time. Commissioner Miller spoke about her contract with the Board, how she felt about her increase in pay, sick and vacation time since she was clerical, her \$20,000 pay increase last year, and why does she need a contract? The Board discussed her pay increase last year, the smooth transition, going over and beyond in her work, and attaining her master's degree.

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The Board discussed when she received a contract, and if she needed a contract. Commissioner Barrett suggested making a step plan for her, and the Board discussed it. Chief Runk stated there are three or four employees at other Districts doing what Rena does here. The Board will send their list of concerns to Chief Runk. Chief Runk suggested tableing her contract until next month's meeting when Attorney Pringle and Rena are here, and the Board unanimously agreed.

13. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

Tim Jones from the Union Local 1826 thanked the District for allowing Local 1826 to negotiate with Chief Runk. He stated it was pleasant compared to some of the previous negotiations. He stated we worked through some items and are having workshops for other items. He thanked the Board and stated he appreciated their support.

14. Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Miller: She stated she was in support of bringing all shifts to full staff, the promotions, pay raises, six new hires and three were supposed to be under the SAFER grant. The salary budget is very high now. She stated if we had applied for the SAFER grant, we would have more to go towards a new truck purchase. She discussed the taxes she must pay, and it is a lot for senior citizens. She stated at some point the District needs to be fiscally responsible. She stated lastly, if any of the new hires do not make probation, she would like us to only hire if it is under the SAFER grant. Chief Runk stated we would have to pay overtime to keep the shifts at full staff according to the contract. Commissioner Cannamela talked about the SAFER grant and applying for it. He stated the Board voted against applying for it last year; and he feels the Board was given inaccurate information, and it affected their voting. The Board discussed with Tim Jones of Local 1826 that our starting pay for firefighters is below average; Mr. Jones stated the average is \$60,000. Chief Runk stated we are not going to compete with the Fire Districts down south, because of our budget, but we can make it better for starting firefighters.

Commissioner Barrett: He stated to make notes regarding Rena's contract and email to Chief Runk.

Commissioner Burgess: He stated he is good.

Commissioner Cannamela: He stated he is good.

Commissioner Pickering: He stated he is good.

Adjournment: Commissioner Burgess made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for.