

**TICE FIRE DISTRICT
9351 WORKMEN WAY
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33905
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 8, 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:

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|------------------------|------------------|---------|
| 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. 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:

Chief Runk informed the Board of the following:

- a. Rena Smart and Buddy Scannell for their efforts with Orange River Elementary school's "Kid's Christmas" event. Toys were collected from Crystal Lakes Community, North Trail RV, Cracker Barrel, Buckingham Farms and Country Lakes.
- b. Rusty Crook has completed 25 years of service with the District.
- c. Michael Wooley has completed 20 years of service with the District.

5. Financial Report

Rena Smart gave the financial report for December 2025. She stated the District received \$3,925,946.80 in ad Valorem taxes, \$985 in miscellaneous revenues (including fire inspections and CPR classes), \$13,306.34 in interest income, \$865.40 in impact fee interest, and \$2,000 in donations. The total income for the month of December 2025 was \$3,943,103.54.

She stated the rest of the bills were normal for the month. She stated that at the end of December 2025, the balance in the Synovus checking account was \$37,573.07, which

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earns 3.5 percent in interest and earned \$336.79 in interest. In the Synovus impact fee account, the ending balance was \$285,016.45, which earns 3.5 percent in interest and earned \$865.40 in interest. The balance in the Synovus money market account was \$6,034,815.11, which earned 3.5 percent in interest and earned \$12,969.55 in interest. Rena Smart informed the Board that the District had total funds at the end of December 2025 of \$6,357,404.63, compared to December 2024, \$5,527,915.70, and compared to December 2023, \$4,857,207.51. The total expenses for the month of December 2025 were \$556,057.97.

Rena received rates from Synovus on CDs. The rates are three months at 3.75 percent, six months at 3.70 percent, or twelve months at 3.65 percent. She discussed the options with the Board. Chief Runk stated if we are interested in discussing more, we need to add a line under "New Business Agenda Items" as "12 b". Commissioner Burgess made a motion to add "Funds Investments" under "New Business Agenda Item," seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vote: Unanimously for.

She asked if there were any questions, and Commissioner Miller asked about the "Telephone" budget item, and Chief Runk stated he needs to do a budget amendment, hopefully next month. 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 December 2025:

*During the month of December, the District responded to 294 emergency 911 calls. He went over the breakdown of those calls.

*During the year 2025, the District responded to 3,309 calls for service.

*BC Williams and I attended an ISO presentation. They discussed changes to the ISO rating scale and FD training and response requirements.

*Crews completed their annual facility training FMSFD training tower.

*L-218 received its annual aerial test, it passed, and all ground ladders tested as well. We had one ground ladder fail; we replaced it with a spare.

*Breathing Air Systems completed semi-annual maintenance on our Breathing Air compressor and fill station.

*Participated in Orange River Elementary School's "Kid Christmas."

*Participated in "Buckingham Movie Night."

*I will be attending FASD Legislative Forum in Tallahassee next week.

*I will be attending a two-day training course in Clearwater, "Advanced Disciplinary Challenges in the Fire Service," on January 21st and 22nd.

7. Attorney's Report

Attorney Pringle stated all the items that he has tonight are on the agenda.

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8. Union Report

- a) District 8
- b) District 26

BC Williams reported for both Districts and stated nothing to report.

9. Public Input on Consent & Business Agenda Items:

None.

10. Consent Agenda Items:

a. Approve prior meeting minutes:

Commissioner Burgess made a motion to approve the prior December 2025 Board meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for.

b. Approve District disbursements and required fiscal action:

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

11. Old Business Agenda Items

a. District Manager Contract

Rena Smart discussed her contract and gave her opinion to the Board. The Board discussed the difference between a non-bargaining handbook and an employment agreement and discussed it in detail with Attorney Pringle. Attorney Pringle suggested having a labor attorney review the handbook after creating it. Chief Runk stated he was not sure yet, but the next hire would be either a Deputy Chief or Fire Marshal. All the Board agreed to an employee handbook. The Commissioner's point of contact for suggestions for the handbook is Attorney Pringle. Chief Runk asked the Board to approve Rena's COLA of \$2,000 retro to October 1, 2025. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to increase Rena's pay, effective October 1, 2025, by \$2,000 annually, seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for. Commissioner Barrett made a motion for the direction of Attorney Pringle and Chairperson Cannamela and Chief Runk to work on an employment handbook, seconded by Commissioner Burgess. Vote: Unanimously for.

b. Fire Chief Contract

Attorney Pringle discussed the amendment he made to Chief Runk's contract. His new contract will expire on September 30, 2027. He handed out the amendment to the Board to review. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to continue Chief Runk's contract discussion to next month's Board meeting, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vote: Unanimously for.

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c. Equipment Repair (E-211)

Chief Runk informed the Board that he received approval last month for the E-211 pump repair by Ten-8 Fire of up to \$23,000, and it ended up only costing the District, \$16,456.53. No action is required.

12. New Business Agenda Items

a. Building Maintenance

Chief Runk made a presentation to the Board for tile in the showers at Station 1. He stated the labor will begin on Monday:

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| Wall tile, floor tile, trim pieces | \$3,582.62 |
|------------------------------------|------------|

Asking for approval not to exceed \$4,000

Commissioner Burgess made a motion for approval to purchase tile not to exceed \$4,000, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vote: Unanimously for.

b. Funds Investments

The Board discussed a Synovus CD at a rate of 3.75. Chairperson Cannamela suggested doing individual \$1,000,000 CDs for three months (January, February, and March). Chairperson Cannamela asked to find out if Synovus Bank does a "sweep account" or CDARS, and Rena stated she would.

Commissioner Burgess made a motion to invest \$1,000,000 a month in CDs for the next three months for a total of \$3,000,000 as a CDARS and authority to say no and bring it back to the Board for more discussion, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vote: Unanimously for. Rena stated she is also going to get CD rates from First Bank.

13. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

None.

14. Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Miller: She stated to Rena that it is nothing against her and she is doing a good job; just looking to the future and not have so many contracts out there. She thanked everyone for the work they are doing.

Commissioner Barrett: He concurs.

Commissioner Pickering: He stated ditto.

Commissioner Cannamela: He thanked the Department guys for putting out his fire at his house.

Commissioner Burgess: He stated ditto.

Adjournment: Commissioner Burgess made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for.