

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

April 10, 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	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 introduced the newly hired employees to the Board, which were Jonathan Halé, Logan Hoelderlin, Miles Morgan (unable to attend), Brendan Reinek, and Richard Young. The Board congratulated them.

Chief Runk read the thank you card from Mr. and Mrs. Hutto to the Board. Mrs. Hutto spoke to the Board about how grateful and thankful to the Department she was for putting out their barn and garage building fire. She would like their shift to be recognized for the great job in putting their fire out.

Chief Runk read another thank you card from a family for a medical call.

Chief Runk read a thank you letter from Jamey DeLacey, a Commissioner from Pine Island Fire District, for allowing her to accompany the Fire Chiefs to the Capital visit in Tallahassee and thank you for your service.

Chief Runk informed the Board that the District received a donation from Grace S. Johnston Living Trust for \$100. Rena stated they wanted to donate to the District for a lift assist call on her daughter, and they were thankful.

Chief Runk read a thank you from River Hall Country Club, which is in the Fort Myers Shores Fire District, for our assistance with a PR event.

Chief Runk read a thank you letter from Cypress Trail RV Resort for our support to their community.

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5. Financial Report

Rena Smart gave the financial report for March 2025. She stated she spoke to Synovus Bank about CD rates, which are in the 2 percent range; our money market account is much higher at 4 percent. The District received \$132,411.79 in ad Valorem taxes, \$25,854.90 grant income, \$855.41 in miscellaneous revenues (including fire inspections and CPR classes), \$16,732.82 in interest income, and \$697.60 in impact fee interest. The total income for the month of March 2025 was \$176,552.52.

Rena stated that at the end of March 2025, the District had \$109,642.42 in the Synovus checking account, which earns 4 percent in interest and earned \$466.22 in interest, \$207,937.92 in the Synovus impact fee account, which earns 4 percent in interest, and earned \$697.60 in interest, and \$4,658,651.29 in the Synovus money market account, which earns 4 percent in interest and earned \$16,266.60 in interest and compared to the money market in March 2024, the balance was \$4,323,506.01. The total expenses for the month of March 2025 were \$547,050.57.

She stated everything was normal for the month and gave the financial report at the six-month mark. Rena informed the Board that the District had total funds at the end of March 2025: \$4,976,231.63. She showed a comparison of funds for this year's total funds compared to March 2024, which was \$4,347,549.81 and March 2023, which were \$3,954,304. 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 March 2025:

- *During the month of March, the District responded to 325 emergency 911 calls.
- *Completed new hire orientation; employees started on shift today.
- *Completed the practical phase of the Captain's testing process.
- *Completed the written phase of the Engineer's testing process; the Engineer's practical test is on April 17th.
- *Received \$25,854.90 from State of Florida for Hurricane Debby USAR deployment.
- *Crews have begun hydrant maintenance throughout the District.
- *Chief Runk stated the tender was delivered as of Tuesday. The District did not have the tender for the Hutto Fire. He also spoke about the Hutto accidental fire to the Board and acknowledged all the crews, Bayshore and Fort Myers Shores Fire Districts, that helped put the fire out. They also drafted from the Hutto's pond.

7. Attorney's Report

Attorney Pringle stated he will save his comments until the Business agenda items.

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8. Union Report

- a) District 8
- b) District 26

BC Williams reported for both Unions stating that everything is moving forward and lovely.

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 March 2025 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 April 2025 and approve District disbursements and required fiscal action, seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for.

11. Old Business Agenda Items

a) LCEMS Interlocal Agreement

Attorney Pringle stated that after several interactions between Mr. Clemens, Director of Lee County Lands, and himself, they agreed on \$1,000 per month for the first year, with a four-percent annual increase. Attorney Pringle asked for direction on the term of the agreement. Mr. Clemens wants an initial five-year term with three five-year extensions with the first two terms only the County may terminate, and the second two terms either party may terminate, with a four-year notice. Attorney Pringle stated to him this is not what the District and he agreed on. The Board discussed the terms with Attorney Pringle. The Board stated they want to be able to terminate after five years not nine years. The Board stated to stand on what the Board originally stated with the termination of the agreement and firm with the five years.

b) Appointment of Fire Chief

Chief Runk stated to the Board that the salary portion was tabled until this meeting. He emailed and handed out a salary information sheet with a comparison of salaries to the Board. Chief Runk explained the salaries on the information sheet to the Board. Commissioner Miller stated that she emailed regarding having an executive session on the salary.

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Attorney Pringle asked the Board members to please use the official Tice Fire District email address, because it is a public record. Attorney Pringle stated also that this is not one of the instances where you could have an executive session and stated it needs to be discussed at the Board meeting. The Board discussed the salaries with Chief Runk in detail. Commissioner Barrett stated his opinion of the current salary plus 10 percent and gave his reasoning for this increase. Commissioner Miller discussed the recent salary increases that just took place and trying to get across the board raises every year to everyone. She is not in favor of a salary increase right now but discussed several salary scenarios with the Board. Chief Runk explained his salary increase was only \$3,200, and how the incentives were now in his salary. Commissioner Pickering gave his opinion of current salary plus \$10,000. Commissioner Cannamela stated he likes the current salary plus 10 percent. Chairperson Cannamela asked the Commissioners again about the salary increase. Commissioner Miller and Pickering are for the current salary plus \$10,000. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to increase the Chief's current salary plus 10 percent to \$148,885, seconded by Commissioner Barrett.

Vote: Commissioner Miller	Nay
Commissioner Barrett	Aye
Commissioner Pickering	Nay
Commissioner Cannamela	Aye
Commissioner Burgess	Aye

Attorney Pringle stated he has been working with Chief Runk on the amendment to the employment agreement and has made several revisions to it without finalizing it. Attorney Pringle stated with the Board's direction to add the salary increase into that amendment, he will include; and it will be one amendment and then authorize the Chairperson to sign it. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to have Attorney Pringle finalize the one amendment and authorize the Chairperson to sign it, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vote: Unanimously for.

12. New Business Agenda Items

a) Annual Ethics Training

Chief Runk went over the required annual ethics training with the Board and gave two options of either in-person or online. Rena stated the in-person training is Sunday, June 15, at Sunseeker Resort in Punta Gorda from 1 to 5 p.m. The District can sign up the Commissioners on the FASD website.

13. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

None.

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14. Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Miller: She stated everyone is doing a great job. Congratulations to the new employees and look forward to working with all of you.

Commissioner Barrett: He stated we have a good herd. He stated to the new employees, keep up the good work.

Commissioner Pickering: He stated the Department did an outstanding job on the Hutto fire. He stated he was there.

Commissioner Cannamala: He stated everyone is doing a great job, especially Attorney Pringle.

Commissioner Burgess: He stated to the Battalion Chiefs, hopefully no more calls on his wife. He thanked the Department for all the help with his wife.

Chief Runk introduced Miles Morgan, one of the new employees, to the Board. He just joined the meeting.

- a) Adjournment: Commissioner Burgess made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for.