

**TICE FIRE DISTRICT
9351 WORKMEN WAY
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33905
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 13, 2025**

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Cannamela brought the meeting to order at 6:34 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	Excused absence
	T.J. Cannamela	Present
	Carolyn Miller	Present
	Ted Pickering	Present
	Chief Ross	Present
	Interim Chief Runk	Present
	Attorney Pringle	Present

2. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chaplain Crump blessed the meeting with a prayer.

3. Adopt Agenda:

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

4. Recognitions:

Interim Chief Runk recognized Rena Smart and retired Engineer Buddy Scannell for their participation in donating toys and being Santa Claus and Ms. Claus for the children at Orange River Elementary School. The District received a thank you card from Orange River’s principal. Rena recognized Mary at Buckingham Farms for her help in setting it up.

5. Financial Report.

Rena Smart gave the financial report for January 2025. She informed the Board of the interest received from Synovus Bank in 2024. We received \$167,238.88 in the money market account; \$7,208.52 in the impact account, and \$4,952.49 in the checking account. Rena informed the Board about having the Florida pool (PFM Asset Management) come to next month’s Board meeting, and go over their rates and possibly lock in a better rate than what we are getting from Synovus Bank, which is 4 percent. She met them at the FGFOA meeting towards the end of last year. The District received \$237,085.27 in ad Valorem taxes, \$38,797.55 in grant income from Hurricane Milton, \$715 in miscellaneous revenues (includes fire inspections and CPR classes), \$17,783.21 in interest income, and \$596.68 in impact fee interest. The total income for the month of January 2025 was \$294,977.71.

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She stated the expenses were normal, except for the retirement was higher than usual at \$108,551.89, which almost was double the usual payment. This was due to the longevity payments in the month of December 2024, and retirement was paid in January 2025. The total expenses for the month of January 2025 were \$448,467.03.

Rena stated that at the end of January 2025, the District had \$152,825.91 in the Synovus checking account, which earns 4 percent in interest and earned \$469.67 in interest, \$175,942.09 in the Synovus impact fee account, which earns 4 percent in interest, and earned \$596.68 in interest, and \$5,026,903.51 in the Synovus money market account, which earns 4 percent in interest and earned \$17,313.54 in interest. She stated the District had 4,442,697.42 in the money market account this time last year, 2024.

Rena informed the Board that the District had in total funds at the end of January 2025: \$5,355,671.51. She showed a comparison of funds for this year's total funds compared to January 2024, which was \$4,622,941.54 and January 2023, which was \$4,019,032.00. She informed the Board that the Auditor will be in the end of March for the 2023/2024 audit. Rena Smart asked if the Board had any questions. The Board reviewed the bills, and Chairperson Cannamela signed the checks, and Commissioner Burgess, which will be in the next day, Friday, February 14th, to sign the checks.

6. Chief's Report

Interim Chief Runk gave the report:

- * During the month of January, the District responded to 317 emergency 911 calls.
- * The District hosted multiple training classes for Florida Forest Service.
- * Annual service was completed on our Hurst tools (vehicle extrication).
- * Annual hose testing was completed. He will possibly have a list next month of the hose that needs to be replaced.
- * Bunker gear was laundered and inspected (every 6 months). He stated he had to send a few out for repair, but most were under warranty. It is coming up to the end of the five-year warranty, and probably will be looking at this summer to replace the bunker gear.
- * He informed the Board that the hiring is in progress. Tomorrow is the physical portion of the exam and the interviews are on Tuesday, February 18.

7. Attorney's Report

Attorney Pringle gave a presentation and updated the Board about Mr. Clemens and the EMS lease. He finally met with him yesterday. Mr. Pringle stated to Mr. Clemens that the District wanted a five percent annual increase or use the CPI adjustment, whichever was greater. Mr. Clemens stated the County only wants to pay a four percent annual adjustment.

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He stated to Mr. Clemens that we have taken quite a bit of time to negotiate over a small amount of money. Mr. Pringle stated the District wanted three years advanced notice of termination, and Mr. Clemens stated the County needs five years advanced notice of termination, due to it taking a long time to buy land and do the construction. Mr. Pringle stated they also disagreed on the increase in the common area maintenance (CAM) record, and how the County wrote a check for construction; and if they didn't make that contribution, then we could not have built that square footage, and the reason the District built that square footage was because EMS wanted to be here. Mr. Pringle stated the District wanted \$1,300 per month in the negotiations, and Mr. Clemens stated the County wanted to pay \$750 per month. The Board discussed it with Mr. Pringle. Mr. Pringle stated the District has five years left on the term. They discussed how long of a notice we would have to give the County to vacate. Chairperson Cannamela stated to ignore them, give them two years notice to vacate if it takes them five years, oh well, if it takes them that long; the District does not need their income. The Board discussed in more detail about the EMS square footage with Mr. Pringle. The County pays the District \$525 per month at this time. The Board also discussed not wanting to pay any more in attorney fees for the CAM negotiations. After further discussion, the Board asked Mr. Pringle to email Mr. Clemens and state this is what the Board wants, which is \$1,300 per month CAM, three years termination notice, 4 percent annual increase, no mutual agreement clause with a five-year term; and that is it and no more negotiations.

8. Union Report

- a) District 8. Engineer Wooley stated all is good.
- b) District 26. BC Williams stated nothing to report.

9. Public Input on Consent & Business Agenda Items:

None.

10. Consent Agenda Items:

a. Approve prior meeting minutes:

Commissioner Barrett made a motion to adopt the January 2025 Board meeting minutes as presented tonight, 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 February 2025 and approve District disbursements and required fiscal action, seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for.

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11. Old Business Agenda Items

a) Building Maintenance – A/C Replacement

Interim Chief Runk gave the presentation on replacing the 3 A/C units at Station 1. He stated the quotes were not all apples to apples. He explained each quote to the Board, and the Board asked questions about each quote.

**Purchase Request
4623 Building Fund
Account Balance: \$80,630.66**

	SEER2		SEER2
Deep South Air: ICP straight cool	15	Heat Pump	15.3
	\$19,200		\$23,700
Air Innovations: Trane	15.2	ICP	16
	\$33,639		\$25,855
Sunset Air: ICP	13.8	Fredrich	17.5
	\$27,600		\$32,031

Asking to approve purchase in the amount of ?

The Board discussed it. The Board decided to table it until next month's meeting to have more time to review the quotes.

12. New Business Agenda Items

a) Building Maintenance

1- Exterior Painting, Sta.1

Interim Chief Runk gave the presentation on repainting Station 1 exterior:

**Purchase Request
4623 Building Fund
Account Balance: \$80,630.66**

	7 year paint	10 year paint
Northern Contracting	\$23,935.00	\$27,050.00
Ryan Hammond	\$21,038.05	\$23,385.05

Asking to approve purchase in the amount of ?

The Board discussed it in detail and asked questions about the quotes. Interim Chief Runk gave the recommendation of Ryan Hammond with the 10-year paint. Commissioner Miller asked if the quotes were apples to apples, and he responded they were. Interim Chief Runk stated the color would be a grey scape. Both painting companies were recommended by our Sherwin Williams rep. He stated they should be able to start painting in 30 to 45 days. There was a third company asked to quote, but they did not respond with a price. The Board discussed if anyone was familiar with their work. Commissioner Barrett made a motion to approve painting of Station 1 by Ryan Hammond with the 10-year Sherwin Williams Duration paint for \$23,385.05, seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for.

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2-Phone System Upgrade

Part 1

Interim Chief Runk gave a presentation to purchase the phone system for both stations:

**Purchase Request
4623 Building Fund
Account Balance: \$80,630.66**

Junopi

\$8,180

Asking to approve purchase in the amount of \$8,180

He stated he also included a second quote in the packet by Onward Technology Solutions for \$20,865 with a \$480 monthly charge. Chairperson Cannamela spoke about the meeting he attended last month with Interim Chief Runk with Junopi. He stated we have some IT compliance issues that the District, as a public entity, need to take care of. Rena printed out the Junopi estimate for the Board that will go along with the Station 1 phone purchase. Chairperson Cannamela explained the new phone system technology to the Board in detail. Chairperson Cannamela explained that the District is cutting the current charges of \$856.50 per month to spend \$465 per month. Ultimately, the District will be saving to get today's technology to get the District up to speed for advances, such as security and door swipes. The Junopi estimate is at \$1,827.30 monthly; Chairperson Cannamela stated this Junopi quote is inflated, and we should be able to take off six licenses. Chairperson Cannamela explained all the technology that is involved with the Junopi estimate in detail to the Board. Interim Chief Runk stated he obtained the business domain name of www.tirefire.gov. The Board discussed it and will upgrade the IT at the same time as the phone system. Commissioner Barrett made a motion for the purchase of the replacement phone system by Junopi for both stations at \$8,180 and authorize monthly IT support services up to \$2,300 monthly, seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for.

Part 2

Upgrade internet to Fiber Optic at Sta. 1 and Comcast Business at Sta. 3:

Commissioner Barrett made a motion to authorize Interim Chief Runk to enter into an agreement with Summit Fiber Optics to provide fiber optics service to Station 1 for a 60-month term not to exceed \$1000 per month, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for. The fiber optic upgrade is not available at Station 3, so they will be upgraded to the Comcast Business, 500 megabits.

b) Equipment Purchase

Interim Chief Runk gave a presentation to purchase replacement RIT systems for 3 trucks:

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**Purchase Request
4641 Equipment Fund
Account Balance: \$134,760.72**

Purchase replacement RIT system for 3 trucks:

1	G1 RIT System	\$5,386.88	\$5,386.88
3	L3 Lite-Speed RIT Bags	\$ 320.00	\$ 960.00
			\$6,346.88

Asking to approve purchase in the amount of \$6,346.88

Covanta (Reworld Environmental Solutions) is purchasing two of the G1 RIT systems for the District. Commissioner Barrett stated they were good systems. Commissioner Barrett made a motion to approve the purchase of the G1 RIT system and 3 bags not to exceed the amount of \$6,346.88, seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for.

c) Vehicle Purchase

Interim Chief Runk gave a presentation to purchase a p/u truck to replace the 2004 Ford F-250:

**Purchase Request
4622 Vehicle Fund
Account Balance: \$396,519.70**

1	Garber Chevrolet	\$65,645.00	\$65,645.00
1	Lightning Wireless-Lights/outfitting	\$17,864.00	\$17,864.00
1	Motorola antennas	\$ 1,293.19	\$ 1,293.19
1	Graphics	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
			\$87,302.19

Asking to approve purchase not to exceed \$90,000

Garber Chevrolet is a member of the Florida Sheriff's Association.

Pricing is pulled from the Cooperative Pricing contract.

The truck being replaced is a 2004 Ford F-250 with 109,786 miles.

The BC truck is a 2018 Chevrolet with 19,093 miles.

The new vehicle would replace the BC truck and that one would move to service/reserve.

We would dispose of the F-250 at auction.

Interim Chief Runk stated it is a budgeted expense, and it was planned to purchase this year. He stated this truck is identical to his truck he now drives. Commissioner Pickering made a motion not to exceed \$90,000 to purchase the new 2025 Chevrolet Silverado from Garber Chevrolet, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vote: Unanimously for.

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13. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

None.

14. Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Miller: She stated she has nothing to say.

Commissioner Barrett: None.

Commissioner Pickering: He asked what happened with the Commissioner honorarium increase. The Board discussed it. The District will advertise it and put it on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Commissioner Cannamela: He asked Interim Chief Runk if he had everything he needed from Chief Ross for the transition (the passwords and credit card limit increase). Interim Chief Runk stated it is being worked on.

Commissioner Burgess: Excused absence

a) Adjournment: Commissioner Barrett made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for.