

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

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Cannamela brought the meeting to order at 6:32 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
	Interim 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 Barrett. Vote: Unanimously for.

12. a) FL Palm Investment Program

Lesley Allison gave a PowerPoint presentation on the FL Palm Investment Program product and different investment options and answered questions from the Board. They are not FDIC insured, as pointed out by Commissioner Miller, and Ms. Allison affirmed that.

4. Recognitions:

Interim Chief Runk congratulated BC William for his 25 years of service. BC Williams was presented with a plaque by Interim Chief Runk, and the Board congratulated him. Interim Chief Runk informed the Board that Chief Ross officially retired yesterday, March 12, 2025, after 29 years of service. He was unable to attend the meeting this evening. Interim Chief Runk presented his axe to him at a small luncheon the District had for him.

5. Financial Report.

Rena Smart gave the financial report for February 2025. The District received \$271,076.02 in ad Valorem taxes, \$935 in miscellaneous revenues (including fire inspections and CPR classes), \$15,785.32 in interest income, \$540.67 in impact fee interest, \$30,757.56 in impact fee revenue, and \$184.51 proceeds from insurance, which were credits from PGIT and VFIS. The total income for the month of February 2025 was \$319,279.08.

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Rena stated that at the end of February 2025, the District had \$60,359.82 in the Synovus checking account, which earns 4 percent in interest and earned \$405.49 in interest, \$207,240.32 in the Synovus impact fee account, which earns 4 percent in interest, and earned \$540.67 in interest, and \$5,064,623.88 in the Synovus money market account, which earns 4 percent in interest and earned \$15,379.83 in interest and compared to the money market in February 2024, the balance was \$4,323,506.01. The total expenses for the month of February 2025 were \$377,303.30.

She stated everything was normal for the month, except for the lease payment on Engine 211 to Santander Bank in the amount of \$30,986.24. Rena informed the Board that the District had total funds at the end of February 2025: \$5,332,224.02. She showed a comparison of funds for this year's total funds compared to February 2024, which was \$4,485,801 and February 2023, which was \$3,818,619. Rena asked if the Board had any questions, and Commissioner Miller asked about the monthly income statement differing balances from month to month. The Board discussed the income statement in detail, and the profit and loss, which is already in the meeting documents, will replace the income statement. The Board reviewed the bills, and Commissioner Cannamela and Commissioner Burgess signed the checks.

6. Chief's Report

Interim Chief Runk gave the Chief's report for the month of February 2025:

- *During the month of February, the District responded to 253 emergency 911 calls.
- *Completed new hire testing, working on the on-boarding process, orientation starts March 27, 2025.
- *Completed the written phase of the Captain's testing process. Practical portion is schedule for April 7th, 2025.
- *Hosted the Lee County Arson Task Force meeting.
- *Completed gathering information for Lee County's Impact Fee Study.
- *FASD Annual Conference will be in Port Charlotte, June 16-19, 2025, and if anyone is interested in attending, please let us know.
- *He stated he will be attending the FASD Legislative update on March 25-27, 2025.

7. Attorney's Report

Attorney Pringle requested the Board to add under "**Old Business Agenda Items**" 11. b) "**Interlocal agreement with Lee County for EMS**" for discussion for one more month to get more direction from the Board, and the rest of the items he has comments on are on the agenda so he can save his comments until then. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to amend the agenda to add "Interlocal agreement with Lee County for EMS" under 11.b), seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vote: Unanimously for.

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8. Union Report

- a) District 8
- b) District 26

BC Williams reported for both Unions stating no new business to bring to the Board; everything is good and looking forward to things coming.

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 February 2025 Board meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Burgess. 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 March 2025 and approve District disbursements and required fiscal action, seconded by Commissioner Burgess. Vote: Unanimously for.

11. Old Business Agenda Items

a) Building Maintenance – A/C Replacement:

Select a vendor to replace 3 A/C units at Station 1:

	SEER 2		SEER 2
Deep South Air	ICP Straight Cool	15	Heat Pump
	\$24,500.00		\$26,700.00
Air Innovations	Trane	15.2	ICP
	\$33,639.00		\$25,855.00
Sunset Air	ICP	13.8	Friedrich
	\$27,600.00		\$32,031.00

Asking to approve purchase in the amount of ?

Interim Chief Runk gave the updates on the A/C for Station 1. This was discussed originally at last month's meeting. Deep South Air's price increased by \$5,300, because the owner stated he could not get the old refrigerant any longer.

Commissioner Cannamela stated he found out the old refrigerant is readily available. Interim Chief Runk stated the other two quotes are still the same. The Board discussed the quotes in detail, and if they are apples to apples. The Board discussed Sunset Air. We have done business with them for ten plus years, and they are in our District.

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Commissioner Burgess made a motion to go with Sunset Air for three A/Cs with the ICP units for \$27,600, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for.

b) Interlocal Agreement with Lee County for EMS

Attorney Pringle stated after further thought, he asked for one more opportunity to try to reach a resolution with the Lee County staff if he could get to something that he feels is reasonable. The Board discussed the monthly rent and notice for termination with Attorney Pringle. Attorney Pringle discussed what his negotiation would be like with the Board. He stated around \$1,000 a month for rent with terminating our current contract, a four-percent annual increase, and a four-year notice of termination. The Board stated to Attorney Pringle; see what you can get and meet at the halfway point, if reasonable.

12. New Business Agenda Items

a) FL Palm Investment Program

Moved up on the agenda between #3. Adopt Agenda and #4. Recognitions:

The Board discussed it and decided to just stay where we are at with the Synovus money market with a four percent interest rate.

b) Equipment Purchases

Interim Chief Runk gave a presentation on the purchase of two EMS cabinets and discussed it with the Board:

Purchase EMS cabinets for both front line engines:

E-210 \$3,810.00

E-211 \$3,810.00

Fabricate and install custom EMS cabinets in the rear passenger area of the cab.

Total \$7,620.00

Asking for approval not to exceed \$8,000.00

Commissioner Burgess made a motion to approve the purchase for the two EMS cabinets not to exceed \$8,000, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for.

Interim Chief Runk gave a presentation on the purchase of replacement fire hose and discussed it with the Board. He stated during the hose testing, some of the hose failed and that is what we are replacing:

Purchase 1050' of 2 ½" attack hose \$4,901.09

Purchase 1200' of 5" supply hose \$9,840.00

Total \$14,741.09

Asking for approval not to exceed \$15,000.00

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Commissioner Burgess made a motion to purchase the replacement fire hose not to exceed \$15,000, seconded by Commissioner Barrett. Vote: Unanimously for.

Interim Chief Runk gave a presentation on purchasing an airway management trainer:

Purchase Laerdal Airway Management Training Mannequin	\$2,801.55
Used for medical training and skills maintenance.	
Total	\$2,801.55

Asking for approval not to exceed \$3,000.00

Commissioner Pickering made a motion to approve the purchase of the airway management trainer and materials not to exceed \$3,000, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for.

c) Commissioner's Honorarium

Interim Chief Runk stated to the Board that there was discussion several months back about increasing the Commissioner's honorarium. He was asked to put on the agenda for discussion last month, and it was properly published in the Fort Myers News-Press (Gannett). Attorney Pringle went over the Florida Statutes and requirements regarding this with the Board in detail. The honorarium, currently, is \$250 per month. The Board discussed it and decided on an increase of \$100 to \$350 per month. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to increase the Commissioner's honorarium \$100 to \$350 per month, beginning in April 2025, seconded by Commissioner Pickering. Vote: Unanimously for.

d) Appointment of Fire Chief

Attorney Pringle went over Interim Chief Runk's employment agreement with the Board and pointed out that his agreement has language that he becomes the Fire Chief after the retirement of Chief Ross, which happened yesterday. Attorney Pringle stated the Board must take action to fulfill this transition. The Board discussed it with Interim Chief Runk and asked if he has everything he needs. Commissioner Burgess made a motion to approve Interim Chief Runk as Fire Chief of the District today and approve the first amendment to his work agreement, to include the salary previously approved, by Attorney Pringle and authorize the Chairperson to sign it, seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for. The Board congratulated him. The Board discussed the salary. Attorney Pringle stated he has a first amendment to amend his contract that the Board approved him as Fire Chief and the salary of \$135,350 base with his incentives, as listed by Attorney Pringle, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Chief Runk discussed his salary going from Assistant Chief to Fire Chief with the Board.

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The Board tabled the increase in salary discussion until the next Board meeting. The Board asked Chief Runk to email salary information to the Board and will discuss it in detail at next month's Board meeting.

13. Public Input on Non-Agenda Items:

None.

14. Commissioners Comments:

Commissioner Miller: She congratulated Chief Runk, and she is encouraged and believes the transition is going to be a good one; and she thinks, with the administration support, it will be smooth.

Commissioner Barrett: He stated you have full support for whatever you need moving forward.

Commissioner Pickering: He stated do us well, Michael.

Commissioner Cannamala: He discussed with the Board about getting a security system and possibly using impact fees. He stated South Trail Fire District wrote a letter and was able to do buy a security system using impact fees. He would like the Board to direct Chief Runk to write the letter and bring it back to the Board to get the ball rolling. Attorney Pringle stated Chief Runk can do the letter and bring it back to the Board for approval.

Commissioner Burgess: He stated congratulations to Chief Runk.

- a) Adjournment: Commissioner Burgess made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Miller. Vote: Unanimously for.