

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT

911 North County Highway 393, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida 32459

"Prompt, Competent, Caring Response in Time of Need"



The Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District will hold a regular meeting on **October 14, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.** on the third floor of the South Walton Fire District Logistics Building.

The agenda will include, but not be limited to the following:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment*
- III. Approval of Minutes
Regular Board Meeting: 09.10.2024
First Public Hearing: 09.10.2024
Final Public Hearing: 09.16.2024
- IV. Secretary/Treasurer's Report
- V. Attorney's Report
Trademark Update
Title Insurance Claim Update
- VI. Chief's Report
- VII. Committee Reports
- VIII. Unfinished/Old Business
- IX. New Business
Board Action: Sandestin Owners' Association Lifeguard Services Contract
Luke Turner, Beach Safety Lieutenant

Board Action: Ratification of Labor Agreement with South Walton Professional Firefighters Association
Ryan Crawford, Fire Chief
- X. Public Comment*
- XI. Adjournment

***Note:** Persons who wish to be placed on the agenda must contact the Administrative Assistant within five days of any meeting and provide the name of the person who will be speaking and the subject to be addressed. If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board of Fire Commissioners of the South Walton Fire District concerning any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

SOUTH WALTON FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2024

*****PENDING APPROVAL*****

Commissioners Present: David Bailey, Charlotte Flynt, Mark Foley, Maurice Gilbert, Roger Hall, Mike Stange

Commissioners Absent: Brian Christenson

Call to Order: 4:00 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Commissioner Gilbert announced that a quorum was present.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 10, 2024, Board of Fire Commissioners' regular meeting.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Flynt, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the First Public Hearing regarding the levying of ad valorem taxes and the FY 2024-2025 budget on September 10, 2024.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Final Public Hearing regarding the levying of ad valorem taxes and the FY 2024-2025 budget held on September 16, 2024.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report: Commissioner Flynt read the August 2024 cash report into the record.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Youell reported that there had been no communication regarding the Notice of Title Defect claim since the September Fire Board meeting. Attorney Youell recommended filing a Notice of Intent to File Suit.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Flynt, the Board unanimously approved filing a Notice of Intent.

Attorney Youell reported that she submitted a response to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office and would keep the board apprised of the status.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Foley, the Board unanimously approved Attorney Youell's September 2024 billing statement.

Fire Chief's Report:

Chief Crawford reviewed the Emergency Response Activity Report which included Beach Safety Responses.

SWFD's new Motorola Computer Aided Dispatch (or CAD) system went live October 1, 2024, providing improved dispatching efficiency.

SWFD hosted a 9/11 memorial run on the morning of September 11, 2024. Following the 3.43 mile run / walk, the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce provided a first responder

appreciation lunch at SWFD's training facility. This luncheon was in conjunction with the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce Power of Networking monthly luncheon. Chief Crawford spoke from a fire service perspective on the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

SWFD hired six new firefighters, a Telecommunicator, a Medic 1 Paramedic, an Information Technology Technician, and a Facilities Maintenance Technician. All have begun new hire orientation. SWFD is pleased to fill these critical positions.

Fire Marshal Sanchez and Inspector Bowser attended a lithium-ion battery symposium hosted by Division of State Fire Marshal's Office. The symposium brought industry and fire service professionals together in a continuing effort toward developing best practices with lithium-ion battery fire management.

Staff coordinated a bulk mail-out on lithium-ion battery safety that was distributed to all South Walton residents. The postcard contained a QR code link directing recipients to SWFD's smartphone app where there are many more safety tips on lithium-ion battery safety.

On October 5, 2024, SWFD's annual Pancake Breakfast kicked off fire prevention week. There were over 500 participants. Chief Crawford thanked Commissioners Flynt, Bailey, and Stange for attending. Chief Crawford thanked the staff that had a role in planning and coordinating this community event.

SWFD's Life Safety and Operation Divisions conducted five educational programs reaching more than 600 elementary aged students with fire prevention messaging. An additional six programs are scheduled throughout October. Chief Crawford commended SWFD's Life Safety team and SWFD fire crews for their creative efforts to bring fire safety education to South Walton's youth.

Comprehensive employee physicals are taking place throughout October.

SWFD provided the following resources for the statewide response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

On September 26, 2024, SWFD deployed an engine as part of a five-engine strike team to Gilchrist County as a response to Hurricane Helene. SWFD Fleet Director Meadows and an aid deployed as an EVT support package for field operations in Taylor County (Perry). The Engine crews returned on October 1, 2024, and Director Meadows on October 6, 2024.

On Sunday October 5, 2024, Chief Crawford deployed to the State Emergency Operations Center in Tallahassee, Florida in response to Hurricane Milton where he served as Statewide Coordinator for all fire and USAR assets for the response to Hurricane Milton.

On the evening of October 10, 2024, an Engine and SWFD Fleet Director Meadows with aid deployed again as part of two engine strike teams from the NWFL region in response to Hurricane Milton. These teams operated along the Pinellas County barrier island communities of St. Pete Beach, Treasure Island, and Pasadena backfilling fire stations and supporting the communities in the impacted areas.

On October 13, 2024, SWFD's Public Information Officer deployed to the Pinellas County Emergency Operations Center where she was assigned to a six member PIO team to stream staff through the Pinellas County EOC's Joint Information Center.

SWFD is planning a Memorial Service to reflect the 20th anniversary of the fatal AirHeart 1 helicopter crash which took the lives of SWFD Firefighter/Paramedic Robert Heighton, Pilot Tom Palcic, and Sacred Heart Flight Nurse Jack Chase. The service will be held Sunday, October 20, 2024, at 9 am near Pilcher Park.

An RFP for the selection of a civil engineering firm for work associated with fire station #6 was published on October 9, 2024. SWFD's selection committee will meet on November 12, 2024, with the intent of evaluating respondents with final selection on or before November 15, 2024.

The Fire District's administrative offices will be closed on Monday, November 11, 2024, in observation of Veterans Day. Chief Crawford reminded the fire commissioners that the November board meeting was moved to Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

Chief Crawford announced that daylight saving time will end on Sunday, November 3, 2024. A general best practice is to use the time change as a reminder to change the batteries in your smoke detectors when changing clocks back to standard time.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2024, at 4 p.m. in SWFD's Logistics Building Board Room.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: Beach Lieutenant Turner presented a Board Action whereas Staff recommended to proceed with SWFD's renewal contract for Lifeguard Services with Sandestin Property Owners' Association by authorizing Chairman Gilbert to execute the contract.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the renewal contract for Lifeguard Services with Sandestin Property Owners' Association as presented.

Fire Chief Crawford presented a Board Action: Ratification of Labor Agreement with South Walton Professional Firefighters Association whereas the South Walton Fire District negotiations team requested that the Board of Fire Commissioners move to ratify the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement articles.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Foley, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the 2024-2027 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with South Walton Professional Firefighters Association. Chief Crawford recognized Staff and Union Leadership for their assistance in bringing the CBA to ratification.

Public Comment: Members of the public were invited to comment. There was no public comment.

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.