

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 **November 12, 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: 10.14.2024
- 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: Rosemary Beach Property Owners' Association Addendum to Lifeguard Services Agreement
Beach Safety Director David Vaughan

Board Action: Resolution 24-05 Surplus Property
Assistant Chief Daniel LaTour

Board Action: 2025 Fire Board Meeting Schedule
Fire Chief Ryan Crawford
- 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 – November 12, 2024

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

Commissioners Present: David Bailey, Brian Christenson, Charlotte Flynt, Mark Foley (arrived 4:06 pm), Maurice Gilbert, Mike Stange

Commissioners Absent: Roger Hall

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 Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Flynt, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 14, 2024, Board of Fire Commissioners' regular meeting.

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

Attorney's Report: Attorney Youell not present. Billing statement received prior to meeting.

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

Fire Chief's Report:

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

Comprehensive annual physicals are complete for SWFD firefighters.

Following a general alarm and moment of silence on October 20, 2024, SWFD honored the 20th anniversary of the Airheart 1 accident which took the lives of all three (3) crew members. SWFD's Honor Guard presented colors at the ceremony which concluded with Paramedic Laura Kerr playing the bagpipes and a fly-over by AirHeart 2. Chief Crawford thanked Commissioners Gilbert and Flynt for attending.

Throughout October SWFD's Fire & Life Safety Division and crews held 20 fire safety presentations at 14 different schools and day cares reaching 2,166 children. Chief Crawford commended all who had a hand in the success of this program.

The 2024 Beach Safety season concluded on October 31, 2024. SWFD will continue with scaled back lifeguard presence along our beaches in a roving model until the Beach Safety Season commences on March 1, 2025.

SWFD is continuing to have dialogue with a few local community management entities on the possibility of contracting lifeguard services in the future. Chief Crawford will keep the board apprised should there be interest in moving forward with an agreement for lifeguard services.

Currently, there are a total of 104 Automatic External Defibrillators registered and SWFD's EMS Division has taught a total of 833 students in CPR and/or First Aid since the beginning of 2024.

SWFD's selection committee evaluated two (2) bid submittals for Fire Station 6 and selected Innerlight Engineering as the highest ranked civil engineering firm. SWFD is moving forward to negotiate an agreement for professional services.

In addition, staff met with the Walton County Planning Department to review the plans for Fire Station 6 along with its proposed location in Watersound North. Planning Director Carpenter indicated that he and his team would work closely with SWFD to efficiently facilitate the approval process for the project, understanding this is critical infrastructure for a rapidly growing area of our Fire District.

Chief Crawford shared that a title commitment was prepared by the closing agent for the parcel associated with future Fire Station 6. SWFD is currently waiting for St. Joe to prepare & record a temporary access and utility easement to the parcel. The temporary easement will remain in place until a permanent roadway is constructed, at which time the temporary easement will be abandoned.

SWFD is currently advertising to fill newly created staff positions for a Training Captain and an Assistant Director of Communications. Staff hope to fill both positions before entering 2025.

Beach Staff hired seven (7) new full-time lifeguards, bringing the Division's full-time staff to twenty-two (22) members. This staff is then augmented with seasonal lifeguards throughout the beach safety season.

Staff attended the Walton County Tourism Departments annual end of year meeting on October 24, 2024. Tourism Director Algarin reported Walton County received 5.1 million visitors in 2023 contributing to an economic impact of \$6.8 billion to Walton County and more than \$60 million was collected in Tourist Development Tax in 2023. A portion of this tax revenue source funds SWFD's Beach Safety and Education Program ensuring lifeguard services at the regional beach accesses. The Fire District is proud of the continuing partnership with Walton County and being the provider of lifeguarding and beach safety services for South Walton residents and visitors.

Firefighter Bitler was recognized as SWFD's Firefighter of the Third Quarter. John was selected because of his leadership traits and specifically his role mentoring multiple new firefighters, and precepting multiple new paramedics. John also recently completed his degree and is aspiring to be promoted to the position of Sergeant. Firefighter Bitler currently sits at the top of the Sergeant promotional eligibility list.

SWFD is once again hosting the Angel Tree program in partnership with Caring and Sharing. Angel cards may be picked up at SWFD's Administrative building. This program continues to be a tremendous success because of the generosity of the community.

PIO McClintock is enrolled to attend an Advanced PIO Course at the Department of Homeland Security in Washington D.C. December 9 -13, 2024. The training will provide a foundation for managing crisis communications through escalating incidents, including incident action planning as it relates to Joint Information Center (JIC) operations.

Chief Crawford and SWFD's honor guard members will travel to Ocala to represent SWFD at the annual Fallen Firefighters Memorial and prayer breakfast. The event is being held at the State Fire College where the names of those firefighters who have died in the line of duty will be honored and enshrined onto the memorial.

A quarterly Pension Board meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2024, at 2:30pm in the Administrative Buildings Conference Room.

SWFD's Administrative Offices will be closed November 28 and 29, 2024, in observation of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Committee Reports: None

Unfinished/Old Business: None

New Business: Beach Safety Director David Vaughan presented a Board Action for Rosemary Beach Property Owners' Association Addendum to Lifeguard Services Agreement whereas Staff recommended approval of the proposed Addendum to Rosemary Beach Property Owners' Associations' Contract for Lifeguard Services.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Flynt and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the Rosemary Beach Property Owners' Association Addendum to Lifeguard Services Agreement as presented.

Assistant Chief Daniel LaTour presented a Board Action whereas Staff recommended the approval of Resolution 2024-05 Surplus Equipment and to proceed with the disposition or sale of the property below in an open, transparent, and cost-effective manner.

1. Two (2) 2017 Yamaha Jet Skis
2. Seven (7) 2021 Honda Rancher ATV's
3. Three (3) 2019 Nissan Frontiers
4. 2016 Ford Transit Van
5. Twenty-one (21) 2008 M7100 Radios
6. Sixty-four (64) 2008 P7100 Radios
7. Two (2) 2009 D2HMCX Mobile Radios
8. 2009 D2UMCX Mobile Radio
9. 2009 MAHG-88MXX Mobile Radio
10. 2015 Administrative Offices Carpet by Infinity Flooring
11. 2018 Miramar Beach Fire Station parking lot improvement
12. 2016 Miramar Beach Fire Station Access Control System by GSC Systems
13. 2018 Miramar Beach Fire Station bay door emission control system
14. 2006 Miramar Beach Fire Station furniture and entertainment center
15. Two (2) air conditioning units located at the Miramar Beach Fire Station
16. 2011 Generator at Miramar Beach Fire Station
17. 2017 Miramar Beach Fire Station Below Counter Ice Maker

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved Resolution 2024-05 Surplus Equipment as presented.

Chief Crawford presented a Board Action whereas Staff requested Board approval of the 2025 Board Meeting Schedule provided in the board packet.

On a motion duly made by Commissioner Christenson and seconded by Commissioner Bailey, the Board unanimously approved the 2025 Fire Board Meeting Schedule as presented.

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

Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.