

Iona McGregor Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners Minutes

Special Meeting - March 30, 2010

6PM

**Meeting called to order** 6:01p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer** observed

**Roll Call:** All five commissioners present as noted into record by Chair

**Agenda Items Requiring Action**

- 1) Fire Fees
- 2) Station 75 – Final payment

**Adoption of Agenda**

**Motion** (4687) to adopt agenda made by Commissioner Brown, seconded Commissioner Dorsett... carries

**Public Comment on Agenda Items** - none

**Attorney Report –**

Attorney Pringle stated that he will answer questions as they arise.

**Unfinished Business –**

- 1) Fire Fees

Chairman Lees explained the primary purpose of tonight's meeting is to make a determination regarding the subject of considering the adoption of fire fees as a base source of revenue to sustain the fire response capability.

Commissioner Dorsett requested Chief Elliott to explain and give a recommendation to the Board. Chief Elliott gave brief synopsis of information previously presented that gave an overview of the current and anticipated revenues moving in the future. Chief Elliott explained the property tax revenue system will not be sufficient to continue to support this organizations current level of service based on normal and reasonable year over year costs. Chief prefers the apportionment methodology; however, he does not believe citizens would understand the complexities of the system. Chief offered the Flat Fire Fee method can be easily explained and defended.

The question was posed if both fire fee methodologies systems would yield the same amount to the District. Chief Elliott explained that either system, whether flat fee or the apportionment system will yield the same revenue, the only difference is in how the property owners are charged. Under the flat fee system the allowable fire readiness costs are divided among the 36,000 parcels equally. As an example the fire readiness costs allowable for the District is approximately \$6,400,000.00. This amount would equate to a fire readiness fee cost of approximately 180 dollars per parcel. The apportionment system divides the fire readiness costs into single family as a flat fee and then cents per square foot for the other types of properties protected including commercial, industrial etc.

Either of the methods requires a study to make the fire readiness fee figures valid and defensible. Chair offered the District may also discuss placing a ballot item to raise millage cap. Chair believes that the flat fee method could be explained to the citizens. Commissioner Dorsett suggested the staff consult with some external entities that may offer suggestions regarding how to educate the citizens on the need for and importance of the fire fee to continue the current levels of fire response.

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**Motion** (4688) to move forward with fixed fire fees process was made by Commissioner Taylor, second by Commissioner Barbosa... carries.

Board authorizes Attorney Pringle to begin Request for Proposal process for the fixed fee program and prepare resolution for April regular meeting. Chairman Lees directs Chief and Commissioner Dorsett to meet with FGCU professor.

2)

**New Business**

1) Station 75 – Final payment

No action is needed, information only. Station came in under budget, per Chair. Commissioner Dorsett thanked Chad and Chief for their hard work.

2)

**Public Comment – non agenda items** - none

**Commissioner Comments** – Thanks for all that came to the picnic, stated Chair.

**Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn meeting made by Commissioner Brown, seconded Commissioner Dorsett... passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29p.m.