

**IONA MCGREGOR FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: March 18, 2026

6:00 P.M.

6061 SOUTH POINTE BOULEVARD

FORT MYERS, FL 33919

NOTE: THE BOARD MEETING IS BEING RECORDED AND ALL STATEMENTS MADE DURING THE BOARD MEETING ARE SUBJECT TO BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHERS AS A PART OF THE BOARD MEETING PUBLIC RECORD.

NOTE: ALL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE PUT ON THE SILENT MODE PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE BOARD MEETING AND REMAIN ON SILENT MODE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE BOARD MEETING UNTIL ADJOURNMENT.

Meeting Called to Order

Roll Call of Commissioners: Chair James Andersen (Present), Vice Chair Steve Barbosa (Present), Treasurer Paul Louwers (Present), Secretary Jason McCoy (Present), Commissioner Stephen Allen Sr. (Not Present, Excused Absence)

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Recognitions: None

Adoption of Meeting Agenda, Including Amendment: A motion to ‘Adopt Meeting Agenda, Including Amendments’ was made by Commissioner Barbosa, seconded by Commissioner McCoy ...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

Approval of Previous February Board Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve ‘February Board Meeting Minutes’ was made by Commissioner Andersen, seconded by Commissioner Barbosa ...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

Approval of Financial Reports January and February 2026: Chief Financial Officer Winzenread opens the floor to questions and discussion ensues.

A motion to approve the ‘January and February Financial Reports’ was made by Commissioner McCoy, seconded by Commissioner Barbosa ...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

Chief’s Report: Fire Chief Comer opens the floor to questions and discussion ensues.

A motion to approve the ‘Chief’s Report’ was made by Commissioner Andersen, seconded by Commissioner Barbosa ...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

Attorney’s Report: The District’s legal counsel, Attorney Pringle, provided an update regarding House Bill 4013. Counsel advised that the bill has successfully passed both legislative chambers. Specifically, the House approved the bill on February 25 with a vote of 113 yeas and 2 nays. The Senate subsequently passed the bill on May 11, following a minor, non-substantive amendment referencing Chapter 97-340, Laws of Florida, with a unanimous vote of 36 yeas and 0 nays. The House has concurred with the Senate amendment.

Counsel reported that the bill has now been finalized and is awaiting action by the Governor. It is anticipated that the Governor will take action prior to the District’s next Board meeting.

No Board action was required at this time. However, counsel advised that the Board should be prepared to discuss the matter at the next meeting, particularly in anticipation of a referendum scheduled for November 3, 2026, as part of the general election.

Counsel recommended that the Board begin considering how to appropriately inform and educate residents and voters regarding the bill and its potential impacts. Various communication methods were noted, including verbal presentations, written materials, digital outreach, and possible mailings to registered voters within the District.

Counsel emphasized the importance of ensuring that all communications remain informational and educational in nature.

The item will be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting to allow for further discussion and direction from the Board.

Counsel noted that additional matters, including the amendment to the Fire Chief’s employment agreement and a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for design-build services, are included elsewhere on the agenda and will be addressed at the appropriate time.

No questions were raised by the Board.

DVP’s Reports: Nothing to report and not present.

Public Input on Business Agenda Items [Note: Prior to Board action being taken on each of the Business Agenda Items below, members of the public will have up to three (3) minutes per person to make public comment on each of the Business Agenda Items after the Commissioners have had their discussion.]

Business Agenda Items

1. [Extension of Chief Comer’s Employment Contract](#)

- a. Discussion of Agenda Item

- Attorney Pringle presented an agenda item regarding the extension of Fire Chief Comer’s employment agreement. The current agreement is set to expire on April

15, 2027. Following discussions regarding the District's anticipated leadership and operational needs, particularly in light of upcoming retirements and administrative transitions, a proposal was made to extend the agreement through June 30, 2030.

Attorney Pringle advised that the proposed amendment solely extends the term of the agreement, with no other changes to its provisions. A draft addendum reflecting the revised expiration date was provided for the Board's review.

b. Public Input

No public present.

c. Board Action

A motion to 'Extend the term of Chief Comer's employment agreement through June 30, 2030, and to authorize Chairman Anderson to execute the first addendum' was made by Commissioner Barbosa, seconded by Commissioner McCoy...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

2. [RFQ for Design/Building Continuing Services](#)

a. Discussion of Agenda Item

Attorney Pringle presented an agenda item regarding the issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for continuing design-build services. Attorney Pringle explained that the RFQ process would establish a qualified design-build team to support future District construction and renovation projects, including potential new stations and facility improvements. The process complies with statutory requirements for competitive selection of professional and construction services.

Attorney Pringle noted that the proposed approach would streamline project delivery, provide preconstruction planning support, and allow the Board to retain full discretion over project approvals, scope, and costs, including negotiation of pricing and change orders.

b. Public Input

No public present.

c. Board Action

A motion to 'Authorize Attorney Pringle and Chief Comer to prepare, finalize, and publish a request for qualifications for continuing design-build services', was made by Commissioner McCoy, seconded by Commissioner Louwers...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

3. [Surplus of Air Packs](#)

a. Discussion of Agenda Item

Fire Chief Comer presented a request to declare certain equipment as surplus following the receipt of new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) units. The items identified for surplus include 48 SCBAs, 8 rapid intervention packs (RIP), and 98 SCBA cylinders, as detailed in the attached inventory list. Discussion ensued.

It was noted that the equipment has limited or no commercial value and may be disposed of in accordance with Section 274.06, Florida Statutes, including potential donation for training purposes. Staff indicated that some items may be retained for internal training use.

b. Public Input

No public present.

c. Board Action

A motion to accept the ‘Surplus of Air Packs Items, Section 274.06, to have the Chief surplus items as stated’ was made by Commissioner Louwers, seconded by Commissioner McCoy...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

Public Comments on Non-Business Agenda Items [Note: Any member of the public will have up to three (3) minutes to make public comments on any non-business agenda item topics.]: No public present.

Commissioner Comments on Non-Business Agenda Items: Commissioner Andersen extends his thanks to the District for taking care of the citizens and visitors of the District, and continued dedicated to being one of the best Districts in the State of Florida.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner McCoy, seconded by Commissioner Barbosa ...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye. 6:37 PM.

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____