

**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. (Present)

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Recognitions: None

Adoption of Meeting Agenda, Including Amendment: Attorney Pringle requests board approval for adoption of a walk on board agenda item regarding a resolution calling for the election in November of three seats that will be up for election at that time, agenda item is 'Elections of Commissioners'. A motion to 'Adopt Meeting Agenda, Along with the Walk on Agenda Item, Including Amendments' was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Barbosa...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

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

Approval of Financial Report March 2026: Chief Financial Officer Winzenread opens the floor to questions and discussion ensues. Commissioner Allen and Chief Financial Officer Winzenread discuss the ad valorem taxes and expenditures.

A motion to approve the ‘March Financial Report’ was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner McCoy...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

Chief’s Report: Fire Chief Comer opens the floor to questions and discussion ensues. Commissioner Allen and the Fire Chief discuss call volumes by day.

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

Attorney’s Report: Attorney Pringle, reserves his comments until the agenda items.

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. FDLE Grant for Drones

a. Discussion of Agenda Item

Division Chief Wisdom discusses the FDLE grant for drones and the effectiveness of the tools for District operations. Chief Financial Officer Winzenread and Attorney Pringle discuss the budget amendment and grant fund proceeds.

b. Public Input

No public comment.

c. Board Action

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Commissioner Louwers to adopt a resolution with the following title, as read and submitted by Attorney Pringle, **RESOLUTION 2026-01, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE IONA MCGREGOR FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO AMEND THE ADOPTED BUDGET OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE 2025/2026 FISCAL YEAR; TO PROVIDE FOR THE RECEIPT AND APPROPRIATION OF GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000; TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF SAID GRANT FUNDS FOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT; TO RESCIND ALL RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO PROVIDE FOR LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION; TO PROVIDE FOR SCRIVENER'S ERRORS; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE...**to recognize an expenditure increase of \$100,000 on the expense side within the equipment line item, and to grant the Fire Chief administrative authority to make the purchase and carry out the authority granted by the resolution.’

Upon the motion being put to a roll call vote, the vote outcome was as follows: Chair James Andersen, yes; Vice Chair Steve Barbosa, yes; Treasurer Paul Louwers, yes; Secretary Jason McCoy, yes; Commissioner Stephen Allen, yes. Motion Passed 5-0.

2. House Bill 4013

a. Discussion of Agenda Item

Attorney Pringles follows up on the previous meeting discussion regarding the passage of House Bill 4013 and the November 3 ballot question concerning the possible merger of the districts, legal counsel advised the Board that while the ballot language cannot be altered, the District may undertake lawful public education efforts to inform residents of the impact of the legislation and potential merger, provided such communication remains informational in nature. The Board discussed possible outreach methods, including direct voter mailings, a formal board resolution, possible engagement of a public relations firm, coordination with Fort Myers Beach Fire District, and future media communication strategies. The Board further discussed the need for a dedicated planning meeting to consider public education strategy, consultant services, coordination efforts, and potential funding considerations. The Board discusses the Board Chair signing and sending a letter to Governor DeSantis requesting a veto of House Bill 4013, with the previously submitted legislative correspondence and the Fire Chief's related correspondence attached, with direction to verify prior to transmittal that the bill had not already been signed into law. Discussion ensued regarding scheduling a Special Meeting for Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00 PM at Iona McGregor Station 74 on South Point, for the purpose of discussing and making decisions related to House Bill 4013 and the possible merger of the districts. Additional directions were given for the Chief to coordinate with Fort Myers Beach Fire District regarding both the Governor letter and the upcoming Special Meeting, and for staff to prepare and publish the required public notice.

b. Public Input

No public comment.

c. Board Action

A motion was made, as stated by Attorney Pringle, 'Authorizing the Board Chair to sign and send a letter to Governor DeSantis requesting a veto of House Bill 4013, with the previously submitted legislative correspondence and the Fire Chief's related correspondence attached', by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Barbosa...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

A motion to 'Schedule a Special Meeting for Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00 PM at Station 74, 6061 South Pointe Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33919' was made by Commissioner Andersen, seconded by Commissioner McCoy...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

3. [Walk On Agenda Item, Elections of Commissioners](#)

a. Discussion of Agenda Item

Attorney Pringle discusses the addition of the walk-on agenda item regarding the 2026 Board of Commissioners election, Resolution 2026-02, a resolution formally ordering and calling for the election of three Board seats expiring this year, specifically Seat 1 (Commissioner Lowers), Seat 3 (Commissioner Anderson), and Seat 5 (Commissioner Barbosa), each for a four-year term, to be held during the November 3, 2026 General Election. Attorney Pringle reviewed the qualifying period, noting that candidate qualifying would occur from noon on June 8, 2026 through noon on June 12, 2026, with pre-qualification beginning May 25, 2026, and further summarized the resolution provisions assigning election administration responsibilities to the Supervisor of Elections and Department of State in accordance with Florida law.

b. Public Input

No public comment.

c. Board Action

A motion was made by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Commissioner McCoy to adopt, ' **RESOLUTION 2026-02, A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE IONA MCGREGOR FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ORDERING AND CALLING AN ELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO BE HELD IN THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026** '.

Upon the motion being put to a roll call vote, the vote outcome was as follows: Chair James Andersen, yes; Vice Chair Steve Barbosa, yes; Treasurer Paul Louwers, yes; Secretary Jason McCoy, yes; Commissioner Stephen Allen, yes. Motion Passed 5-0.

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 comment.

Commissioner Comments on Non-Business Agenda Items: Commissioner Allen extends his thanks to FM Mozes and CRS Contreras, their team and the Fire Chief, for their safety presentations to the community. Commissioner Andersen extends thanks to the District for their commitment to excellence in service.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Andersen...Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye. 07:07 PM.

Signed: _____

Print Name: _____