IONA MCGREGOR FIRE PROTECTION AND RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

DATE: July 15, 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: A motion to 'Adopt Meeting Agenda, Including Amendments' was made by Commissioner Louwers, seconded by Commissioner McCoy …Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

Approval of Previous June 25th, 2026, Special Meeting & June 17th Board Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve 'June 25th, 2026, Special Meeting & June 17th Board Meeting Minutes' was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner McCoy…Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

Approval of Financial Report: Chief Financial Officer Winzenread opens the floor to questions, discussion ensues.

A motion to approve 'June Financial Report' was made by Commissioner McCoy, seconded by Commissioner Barbosa…Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

Chief`s Report: Chief Guzman opens the floor to questions and discussion ensues.

Commissioner Allen inquires regarding open staffing positions and future retirements.

Fire Chief Seth Comer formally announced his intent to retire effective October 31, 2026, emphasizing the importance of establishing leadership continuity prior to the November election.

Chief Comer emphasized that his proposed retirement date was intentionally selected to allow the current Board sufficient opportunity to identify and appoint the District's next Fire Chief before the November election. He discussed several upcoming factors that could affect the District, including potential Board composition changes following the election, anticipated financial challenges, and uncertainty surrounding matters affecting the District's future governance. Chief Comer stated that establishing leadership continuity prior to those events would provide organizational stability during a period of significant uncertainty.

Chief Comer formally recommended that Deputy Chief Joel Guzman be appointed as his successor and requested that the Board authorize District Counsel to prepare an employment agreement for Board consideration. He advised that Deputy Chief Guzman had been participating in succession planning and leadership development with him over the past several years and stated that, in his professional judgment, Deputy Chief Guzman was the most qualified individual to lead the District through the anticipated operational and financial challenges ahead.

In support of his recommendation, Chief Comer highlighted Deputy Chief Guzman's previous experience as a Fire Commissioner with the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District during a period of significant economic hardship. He explained that this experience provided Deputy Chief Guzman with valuable knowledge in governance, fiscal management, and organizational leadership under difficult financial conditions. Chief Comer further stated that while the District has several capable chief officers with future leadership potential, he believed Deputy Chief Guzman was uniquely qualified to serve as Fire Chief at this time.

Chief Comer also noted that Deputy Chief Guzman's anticipated retirement timeline would not alter the long-term promotional opportunities of other aspiring chief officers and stated that he believed there was broad support for Deputy Chief Guzman's appointment throughout the District's leadership team. During the discussion, Deputy Chief Khalid Aquil, Operations; Fire Marshal Jackielou Mozes, Prevention; Division Chief Diana Hernden, EMS, Health & Safety; and Division Chief John Wisdom, Training & Special Operations, each publicly expressed their support for Deputy Chief Joel Guzman to serve as the District's next Fire Chief.

District Counsel Richard Pringle advised the Board that Florida law does not prescribe a mandatory process for selecting a Fire Chief and explained that the District has utilized various succession methods in the past. He noted that the District's most recent succession plan involved appointing Chief Comer as successor prior to the retirement of then-Fire Chief Howard, allowing for a seamless transition without interruption in leadership. Counsel stated that a similar process could be used for Deputy Chief Guzman should the Board elect to proceed in that manner.

The Board expressed its appreciation for Chief Comer's service and support for his decision. Following discussion, the Board agreed that additional time was needed to consider the succession process. The Board directed legal counsel to prepare an agenda item for the August Board meeting outlining the available Fire Chief hiring/selection process option**s** to facilitate an informed discussion and potential action at that meeting.

Attorney Pringle advised the Board that the previously adopted merger resolution, Resolution No. 2026-03, had been finalized with minor non-substantive revisions, executed by the Chairman, and would be published on the District website. Counsel further advised that the website would include a dedicated Merger page containing the related documents to provide the public with centralized access to merger-related information.

A motion to approve the 'Chief's Report & Attorney's Report' was made by Commissioner Andersen, seconded by Commissioner McCoy…Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

Attorney's Report: Attorney Pringle's report was provided during the Chief's Report.

DVP's Reports: Nothing to report.

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. Certification of Taxable Value (Forms DR-420 and DR-420MM-P)
    a. Discussion of Agenda Item
       Chief Financial Officer Winzenread opens the floor to questions and discussion ensues.

       The Board discussed the September meeting schedule and approved the proposed September Board meeting date. Following discussion, the Board declined to schedule a separate budget workshop, determining that one was not necessary at this time.

    b. Public Input
       No public comment.

    c. Board Action
       A motion to Adopt Meeting Agenda Item, 'Board Authorizes Chief Comer, or his designee, to file the Certification of Taxable Value, Forms DR-420 and DR-420MM-P with a current year proposed milage rate of 2.5 mils and a first Public

Budget Hearing date to be held **September 16th, 2026 beginning at 5:30pm**' made by Commissioner Andersen, second Commissioner Allen…Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye.

2. Possible Merger of Fort Myers Beach Fire District and Iona McGregor Fire District
   a. Discussion of Agenda Item
      Attorney Pringle opens the floor to questions and discussion ensues.

   b. Public Input
      No public comment.

   c. Board Action
      None, no action.

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 expresses thanks to Fire Marshal Mozes, Deputy Fire Marshal Marrero, and the entire Prevention team for the support to the community with local lock boxes.

Commissioner Andersen extends thanks to District for their excellence.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner McCoy…Motion carried. Call and question, all in favor aye. 07:30 PM.

Signed: ____________________________

Print Name: ____________________________