

Upper Captiva Fire & Rescue District

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Serving the Community with Pride

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING 21 July 2023

COMMISSIONERS & STAFF PRESENT: Duncan Rosen, Van Hammond (Zoom), Bill Fry, Mike Filipczak, Bill Byrnes (Zoom), Chief Jesse Cottrell, and Assistant Chief Tom Tracy

ISLANDERS/GUESTS PRESENT:

- Room: Ed Dotts, Zeke McDonald, Teresa Bolme, and Matt Wyches
- Zoom: Jonathan Walters, Ed Boze, Whitney Martin, Zeke McDonald, Tina Goodman, Kelly Callen, and Chris Kaye

1) **CALL TO ORDER** ([Recording](#)): Chairman Rosen called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

2) **ADDITIONS/CHANGES/DELETIONS TO AGENDA** ([Recording](#)): Two items were added as New Business by Commissioner Fry at the requests of Jonathan Walters (Royal Corinthian) and Matt Wyches (The Island Club of North Captiva); and the 3d issue is that we haven't received the Line of Credit paperwork before the meeting

3) **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS** ([Recording](#)): None

4) **MINUTES** ([Recording](#)): Minutes of the 16 June 2023 Special Meeting were approved with changes 5-0

5) **NEW BUSINESS:**

New Item 1: Request to Ratify former Chief Martin's Approval of Royal Corinthian (RC) Overcharges for the New Garage ([Recording](#)); **Motion by Filipczak** to accept bargaining, permitting, grading, and hurricane prep, **second** by Hammond, voted 4-0 (Fry abstained in the ratification of Martin's actions).

New Item 2: Request to Ratify former Chief Martin's Approval of The Island Club (TIC) Charges for Post-IAN Road Clearing and Include in the Planned FEMA Request for Public Assistance/Reimbursement ([Recording](#)); **Motion by Filipczak** to approve the \$43,080 TIC invoice to FEMA but not pay until FEMA approval, **second** by Hammond, voted 4-1 (Fry voted No). Wyches asked why Fry voted no and Fry stated that he wasn't willing to ratify Martin's actions,

the new \$43,000 invoice wasn't approved by the Task Force or the Nov board meeting, and that if TIC wanted a payment, he needed to present to the UCCA, as suggested during the last 4 months and at this meeting.

Return to Published Agenda:

A) Line of Credit Renewal ([Recording](#)):

- Fry stated that loan documents were still being reviewed by Centennial Bank's attorney
- Once approved and signed, it will be a 12-month line of credit with an interest rate calculated at 79% of Prime once borrowed (current rate would be); no charge if not used, other than the \$400 in fees to the attorney and \$225 to the Bank; the Board approved for the annual application process
- Decision was that the documents could be signed once received by the District and not wait for a meeting

B) Proposed FY24 Budget (First Working Draft) ([Recording](#)): Fry walked the board and public through the budget presentation, questions and discussion by the Board, and questions from the Public.

C) Resolution 2023-003 Tentative Millage Rate & Setting First Hearing Date:

- **Motion by Hammond, second** by Rosen ([Recording](#)) to set the Tentative Millage Rate to 3.75 mils, a 33.9% tax increase; vote failed 4-1 (Filipczak no) because it was required to be unanimous since the increase exceeded the FL inflation rate for the year
- **Motion by Filipczak, second** by Byrnes ([Recording](#)) to set the Tentative Millage Rate to 3.2 mils, a 14.3% tax increase; vote failed 2-3 (Fry, Hammond, and Rosen no)
- **Motion by Byrnes, second** by Hammond ([Recording](#)) to set the Tentative Special Assessment amount at \$447,400 (net after early payment discounts); vote passed 4-1 (Rosen no)
- **Motion by Fry, second** by Filipczak ([Recording](#)) to set the Tentative Millage Rate to 3.15 mils, a 12.5% tax increase; vote passed 4-1 (Hammond no), with the first budget hearing date on **Saturday, 9 September 2023 at 10AM at the Fire Station**

6) **RECURRING BUSINESS UPDATES:**

A) Martin Lawsuit ([Recording](#)): **Tabled**

B) Status of Chief Candidates FL Certifications ([Recording](#)): Hammond contacted Callen and Wirtz; both received denials of their requests for Florida Firefighter Certificate reciprocity and are working to appeal/resubmit their applications

C) Chief's Report ([Recording](#)): Written report posted on the website; Chief requested permission to purchase bunker gear this year rather than waiting until next fiscal year to replace IAN losses

Motion by Fry, seconded by to approve immediate purchase of 10 sets of NOMEX bunker gear destroyed by IAN, not to exceed \$23,000, **all voted aye (5-0) to approve**

D) Treasurer's Report: **Tabled**

E) Insurance Claim & Equipment Replacement: **Tabled**

F) Accessway Maintenance: **Tabled**

G) Garage Project **Tabled**

7) **PUBLIC INPUT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** ([Recording](#)): None

8) **NEXT MEETING DATE** ([Recording](#)): Monthly Meeting moved to **Wednesday**, 16 August 2023 at 10AM

9) **ADJOURN** ([Recording](#)): **Move** by Fry, **seconded** by Byrnes; meeting adjourned at 1:34PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary