

Upper Captiva Fire & Rescue District
4511 Hodgepodge Lane
P.O. Box 322 Pineland, FL 33945



Serving the Community with Pride
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REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Friday, April 18, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Location: Fire Station

COMMISSIONERS & STAFF PRESENT: Duncan Rosen, Van Hammond, MJ Yafchak,
Chief Jesse Cottrell, Assistant Chief Tom Tracy
Via Zoom: Bill Fry, Steve Holt

ISLANDERS/GUESTS PRESENT:

Room: None

Via Zoom: Melanie Everett (Attorney Cole, Scott & Kissane P.A.), Zeke McDonald

MINUTES:

- 1) **Call to Order:** Commissioner Rosen
 - >>> Meeting called to order at 10:00
 - >>> Commissioner Rosen officially excused Commissioner Yafchak from her absence at the March board meeting.
- 2) **Review of Unapproved Minutes – Commissioner Hammond**
 - a. March 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - >>> Meeting minutes approved by 5-0 vote
- 3) **New Business**
 - a. <added> Proposed settlement of attorney fees associated with Martin lawsuit.
 - >>> District Special Attorney Melanie Everet reported that the expert witness hired to review Martin's attorney fees (payable by District) were only \$535 less than what was requested. Martin's attorney agreed to the reduced rate and the district will pay \$37,250 to close the matter and resolve this last remaining issue associated with Martin's lawsuit. The board voted 5-0 to pay \$37,250.

- b. <added> Disposal of surplus items (Chief Cottrell)
>>> Chief Jesse reported that it is time to dispose of surplus items that includes: 2 boats both damaged by Ian, 1 boat trailer and compressor. As these items are capital equipment the board must approve this action. The board voted 5-0 to approve Jesse to arrange for disposal & remove these items from our inventory.

4) Recurring Business Updates

A. Update status of litigation against District – Commissioner Rosen

>>> With attorney fees settled (see item 3a), we close this ugly issue for good. All documents related to this case will be posted on the district website.

B. Chief's Report – Chief Cottrell

>>> Good report from Chief. Here are some details discussed during the meeting:

1. Insurance check received for \$95K for Helene and Milton
2. If we keep equipment that was totaled by the insurance company we still need Liability insurance on these items.
3. Chief Jesse recommended the purchase of a 4X4 5-ton truck to replace the brush truck. The Board voted 5-0 to approve up to \$26K for the vehicle presented by the Chief.
4. Discussions between Bil and Jesse between April – July to develop outline for a 5-year contract for Chief Jesse as a full time chief. The timing of this is to have necessary financial information to the Board before budget season hits.

C. Treasurer's Report – Commissioner Fry

>>>> Treasurer's Report accepted by the Board by a 5-0 vote.

D. Accessway Maintenance – Commissioner Hammond

>>> Tractor used by Department to groom roads is broken and needing repairs. Further information next meeting. Plans moving forward to secure road material donated by UCCA.

E. Fun Run RECAP - Commissioner Yafchak

>>> FUN RUN WAS A HUGE SUCCESS. MJ reported that the fun run proceeds more than \$30K with ~\$5K in cost... i.e. \$25K Net to the department!!! Special thanks to Nicole Rossi and Crystal McClary and all the volunteers who assisted.

F. Chief performance review – Yafchak

>>> MJ will meet with Jesse to go over his performance review. Results will be shared at the May Meeting.

5) Public Input on Non-Agenda Items

None

6) Next REGULAR Monthly Meeting Date: May 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

7) Adjourn @ 11:46

DRAFT