



DRAFT MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MARCH 11, 2026
5:00 PM

I. MEETING OPENED

Chairman Cherney called to order the regular meeting of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners at 5:01 p.m., on March 11, 2026 at the Fire and Life Safety Office. Present were Commissioners Biondo, Cherney, Cross, Dearborn, and Duffy. (Commissioner Biondo departed the meeting at 6:18 p.m.)

A. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

B. Approval, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Fire Chief Wolfe requested to move Agenda Item III. G. Fire Plans Review Transition Plan to III. A., and to delete Agenda Item III. E. Fire Equipment Purchase. All remaining agenda items to be shifted downward. *Commissioner Cross moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

C. Awards & Recognition- Fire Chief Wolfe

Commissioner Duffy announced that March is National Procurement Month and recognized Andréa Brown, the Procurement Coordinator for the District.

D. Consent Agenda

1. GNFD Board Minutes February 11, 2026

2. GNFD Board Workshop Minutes February 11, 2026

Commissioner Cross moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

E. Treasurer's Report- Finance Director Guille Polanco

Finance Director Polanco presented the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Commissioner Duffy asked when the impact fee study is due. Fire Chief Wolfe mentioned it is due in 2027 and has it marked on the calendar. *Commissioner Cross moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

F. Fire Chief's District Report- Fire Chief Wolfe

Fire Chief Wolfe presented the Fire Chief's Report as submitted. It was noted that verbal communication was received to proceed with the Sheriff's inclusion in Station 26. An update on the Chapter 175 pension plan was also discussed, with further information expected from the District and Special Counsel expected at the April Board meeting.

G. Chapter 175 Firefighters' Pension Plan – Chairman Tim Sims

No report

H. Local 2396 Report – President Matthew Donovan

President Donovan confirmed he had nothing to report on behalf of Local 2396.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. AIW- Bid 25-206 Fire Engine Procurement- Deputy Chief Bauer



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Deputy Chief Bauer presented the AIW as submitted. There was additional discussion on the lease purchase option. *Commissioner Cross moved to approve the lease-purchase utilizing the escrow structure for the purchase of six Sutphen F-Series Pumpers with equipment from Sutphen, and the purchase of one Sutphen F-Series Pumper with equipment funded from the impact fee fund, for a total amount not to exceed \$7,500,000 and authorized the Fire Chief to execute all required documents related to the purchase and initiation of the lease financing. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. AIW- Fire Plans Review Transition Plan- Captain Cruz

Captain Cruz presented the AIW as submitted. Commissioner Cross stated his opposition to the proposal, questioning the accuracy of the reported violations. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining a positive working relationship with the County and noted that many concerns appeared to involve a single personnel issue.

Commissioner Duffy noted that neighboring fire districts conduct their own fire plan reviews and asked why Greater Naples should not do the same. He stated that assuming responsibility for plan review could provide the District with greater control and help to better support the continued area growth. Commissioner Biondo expressed support for the proposal and stated that fire districts should conduct their own plan review services.

Commissioner Cherney acknowledged the importance of the District's partnership with the County but raised concerns about service quality and the lack of transparency regarding plan review fees and costs. *Chairman Cherney made a motion to table this item for a period of 120 days. Commissioner Cross seconded.* During this time, the Fire Chief would be directed to:

- put the county on notice that we expect improvement of quality of service.
- work with the county to demonstrate interagency cooperation on both sides and transparency by reporting monthly revenue collected, broken out by plan review fees, fire inspection fees, and impact fees.
- work with the county to demonstrate interagency cooperation and transparency again by reporting those monthly operating costs for fire plan review, and then the collection, whatever they charge us for collection of other fees as far as impact fees and fire inspection fees.

If measurable progress is not achieved during that period, Chairman Cherney recommends Fire Chief Wolfe bring the agenda item back to the Board for consideration of terminating the interlocal agreement. Commissioner Dearborn communicated his agreement with the motion, supporting a collaborative approach with a clear timeline. Fire Chief Wolfe emphasized that quality of service is the District's primary concern and stated he would work with District and County staff to establish a quality assurance reporting system and a formal complaint process with the County. During public comment, Amelia Vasquez and Kathy Curatolo of the Collier Building Industry Association (CBIA) encouraged the District to involve the building industry in any potential transition process and requested that the Board allow time for additional due diligence, including review of staffing needs and financial assumptions. Ed Finn, Collier County Deputy Manager, acknowledged the shared responsibility to the community and the building industry. He also cautioned against



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publicly criticizing individual employees and recommended that such concerns be addressed through the appropriate chain of command. Chairman Cherney clarified that no criticism of any specific employee was intended.

Commissioner Biondo expressed concern that District staff had been indirectly characterized as dishonest and stated that the Board should support staff members performing their assigned duties.

Motion passed 3-1 (Duffy); Biondo abstained from voting.

B. AIW- Resolution 2026-01 Updated Capital Project List- Fire Chief Wolfe

Fire Chief Wolfe presented the AIW as submitted. *Commissioner Cross moved to adopt Resolution 2026-01 amending the project list associated with the District's approved additional millage rate. Commissioner Dearborn seconded.* Discussion was held on the timeline for breaking ground on Station 26. *Motion passed unanimously 4-0.*

C. AIW- Warehouse Lease Extension- Unit 405- Fire Chief Wolfe

Fire Chief Wolfe presented the AIW as submitted. *Commissioner Cross moved to approve the extension of Unit #405 warehouse lease agreement as presented and authorized the Fire Chief to execute the agreement. Commissioner Duffy seconded.* *Motion passed unanimously 4-0.*

D. AIW- Warehouse Lease Extension- Units 403 & 404- Fire Chief Wolfe

Commissioner Cross moved to approve renewing the lease for Units 403 & 404 warehouse space and authorize the Fire Chief to execute the agreement. Commissioner Duffy seconded. *Motion passed unanimously 4-0.*

E. AIW- Hinging Stack Trailer Purchase- Deputy Chief Bauer

Deputy Chief Bauer presented the AIW as submitted. *Commissioner Cross moved to authorize the purchase of the trailer from Loadmaster Trailer Company, LTD in the amount of \$33,375. Commissioner Dearborn seconded.* *Motion passed unanimously 4-0.* Discussion was held on the boats for which the trailer will be used. Commissioner Cherney expressed concern over how this purchase will be put into application but agrees with the purchase if it supports future expansion and growth. *Motion passed 3-1 (Duffy).*

F. DELETED

G. AIW- Zoll Medical Cardiac Monitor Purchase- EMS Division Chief DiSarro

EMS Division Chief DiSarro presented the AIW as submitted. *Commissioner Duffy moved to authorize the purchase of two cardiac monitors from ZOLL Medical Corporation in the amount of \$136,750.18. Commissioner Dearborn seconded.* *Motion passed unanimously 4-0.*

H. Public Input for Issues Not Listed on the Published Agenda

None

I. Comments by Commissioners



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Commissioner Duffy raised concerns about unpaid inspection fees, asking for an update. It was mentioned that a formal policy on collections may be needed. Chairman Cherney mentioned the Ochopee agreement and the potential issue of district boundaries. Discussion was held about having the district boundaries officially redetermined. Commissioner Cross raised the topic of property tax on the ballot and requested input from legal counsel at the next meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cross moved to adjourn at 6:38 p.m. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0. The meeting was adjourned.

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