APPROVED MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JUNE 17, 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 June 17, 2026 at the Fire and Life Safety Office. Present were Commissioners Cherney, Cross, Duffy, and Biondo. Commissioner Dearborn was absent.

A. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

B. Approval, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Not addressed

C. Consent Agenda

1. GNFD Board Minutes May 8, 2026
2. GNFD Board Special Meeting Minutes May 19, 2026

Commissioner Duffy moved to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner Cross seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.

D. Treasurer's Report- Finance Director Guille Polanco

Finance Director Polanco presented the Treasurer's Report as submitted. *Commissioner Cross moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0.*

E. Fire Chief's District Report- Deputy Chief Diaz

Deputy Chief Diaz presented the Fire Chief's Report as submitted. The Board agreed to review Capital, Ochopee, and MM63 funds at the July budget workshop. Discussion included potential funding impacts if the property tax amendment passes. Commissioner Cross questioned the $1.4M allocation for cameras and radios; staff confirmed the District is already under contract with most equipment received.

The Board discussed a hiring freeze and limiting financial negotiations with the union until after the amendment vote, while continuing non-financial discussions. Members were encouraged to remain calm. Commissioner Cross discussed seeking guidance from Laura Donaldson on reducing reliance on ad valorem revenue and incorporating assessment revenue. Lehigh Acres Fire District's 100% assessment-based model was suggested as an example. Commissioner Cross also requested a proposal detailing how the reduction of funding could impact response times, as a public education tool. Commissioner Duffy noted the need for statewide education efforts, and it was reported that districts are coordinating outreach to elected officials. Commissioner Biondo requested an update on plan review, which will be addressed at the July meeting.

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

No report

G. Local 2396 Report – President Matthew Donovan

President Donovan noted that the union would like to continue negotiating non-financial contract items due to the number of articles to be reviewed. Commissioner Cross requested that staff provide a recommendation to the Board on the length of a contract extension for the union.

II. OLD BUSINESS

III. NEW BUSINESS

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

A member of the public, Jean Kungle of East Naples, addressed the board, sharing her opinion of the District's public education efforts during the merger and the budget process. Discussion ensued on the topics of budget numbers and previous votes on millage rate increases, with differing viewpoints expressed between Ms. Kungle and the Board.

B. Comments by Commissioners

Commissioner Cherney urged the union to encourage members to remain calm and emphasized that District personnel are its most valuable asset. Commissioner Cross noted that mid-term voter turnout is typically lower and encouraged communicating the potential impact of the property tax amendment on District response times.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cross moved to adjourn at 5:39 p.m. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0. The meeting was adjourned.