



APPROVED MINUTES
GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

AUGUST 5, 2026 ■ 3:30 PM

Fire & Life Safety Office ■ 2700 N. Horseshoe Dr. Naples, FL 34104

I. MEETING OPENED

Chairman Cherney called to order the regular meeting of the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners at 3:30 p.m., on August 5, 2026 at the Fire and Life Safety Office. Present were Commissioners Cherney, Duffy, Deaborn and Biondo. Commissioner Cross attended via Zoom.

A. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation

B. Approval, Additions and Deletions to the Agenda

Commissioner Duffy moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Commissioner Dearborn seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

C. Consent Agenda

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

D. Treasurer's Report- Finance Director Polanco

Finance Director Polanco presented the Treasurer's Report as submitted. *Commissioner Duffy moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner Dearborn seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

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

Fire Chief Wolfe presented the District Report. The District will send CCSO a deadline regarding Station 26 plan participation to avoid project delays. Potential permitting and water mitigation delays were discussed, with additional information expected after the upcoming South Florida Water Management District meeting. A workshop will be scheduled before the October board meeting for an opportunity to hear from District legal counsel and potentially consultants on the option of assessments for revenue. Discussion ensued on coordination with neighboring fire districts on the property tax amendment and the initiation of a consultant study, targeted for completion by spring 2027. Staff was directed to evaluate temporary fire protection options for the Station 26 area, including ISO requirements, and return with recommendations later this year. Discussion ensued on the recent opening of Station 74, potential insurance impacts, and the District's ISO letter and fee schedule. There was discussion on leasing vs. purchasing space for logistics and fleet facility needs. The Board authorized staff to research available space. It was noted that the Marco Fleet agreement is in its final year, with emphasis on prioritizing District fleet services before outside work. Mold mitigation efforts at Stations 21 and 71 were also discussed.

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

No Report

G. Local 2396 Report- President Matthew Donovan

President Donovan shared that the Local is working with the FPF on a coordinated public information message regarding the property tax amendment. Legal counsel advised the District not to distribute union materials; individual Board members and employees may do so in their personal capacity. The union will share materials with District administration for review to ensure consistent messaging.



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II. OLD BUSINESS

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. AIW- Station 71 Repair- Deputy Chief Bauer

Deputy Chief Bauer presented the AIW as submitted. *Commissioner Cross moved to approve the bid with Capital Contractors and to authorize the Fire Chief to execute all related documentation. Commissioner Duffy seconded.* Fire Chief Wolfe added that this is waiving the procurement policy. *Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

B. AIW- Casual Worker Agreement, Federal Disaster Grant Specialist- HR Director Ughi

HR Director Ughi presented the AIW as submitted. It was clarified that there is potential for charging grant management time to certain grants for reimbursement. Commissioner Cross advocated for a full-time grant writer. *Commissioner Duffy moved to approve the Casual Employee Agreement for the Grant Specialist as presented, effective August 5, 2026, or thereafter, and authorized the Fire Chief to execute and administer the agreement on behalf of the District. Commissioner Dearborn seconded. Motion passed 4-1 (Biondo).*

C. AIW- Social Media Policy- HR Director Ughi

HR Director Ughi presented the AIW as submitted. Fire Chief Wolfe added that Staff worked with Union representatives and legal counsels to make this a mutually agreed upon policy. *Commissioner Cross moved to approve and adopt the revised Social Media Policy #604, effective immediately. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

D. Grievance- William Wilkie II- Deputy Chief Diaz

Deputy Chief Diaz presented the District's response to FF Wilkie's grievance, clarifying a typo in the date at the end of Fire Chief Wolfe's response. The investigative Phase concluded on May 27, not May 18. FF Wilkie addressed the Board, appealing the grievance. There was discussion on the 120-day period timeline, with District counsel and Commissioner Cross confirming agreement with Fire Chief Wolfe's interpretation of the timeline. It was also suggested that the language in Article 13.06 could be updated to eliminate the question on timeline in the future. Local 2396 President Donovan addressed the Board, confirming that the Local is in discussions on making changes to avoid this in the future. Commissioner Cherney suggested that the upcoming CBA agreement should be reviewed by the District's legal counsel before signing. *Commissioner Dearborn motioned to accept the Chief's recommendation to deny the grievance. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Commissioner Cross rephrase[d] the motion that we deny the grievance in full. Commissioner Biondo seconded.* Commissioners discussed the potential for arbitration and whether the issue could be resolved without it. Local 2396 President Donovan stated the Local would determine within the required timeline whether to pursue arbitration and expressed confidence that the Local and District could reach agreement on revisions to the article. *Motion passed unanimously 5-0.*

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

None



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F. Comments by Commissioners

None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Dearborn moved to adjourn at 4:41 p.m. Commissioner Duffy seconded. Motion passed unanimously 5-0. The meeting was adjourned.