



**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**GREATER NAPLES FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**  
**BUDGET WORKSHOP**  
**AUGUST 5, 2026 ■ 3:00 PM**

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

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**I. MEETING OPENED**

Chairman Cherney called to order the Greater Naples Fire Rescue District's Board of Fire Commissioners Budget Workshop at 3:01p.m., on August 5, 2026, at the Fire and Life Safety Building. Present were Commissioners Cherney, Biondo, Dearborn, and Duffy. Commissioner Cross was absent.

**A. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

**B. Opening Remarks**

Fire Chief Wolfe opened the budget workshop, with emphasis on operational efficiencies, workforce planning for vacancies and retirements, and the potential impact of the property tax amendment. Commissioner Duffy noted the District must continue operations regardless of the amendment's outcome.

**C. General Fund/Grant Fund**

Finance Director Guille Polanco presented the FY 26-27 General and Grant Funds as submitted.

**Discussion Included:**

- Staff continues working to keep operating costs level.
- Budgeted revenues over expenditures of \$1.4M was noted.
- Insurance costs were budgeted conservatively.
- SAFER grant costs are being phased in early, with a planned \$1 million transfer to gradually absorb grant-funded positions and avoid a future funding cliff.
- Lower 175 Pension Plan contributions will generate additional savings.
- FRS contribution rates increased from 35% to 37%.
- Fire Chief Wolfe mentioned that the proposed overtime budget is lower due to improved staffing, though leave-related absences remain a risk.

**D. Comments by Commissioners and Public**

None

**II. ADJOURNMENT**

*Commissioner Duffy moved to adjourn at 3:16 p.m. Commissioner Biondo seconded. Motion passed unanimously 4-0. The meeting was adjourned.*