

NORTH FORT MYERS FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE SERVICE
DISTRICT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 20, 2026

Chairman Michael Gatewood called the North Fort Myers Fire Control and Rescue Service District Board of Commissioners to order at 5:05 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

Commissioner Michael Gatewood
Commissioner James Land
Commissioner Tom Mere
Assistant Chief John Manson
Office Manager Monique Brooks
Public Education Officer Christi Fulton
Attorneys Remotely: Hunter O'Connor

Commissioner Bill Schaible
Commissioner Danny Ballard
Chief Jeremy Dunn

Absent:

Admin Specialist Emily Grgurich
Union Representative Josh Ballard

Assistant Chief of Training Eric Klos
Fire Marshal Rick Jones

Invocation: Commissioner Mere

Pledge: Commissioner Ballard

Public Input: None

Presentation of Award to American Red Cross by Public Education Officer Christi Fulton and CERT Leader Beth Helmick.

Minutes:

Commissioner Land made a motion to approve the June 15, 2026 minutes, as written. Seconded by Commissioner Ballard. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. (1)

Treasurer's Report: The June Treasurer's report was presented. At this time, we are 75% through the budget year, received 99% of revenues (including carryover) and spent 83% of expenditures (less reserves). There were no questions or comments. (2)

Chief's Report:

By Chief Dunn-

- There is no new movement on the elimination of property tax
- Hard numbers for next fiscal year came in around 6.5% increase
- G migrated the Department emails and website through a .gov domain
- The District was asked to participate in hoagie making challenge against the Sheriff's Office for the Grand Opening of the Wawa, and we won
- Tentative Budget Hearing is set for September 14TH and the Final Budget Hearing is set for September 21st

Commissioner Schaible asked when are going to receive tentative numbers for the property tax issue? If the proposed homestead exemption passes, we estimate that our budget will lose approximately \$4 million to \$5.5 million when its fully implemented. Gatewood – with this proposed bill, is there anything that affects us now? Mostly just procedural changes, for example now you need a super majority vote for the milage rate. There were no further question or comments.

Assistant Chief Manson-

- Servicing all equipment
- Engine 1 is having annual PMI
- Brush 3 is in service
- New Engine 2 has been delivered to us
- Working with Chief Westra on switching over
- We are looking at returning Brush 1 back to Forestry

Commissioner Mere – are we still under a Burn Ban? No. Commissioner Gatewood – should we keep Brush 1 due to its size for flooding issues? The way we have built our new Brush Trucks, we don't think that will be an issue. There were no further questions or comments.

Prevention: Report attached. There were no questions or comments.

Public Education: We have been busy in the summer camps and expect the same for July. There were no questions or comments.

Training: Report attached. There were no questions or comments.

Union: Everything is quiet right now; we are set to begin negotiations soon.

Old Business:

- **Update on Pondella Road Fire Station**

Chief Dunn – Chris Lee did update us today that he will need another month or so to finalize the plans. There were no questions or comments.

New Business:

- **2025/2026 Budget Amendment with Resolution 2026-008**

Monique presented the 2025/2026 Budget Amendment. Commissioner Ballard – why are we moving the money for the construction of the new station to the reserves if we do not know what is going to happen with the property tax? The FY ended and due to delays we have not moved forward with the project as expected so we designated the funds to the reserve line item for the time being.

Commissioner Ballard to Chief Dunn, I see that you plan on purchasing a New Engine in 2029? Yes, to keep everything in line with replacing the older trucks. There were no further questions or comments.

Monique read Resolution 2026-008. **Commissioner Mere made a motion to accept the 2025/2026 Budget Amendment. Seconded by Commissioner Land.**

The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. (3)

- Revision to Fund Balance and Reserve Policy

Commissioner Mere made a motion to accept the revised Fund Balance and Reserve Policy as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Land. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in Favor. The vote was 5-0. (4)

- Update Signors for SBA accounts

Monique requested Commissioner Gatewood, Commissioner Schaible and Commissioner Ballard to replace the old signors for the SBA accounts.

- 2026/2027 Milage Rate

Commissioner Land made a motion to set the Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 at 3.5 mills. Seconded by Commissioner Ballard. The motion was put to vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0. (5) Commissioner Ballard – I think we should raise milage rate. Monique explained that by state statue the highest milage rate is 3.75 for Special Districts. Commissioner Ballard stated with that information he feels that we should stay where we are with the milage rate. There were no further questions or comments.

Commissioner Items: Commissioner Gatewood asked if we had any further info on the cameras for the trucks? Not at this time.

Public Input: None

Community Goodwill & Thank You: Thank you letter from Commissioner Petrosky.

Commissioner Mere made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Land. The motion was put to a vote, and approved by the Board. All were in favor. The vote was 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Supportive Documents:

1. June 15, 2026 Minutes
2. June Treasurer's Report
3. 2025/2026 Budget Amendment with Resolution 2026-008
4. Revision to Fund Balance and Reserve Policy
5. 2026/2027 Milage Rate