



04/08/2022

2022

**Robert McGilloway**  
**Fire Chief**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Peter Bennett  
President

Vacant  
Vice President

Suzy Trino  
Treasurer

Karen Connery  
Secretary

Donald Beckstead  
Island Management

George Preckwinkle  
Seat 1

Annie Hyder  
Seat 2

Heath Wilder  
Seat 3

## March Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Peter Bennett at 9:35.

Directors attending in person or by way of Zoom were:

Peter Bennett, Annie Hyder, Vice President, Suzy Trino, Treasurer, Karen Connery-Albert, Secretary, George Preckwinkle, and Heath Wilder. Chief McGilloway, UIFC fire chief, was also in attendance.

Not in attendance was Donald Beckstead, Useppa Island President.

Mary McColgan, a Useppa homeowner was also in attendance.

Peter made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2022, board meeting. Heath seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report: was given by Suzy Trino.**

The opening balance on 3-3-22 was [REDACTED] with an ending balance of [REDACTED]. Suzy reported that donations from the Gala had reached [REDACTED]. The food and beverage bill came to [REDACTED] and the DJ still needed to be paid. Other donations are still outstanding. Chief pointed out that he had the tax portion of our food and beverage bill removed because we are a tax-deductible entity.

We are performing under budget on everything except salaries, however, Chief stated the deficit which occurred between October and December should be minimized by the end of this fiscal year because of a new salary structure.

**President's Report:** Peter stated that creating our new budget is an opportunity to identify 3 to 5 priorities for the future. The board can decide what to invest in for example, whether to maintain two staff per day or one staff person and a medic.

**Gala report:** Annie stated that while the event was an overall success, we learned of things we could have done better. Perhaps leverage technology to do our own invitations and programs. She felt that Chief's level of engagement on the island has made a big difference and having his whole team there with their partners was an additional bonus. The entertainment was great, and we believe we had the right amount of silent and live auction items. She has received much positive feedback regarding Chief's speaking that evening.

It's unfortunate that we could not include non-homeowners because of size limitations. Chief is considering a summer event such as a BBQ on the beach. Perhaps if the island invested in a tent the risk of uncooperative weather could be minimized.

We sold [REDACTED] tickets. The silent auction brought in more than [REDACTED] and the live auction, [REDACTED], including [REDACTED] from the Sear family which was then matched with [REDACTED] more. We want to give special thank you's to our staff who went over and above in helping us. Gift cards for [REDACTED] each will be given to Maggie McCormick, events coordinator, Chef Don, Joel Kell, club manager and employee, Pete who worked tirelessly after hours to help set up and break down the event.

Thank you letters with our tax ID# have been given to all those who purchased items or mailed out if they did not come Sunday after the event. Similar letters will also be sent to those who donated items, services, and their property use.



**Chief's Report:** Chief McGilloway has been focused on the pre-plans. The whole north end has been addressed and the next area will be in the Village.

There were three calls for help since the last meeting. All were small injuries incurred by guests.

The hoses and ladders have been inspected and certified with 3 ladders needing replacement and a few sections of hose. Chief described how hoses and ladders are tested.

During the summer (off-season), the plan is to work on the water access points with JR & Billy, acquiring the equipment needed that the gala funds were donated for. Training staff, while continuing to update the website. Chief stated that he and Joel Kell had a great meeting with the app company which could tie the island together communication-wise. Cost would be shared between the club and FD and maybe the POA. Chief states that it is simple to use.

We received a MSTU proposal from the county. It is unclear about what kind of district we are. Right now, the county's responsibility begins when the patient is taken off the island. It might be that the county is also responsible for what happens on island and therefore our tax dollars would pay for more of our FD needs. However, this in turn could call for more oversight by the County. We don't see the county being proactive, but we also haven't asked for more.

While we're assessing if and how we can provide ALS care with financial help from Lee County, Chief will determine the process and structure to be able to apply for a SAFER grant. The grant which would reduce our costs per year, acting as a bridge to help handle these expenses in house. He has also arranged for cost sharing with the neighboring district for ALS equipment.

Chief will reach out to Atty. Pringle for legal counsel about all of this. Peter estimates we may incur a bill of approximately [REDACTED] in our effort to secure [REDACTED] in funding, in perpetuity.

The MSTU that has been presented to us is an addendum to the original with the same context that Upper Captiva has been working under. However, a whole new team has been hired at Lee County EMS so we're waiting to see how that is working out for Upper Cap. Accepting the MSTU, as is, might create a couple hundred thousand dollars of expenses for us, without knowing up front whether we or Lee County will be covering those costs. Thus, the need for legal counsel.

Chief next addressed the proposed new budget for the year 2023-24. Compared to our previous budget, it is about [REDACTED] higher. Despite the cost cutting and receiving a grant which Chief secured for equipment, the increase is due to our need to develop an ALS program which the homeowners are expecting.

Chief presented several options of ways the island fire department could be staffed. Eventually there may be another staff person with comparable qualifications, responsibility and pay grade as Chief but he does not see that happening any time soon. The staff we have now need more training and experience which the Chief is giving them. Staffing might also include Chief and a medic. Peter expressed concern that the number of hours Chief is working could lead to burn-out which we absolutely don't want for him. Chief feels comfortable with his plan as he's laid it out. He sees his load lightening as his plan takes shape.

Before our next meeting, Chief has set an agenda for himself to meet with Atty Pringle.

The next meeting was rescheduled for a week earlier than planned, therefore for Friday the 6th of May at 9:30, instead of the 13th.

There was no new business, so Annie moved that we adjourn the meeting. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion passed, and the meeting ended at 12:01.