

**Pace Fire Rescue District
Regular Meeting
March 17, 2025**

1. Meeting Called to Order

Present: Chairman Nick Gradia, Secretary Jeremy Johnston and
Treasurer Felix Hernandez
Excused Absent: Vice-Chairman Daniel Mills
Unexcused Absent: Commissioner Lynn Garrett

Chairman Nick Gradia called the meeting to order at approximately 5:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

a. Chairman Nick Gradia led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Moment of Silence

a. Chairman Nick Gradia led in the opening prayer.

4. Public Forum

a. The Board acknowledges the public, no one was in attendance.

5. Minutes from the previous meeting

- a. Chairman Gradia reported the pay for the firefighters was currently fixed.
- b. A Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes was 1st made by Secretary Johnston and 2nd by Treasurer Hernandez.
- c. Motion passed, unanimously.

6. Financial Report (Written report attached)

- a. The Motion to Approve the Financial Report was 1st made by Treasurer Hernandez and 2nd by Secretary Johnston.
- b. Motion passed, unanimously.

7. Chief's Report (Written report attached)

- a. The Chief's Report was acknowledged. Secretary Johnston inquired about Berrydale, Allentown and the smaller fire departments' coverage from Pace Fire. Chief Whitfield replied, "we help cover automatically, if there are continuous calls it may come down to where contact would need to be made between our board and their board for a discussion. Chairman Gradia explained what had previously been discussed about Allentown Fire Department.
- b. Informational purposes only, no action needed.

8. Station 4 Construction Update

- a. Chief Whitfield reported construction was on course, should be completed by the end of July. The generator will be here in April, the older sides of the building will be repainted to match the new construction. Treasurer Hernandez asked if the bay doors were the same? Chief Whitfield, “yes, we can’t justify replacing them now.”
- b. Informational purposes only, no action needed.

9. Station 4 Construction Loan Update

- a. Chief Whitfield discussed the projected cost and how much we needed to borrow to complete the project. We have been paying the expense out of the Impact Fees collected. The remaining balance would be the money we would need to borrow. With this money it would cover the remaining building costs, gym equipment, air compressor, etc. The amount borrowed should not exceed \$950,000. Treasurer Hernandez asked, “what the interest rate would be on this loan”. Chief Whitfield stated somewhere around 4.36 or 4.39% with a (10) ten-year term.”
- b. A Motion to Approve Resolution 001-25 was 1st made by Secretary Johnston and 2nd made by Treasurer Hernandez.
- c. Motion was unanimously approved.

10. Firefighter Pension Fund

- a. Chief Whitfield stated the current multiplier for the Pension is now 3.25%. An analysis of the cost to increase the multiplier to 3.50% was conducted. The report confirmed making this increase retroactive would not impose any additional cost on the district, as it can be fully funded through the pension plan. Based on this analysis the Firefighter Pension Board request approval from the Board for the proposed increased.
- b. A Motion to Approve Resolution 02-2025 was 1st made by Secretary Johnston and 2nd made by Treasurer Hernandez.
- c. Motion was unanimously approved.

11. New Apparatus

- a. Chief Whitfield reported currently he is looking at “stock” units that meet our needs to avoid the three (3) year build time through manufactures. Chief Whitfield has contacted a few financial institutions on financing options and interest rates and am now waiting for their response. An ongoing discussion was held between board members and Chief Whitfield on the options. Chairman Gradia proposed tabling this discussion until the next meeting.
- b. Information purposes only, no action needed.

12. LifePack 15 L.O.S.T Request

- a. Chief Whitfield reported one of the LifePack 15's that was going to be replaced is no longer operational. The cost of repairing exceeds the value of the equipment. Chief Whitfield has inquired if there are any unused L.O.S.T funds that could be made available to replace this equipment. Secretary Johnston asked how long it would take to get one ordered and Chief Whitfield approximately three to five weeks.
- b. Information purposes only, no action needed.

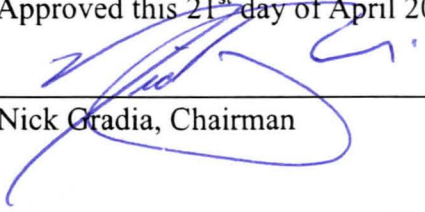
13. Addition/Deletions

- a. Chairman Gradia suggested reserving 30 minutes before the regular Board Meeting for an Executive Board Meeting to discuss budget finances, legal updates previous meeting to inform the new Board Commissioners of previous topics. This meeting will be advertised along with the monthly meetings. In this Executive meeting there will be the Board members, Chief Whitfield, and corresponding staff.
 - A Motion to Approve an Executive Meeting 30 minutes before the regular monthly meeting was 1st made by Secretary Johnston and 2nd by Treasurer Hernandez.
 - Motion was unanimously approved.
- b. Secretary Johnston asked about the status of HR and Assistant Chief position. Chief Whitfield stated the HR closes on March 24th, 2025. Chief Whitfield is going through all the applicants now.
- c. Treasurer Hernandez asked if we had lost anyone in the past 2 months to Destin or North Bay Fire Departments? Chief Whitfield said we have one that's moving to Part-Time with us and one that hasn't said anything, but they are working there now.

14. Motion to Adjourn

- a. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:45 p.m.
- b. Motion to Adjourn was 1st made by Secretary Johnston and 2nd by Treasurer Hernandez.
- c. Motion passed, unanimously.

Approved this 21st day of April 2025.



Nick Gradia, Chairman