

**Pace Fire Rescue District  
Regular Meeting  
April 21, 2025**

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

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

Chairman Nick Gradia called the meeting to order at approximately 5:46 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. Chief Whitfield wanted to correct the “unexcused” absence for Commissioner Lynn Garret to “excused”.
- b. A Motion to Approve the “Amended” Meeting Minutes to reflect Commissioner Garrett’s attendance was 1<sup>st</sup> made by Vice-Chairman Mills and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Secretary Johnston.
- c. Motion passed, unanimously.

**6. Financial Report (Written report attached)**

- a. Accountant Mrs. Connell advised the board that the larger churches in the area had not paid their fire taxes to date. Secretary Johnston asked, “what were we looking at as far as money wise. \$20,000; \$30,000?” President Gradia stated, “it was over \$100,000 because a lot of churches own a lot of other property beside the main church.” Chief Whitfield informed the Board that if they aren’t paid, they would be receiving a notification from the tax office, there would be a lien on the property if not paid by May 31, 2025
- b. The Motion to Approve the Financial Report was 1<sup>st</sup> made by Secretary Johnston and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Garrett.
- c. Motion passed, unanimously.
- d.

**7. Chief's Report (Written report attached)**

- a. The Chief's Report was acknowledged.
- b. Informational purposes only, no action needed.

**8. Station 4 Construction Update**

- a. Chief Whitfield reported we were on schedule. The windows, painting, and the tile in the bathroom will be finished this week. Mr. Pratt reported to be working with Escambia River on the power. Secretary Johnston asked about the status of the lights in front of the station. Chief Whitfield said we were going to be looking at putting a light at the curve. Secretary Johnston asked about how the staffing was coming along for Station 4. Chief Whitfield said we have 3 more to hire for us to be at minimal staffing. Station 4 should be completed in August.
- b. Informational purposes only, no action needed.

**9. Station 4 Construction Loan**

- a. Chief Whitfield informed the Board that the loan for Station 4 was signed this morning, and funds will be available this week.
- b. Informational purposes only, no action needed.

**10. New Apparatus**

- a. Chief Whitfield stated that the company that we previously dealt with on our new truck loan did not want to finance another truck. Chief Whitfield is talking to Synovus Bank and Leasing 2. Chief Whitfield also informed the Board that he is still searching for a Stock truck that might fit our needs.
- b. Informational purposes only, no action needed.

**11. LifePack 15 L.O.S.T. Request**

- a. Chief Whitfield reported that he had requested the excess Local Option Sales Tax funds in order to replace LifePack 15, but they are still being processed. It usually takes approximately 21 days to complete this process.
- b. Information purposes only, no action needed.

**12. State EMS Grant**

- a. Chief Whitfield reported the district had applied for an EMS Grant and the District was awarded a partial grant for the requested items. With the awarded Grant money the district would only have to pay approximately \$15,500.00. The total funds would be used to purchase medical equipment such as Ultrasound, Video Laryngoscope, and LifePack 15 for our Advanced Life Support Services.
- b. Information purposes only, no action needed.

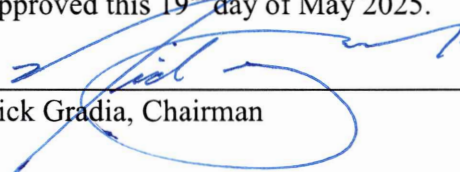
### **13. Addition/Deletions**

- a. Chief Whitfield announced during the Pensacola Beach Firefighters Challenge this weekend that our boys came in 5<sup>th</sup> out of 27 teams. This marked our first year and we'll be back next year! Congratulations to Lt. Murphy, Lt. J. Anderson, Firefighters Jobb, Lovell and Sizemore for all their work.
- b. Santa Rosa Firefighter's Union Vice-President Josh Anderson requested clarification of a SHADE meeting. The information he gathered was that there should be an Attorney and a Court Report present during these meetings. And he was confused because on the website it stated this meeting would be for the public, but they were asked to leave. Chairman Gradia apologized for the confusion, in this meeting there were things that needed to be discussed they would not be open for the public. During last month's meeting, it was discussed before each monthly meeting we would hold a discussion between the Board, Chief Whitfield and Office staff about certain items. These meeting is to help the new Board members understand the paperwork they are given at the regular Board meetings. Maybe it was poor choice of words that were put on the website, that was an oversight on our part. Chairman Gradia apologized again.
- c. Secretary Johnston asked about the status on the Refurb truck. Chief Whitfield said it should be in Defuniak Springs next. Chairman Gradia asked, "once it get there's what else needs to be done?" Chief Whitfield said, "it will need to have a pump test done and then just cleaning it up."

### **14. Motion to Adjourn**

- a. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:10 p.m.
- b. Motion to Adjourn was 1<sup>st</sup> made by Commissioner Garrett and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Secretary Johnston.
- c. Motion passed, unanimously.

Approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.



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Nick Gradia, Chairman