

# **Pace Fire Rescue District**

## **Regular Meeting February 17, 2026**

### **1. Meeting Called to Order**

Present: Chairman Nick Gradia, Vice-Chairman Daniel Mills,  
Secretary Jeremy Johnston.  
Commissioner Lynn Garrett, Treasurer Felix Hernandez and  
Chief Whitfield were present through a conference call.

- a. Chairman Gradia called the meeting to order at approximately 5:05 p.m.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

### **3. Moment of Silence**

- a. A moment of silence was observed.

### **4. Public Form**

- a. The Board acknowledges the public.
  - Mr. Andrew Adcox, President of IAFF Local 4836. Mr. Adcox expressed his concerns regarding Florida House Bill 4051 and the reduction to the fire department's budget. Mr. Adcox went on to say the reduction would have an impact on staffing, salaries, medical benefits and more. This would also risk the safety of firefighters and the citizens. He asked the Board to ensure a solution for public safety and workforce stability.

### **5. Minutes from the previous meeting**

- a. A Motion to approve the Regular January Meeting Minutes was 1<sup>st</sup> made by Vice-Chairman Mills and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Secretary Johnston.
- b. Motions passed, unanimously.

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

- a. Financial Report was reviewed. A Motion to approve the Financial Report was 1<sup>st</sup> made by Secretary Johnston and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vice-Chairman Mills.
- b. Motions passed, unanimously.

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

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

**8. House Bill 4051 Representative Boyles**

- a. Chairman Gradia reported he had been to the 2026 Legislative Session. The Session was running behind, unfortunately he was given 30 seconds to give his speech before they voted on House Bill 4051.
- b. Chairman Gradia went over the changes to House Bill 4051 which include the exemption of churches and religious organizations from fire assessments, residential assessments would be \$250 and a few other changes. State Representative Boyles filed an Amendment late, so it was denied at that time. The Board discussed how to present these changes to the citizens through local media, social media, meetings, etc. It was agreed that the public needed to know what was happening and why it was happening. Chief Whitfield will be preparing a “media information package” to include the House Bill 4051 and the breakdown of the Bill. The Board agreed we needed to have a Town Hall meeting to inform the citizens as soon as possible. Chief Whitfield will be looking for locations, date and time.
- c. Informational purposes only, no action is needed.

**9. Motion to Adjourn**

- a. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.
- b. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Approved this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.



---

Nick Gradia, Chairman