



# Holley-Navarre Fire District Board of Fire Commissioners October 25, 2021 – 6:00 p.m. Minutes Are Not Verbatim

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Dave Stone. Commissioners Dave Stone, DJ Stone, Darin Culberson, and Todd Tolbert were in attendance, as well as Chief Norton, BC Davidson, Project Manager Chris Levitt, and Admin D. May. Stations 45 and 41 crews were also in attendance. Commissioners Doug Schumpert was absent.

## Public Announcements / Public Comments – None

## Chairman's Comments – None

**Meeting Minutes** – September 27, 2021 – **Commissioner Culberson made a motion to accept minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Tolbert. Vote held. Motion - passed unanimous.**

## Treasurers Report

Commissioner DJ Stone read the report as follows:

### **October 2021**

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Regions Checking        | \$81,051.31  |
| Impact Fee Acct         | \$850,785.78 |
| Apparatus Fund          | \$213,041.36 |
| Reserve Fund Acct       | \$683,571.00 |
|                         |              |
| Income received to date | \$176.14     |
| Expenses to date        | \$237,518.78 |

Treasurers Report for October 2021 read into record by Commissioner Stone. **Motion made to accept report by Commissioner Tolbert, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Culberson. Vote held. Motion - passed unanimous.**

## Chief's Report

Incidents for October 2021: Total runs of 347, average response time 6:46, overlapping calls 124 or 35.7%. Staffing-All currently budgeted positions are filled. We do have one opening coming up. Open CPAT scheduled for 12/4/21. Vehicle Status: E41 returned from maintenance, warranty work and pump test. Reserve is in the shop with transmission issues. Grants: AFG grant for ladder truck was denied, AFG grant for SAFER staffing was awarded, Firehouse Subs was awarded. Dickey's, Gary Sinise, and Dennis Leary Foundations have all been applied for. SAFER Update: Planning, FEMA answers, recruiting, etc. LOST Funding: First five years of Tower 45's payments (\$500k total) are covered by LOST funds. Acknowledgements: BC Lewis, Capt Tolar, and Lt Robertson went to Ohio for pre-build of aerial last week. We sent Navarre Beach a thank you for use of Engine 49. Congratulations to our recently qualified step-up drivers: Justin Matusiak and Steven Parsh. **Motion made to accept Chief's Report by Commissioner Culberson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Tolbert. Vote held. Motion – passed unanimous.**

**Commissioner's Comments** – Commissioner Culberson is impressed with the new training building and thinks it would be a great station option. No other comments.

## Old Business

- 1. Project Update:** Electrical and HVAC in the new building is complete. The building inspection passed. They will be hanging drywall this week and continuing with irrigation. Chris Levitt is shooting for the last week in November to be done. To date, it has cost \$249,000, and Chris believes that the total will still be under \$400,000.
- 2. ALS:** Commissioner Tolbert stated that going ALS would not be that much, approximately \$70,000. He wants to know why Navarre Beach and Midway are ALS, but we are not yet. Chris Wells stated that ALS had been the plan until the minimum wage increase postponed some priorities. Commissioner DJ Stone stated that we would have to reconsider priorities to make the SAFER grant work. Commissioner DJ Stone also wants to know how long the ALS program has been on the table. Chief Norton stated he would go back and look. Commissioner Tolbert stated that the Holley station and ALS need to be a focus. Commissioner DJ Stone stated that we should consider using Station 43 as a possibility regardless of the push-back he had received several years ago from the District. Chief Norton stated that we had considered several options for the Holley station, including placing a mobile home at the ballpark. He stated that we are still exploring options.
- 3. SAFER Grant:** Commissioner Tolbert stated that would not support the SAFER grant without a plan after the three-year grant period was over. He stated that he would not support laying off 12 firefighters after the grant period was completed. Commissioner Tolbert wanted to know what was being done for recruitment. Lt Michael Hall informed him of the steps being taken to recruit firefighters. Chief Norton stated that we need to increase taxes if we wanted to keep SAFER grant employees hired, but that we needed to increase taxes anyway to stay competitive and get projects done as planned. The 2021-22 assessments will bring in \$3.1 mil and the target is \$4.5 million. If we stay non-ad valorem, we would need to increase rates 40% to bring in \$4.2 mil, 50% to bring in \$4.5 mil. If we attempt to go ad valorem, we would need a 1.8 millage rate to bring in \$4.4 million. Commissioner Tolbert wants to know if we can accept the SAFER grant with where we are now financially. Chief Norton responded no, not without raising taxes. Commissioner Tolbert stated that we should turn down the grant then. Commissioner DJ Stone agreed. Chief Norton will reach out to FEMA to make sure we will not be penalized for turning down the grant. He will forward the reply to the Board. If the Board needs to have further discussion, a special meeting can be arranged ten days after advertising. Captain Wells stated that regardless of accepting the SAFER grant, now is the right time to raise taxes, while the minimum wage increase is fresh on the minds of the public.
- 4. Ladder Truck:** Chief Norton was given word that LOST funding was approved through the county. Tower 45 will be funded for at least 5 years through LOST funds. It will be 12-14 months until the aerial is completed.

(continued)

**New Business**

1. **Vote to approve annual GSG contract for FY2021-2022:** The cost is \$9500.00. **Motion to accept renewing annual GSG contract for FY2022 made by Commissioner DJ Stone, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Culberson. Vote held. Motion – passed unanimous.**
2. **Meeting Date of November 22, 2021:** Meeting will be moved to November 15, 2021, the week prior, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. December meeting date will be decided at the November meeting.
3. **Union Contract:** Union contract was ratified. Changes to contract were discussed by former Union President, Captain Wells and current Union President, Lt Buffington. Motion to accept Union contract made by Commissioner DJ Stone, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Culberson. Vote held. Motion – passed unanimous.

**Next Meeting**

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 6 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*DJ Stone*

D.J. Stone, Secretary/Treasurer  
DJS:sdm