

**Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District**  
**Minutes for Workshop Commissioners Board Meeting**  
**March 8, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Player called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**Invocation:** Commissioner Dreikorn led everyone in the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Commissioner Player led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Commissioner Player, Cammick, Dreikorn, DeLacey, and Price were present. Chief Mickuleit, Deputy Chief Brant, Assistant Chief Davis, DVP Barr, Renee Lynch, and Administrative Assistant Miles were present. Guests: Leo Amos

**Public Comment:** Leo Amos voiced that he was glad to see the Board taking the initiative to look into where the future is going, however there are always unanticipated things like the market crash in 2008 that can change all of these projections. The way the law is written, the Board should be creating a tentative budget and then the millage is determined based on that budget. He feels that having the Board choose the roll back rate and not having reason behind it that it sends a bad message to the community. In the past the community has fronted the money for most of the capital projects, which he feels was not right, since they were paying for future services. He doesn't feel that the community can handle an increase year after year. Commissioner Dreikorn thanked Mr. Amos for coming to voice his opinions, the Board is hoping that all of these projections and discussion will open opportunity to save the taxpayers while providing a better service.

**Business:**

1. General Budget Discussion, including 5 year plan:

Renee Lynch presented her 5 year budget projections based on the assumptions that the Board agreed on in the last meeting. (This plan is on file and available for copies) Mrs. Renee went line by line over the projections giving the board and public opportunity to ask questions. There was discussion of Station 2 rebuild, Mr. Amos asked if the loan would be encumbered. Renee replied that we would use a lease purchase agreement designed specifically for governments. Chief Mickuleit noted that these projections do not include the actual purchase of the land for Station 2 or any changes to the union contract. Ultimately with the projections decided upon by the board and the projected rollback rate for the next 5 years the District would be in the red by year 3. Renee explained that the major variable that the Board can play with is that they can either adjust the millage or the unassigned fund balance to meet the needs. The Board agreed that they would like Renee to set the percent of ending unassigned fund balance to 25% and see how that changes the millage over the next 5 years. Commissioner Cammick asked if there would be a way to calculate what the new station would cost per tax payer, so that it would be easier to sell the idea to the public. Renee replied that she could the board decided to have her calculate the cost to the average taxpayer for Station 2 and the ALS program. Mr. Amos commented that although you it might not seem like much, for some taxpayers they are going to see that increase and not be happy. We are still the third highest millage in the county and you are going to have to sell the increased tax in a way that benefits them. He mentioned that a decrease in insurance would be a good reason to increase the millage. There was discussion between the Board and Chief Mickuleit about improving out ISO rating. The Chief responded that the only way to improve our rating at this point is increase staffing or buy a ladder truck, which we know is not currently feasible. Our most recent ISO ratings, we were only a few points shy of the next level so

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we do believe it is possible. Renee and Chief Mickuleit will also look through the expense line items for any that jump out as being higher or lower than they believe they should.

**Adjournment:**

**Commissioner Price moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner DeLacey.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sarah Miles*

District Administrative Assistant

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Board Secretary

SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL