Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners North River Fire District

July 16, 2026

CALL TO ORDER
The Regular meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bell at 5:01 p.m. The following commissioners were present: Jim D. Alderman, Harry L. Blenker, Robert M. Bell, Paul J. Pitcher, Scott R. Smith, and Amy C. Willis. The following commissioners were absent: Logan T Wells.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Chairperson Bell led the Pledge of Allegiance

QUORUM
Chairperson Bell confirmed a physically present quorum for the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA
Chairperson Bell asked whether there was any discussion of the June minutes, the June financial reports, or items to be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

ACTION: Commissioner Alderman moved to accept the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

SPECIAL BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – No public in attendance wished to speak.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Station three (3) Updated – waiting on the County final permit review due on 7/26/26 to continue to the next phase.

2. Station Six (6) Updated – Met with the developer that the property was purchased from regarding the sewer line, requested an easement and requested a letter. Waiting on Swiftmud permit modification, the project is moving along. A discussion took place amongst the Board Members.

NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading of Ordinance 41 – Fire Prevention Code Update was read by Chairman Bell.

   AN ORDINANCE FOR THE NORTH RIVER FIRE DISTRICT ADOPTING A FIRE PREVENTION CODE FOR THE NORTH RIVER FIRE DISTRICT; ESTABLISHING THE BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION, INSPECTION AND INVESTIGATION; ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY; PROVIDING FOR PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SAID RULES AND REGULATIONS; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT, INCLUDING ORDINANCE 35; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

2. Resolution 2026-04 – A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH RIVER FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS, ADOPTING A USER SERVICE FEE SCHEDULE
Updated Fire Prevention User Fees were presented to the Board by Chief Sicking. Chief explained that a Study was completed for all the departments in Manatee County and indicated that a fee increase was warranted. This increase effects twelve items. A discussion took place.

   ACTION: Commissioner Blenker moved to approve Resolution 2026-04 User Fee Schedule, seconded by Commissioner Alderman. The motion passed unanimously.

3. 2024/2025 Financial Audit was presented to the Board by Chief Sicking. He indicated that the District's has received the highest rating of an unmodified opinion from the auditor. The District's net position as of September 30, 2025 on a government-wide basis was $10,389,922. The District's total net position increased by $4,431,165. At the close of the 24/25 fiscal year, the District's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balance of $14,648,211, an increase of $2,280,416 in comparison with the prior year. Of this total amount. $3,798,355 is available for spending at the District's discretion (unassigned fund balance). The District's has a long-term liability including OPEB of $2,551,128, net pension liability of $6,266,966, lease liability of $17,726 and accrued compensated absences of $1,000,722.

   ACTION: Commissioner Pitcher moved to accept the 2024/2025 Financial Statement, seconded by Commissioner Alderman. The motion passed unanimously.

4. 2026/2026 Requested Budget Amendment was presented to the Board. 1. Amend the General Fund Reserve Fund Balance to $10,168,626 per the Audited 2024-2025 Financial Statement. 2. Remove the line "Use of Reserves" from the 2025-2026 Revenue per the Auditor's recommendation reducing the income by 402,787.12. 3. Amend the Impact Fee Fund Reserve Fund Balance to $4,479,585 per the Audited 2024-2025 Financial Statement. 4. Remove the line "Deduct from Reserve" from the 2025-2026 Revenue per the Auditor's recommendation reducing the income by $463,000.00.

   ACTION: Commissioner Alderman moved to accept the 2025/2026 Budget Amendments, seconded by Commissioner Willis. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Resolution 2026-05, A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH RIVER FIRE DISTRICT ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2025/2026 FISCIAL YEAR BUDGET.

   ACTION: Commissioner Pitcher moved to accept Resolution 2026-05, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Requested to move budgeted funds within the 2025-2026 general funds budget, Chief Sicking explained the request to the Board as follows; 1. Move from GF7324 CAPITAL OUTLAY STA 3 – $269,307.55 to GF7325 CAPITAL OUTLAY STA 4 final payment made in current budget year. 2. Move from GF7324 CAPITAL OUTLAY STA 3 – $327,297.85 to GF7326 CAPITAL OUTLAY STA 2 LAND PURCHASE. 3. Move from GF7540 UNIFORM PPE - $10,000.00 TO GF7535 UNIFORMS

   ACTION: Commissioner Alderman moved to accept the following 2025/2026 budget changes, seconded by Commissioner Blenker. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Establishment of dates for the following Public Hearings regarding Ad Valorem Millage Rate, Proposed 26/27 Budget and Non-Ad Valorem Assessment Appeals. Dates recommended for September 3rd at 5:01 pm and September 17th @ 5:01 pm. A discussion took place.

ACTION: Commissioner Alderman moved to accept the following Public Hearing dates of September 9th @ 5:01 pm and September 17th at 5:01 pm, seconded by Commissioner Blenker. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT –

Operations	1. Incident response by station and incident type – total calls run in June 2026 were 648
	2. Community Presentations/Outreach = 9 3. Coverage for Charlotte LODD
Training/Safety	4. Monthly topics: Swim qualification, BLS renewals, Fire Boat Ops., apartment, apartment complex fire, and classroom drive training.
	5. Monthly Training hours completed 2,135
	6. Workplace injuries: 0
Fire Prevention	7. Fire Inspections: 302
Maintenance/Logistics	8. Apparatus repairs: 16 9. R518 had warranty work completed 10. All District fire extinguishers serviced.
Administration	11. County wide TRT under the MCFCA is becoming a one county Team under the MCFCA. 12. CBA tentative agreement is completed. 13. Consensus for current year proposed operating millage rate for the trim at .75

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS –
All Commissioners thanked Staff for the great Audit, glad to see that the user fee schedule is in line with the other districts.

NEXT MEETING DATE:
The next meeting is scheduled: August 10th, 2026, 10 am

ADJOURNMENT
ACTION: Commissioner Pitcher moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Robert M. Bell Chair
CHAIRMAN, ROBERT M. BELL

Scott R Smith
SECRETARY/TREASURER, SCOTT R. SMITH