

**EAST LAKE TARPON SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

UNOFFICIAL
MINUTES

**MINUTES
BOARD MEETING**

FEBRUARY 25, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M.

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN KENNEY
COMMISSIONER DALRYMPLE
COMMISSIONER BURR
COMMISSIONER ROOT
COMMISSIONER MCQUEEN

ALSO PRESENT: TOM JAMISON, CHIEF
ANDY SALZMAN, ATTORNEY

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ATTENDANCE

Chairman Kenney called the meeting to order. The flag was honored by recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

MOVE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 28, 2020 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING AS AMENDED TO REMOVE "VIA SKYPE" NEXT TO COMMISSIONER MCQUEEN'S NAME.

MOTION: McQueen

SECOND: Dalrymple

Action on Motion: Upon Viva Voce Vote the motion passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. Mr. Patrick Wheeler, East Lake Resident – Mr. Wheeler announced that he had received two letters in the mail regarding East Lake Fire Rescue and the Chief and he stated that he would like to submit them to the department. Mr. Wheeler discussed some of his personal feelings on the fire department.

b. Assistant Chief George Bessler – Chief Bessler read a statement to follow up on his September 17, 2019 Hostile Work Environment Complaint against Commissioner McQueen.

c. Chief Gennaro presented Chaplain Kennon Wiley with at Peer Recognition award.

4. **EAST LAKE FIRE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**
MOVE TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT AS PRESENTED.
MOTION: McQueen
SECOND: Root
Action on Motion: Upon Viva Voce Vote the motion passed unanimously.

5. **FIREFIGHTER REPORT – Lt. Lane**

6. **FINANCIAL REPORT**
MOVE TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT AS PRESENTED.
MOTION: Root
SECOND: Burr
Action on Motion: Upon Viva Voce Vote the motion passed unanimously.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**
a. **Marine 57**
b. **Santa Program Review**

8. **NEW BUSINESS**
a. **Hostile Workplace/Operational Interference Complaint Investigation Findings**

Chairman Kenney read the reviewed the Investigation Findingsn Chief Bessler’s Complaint on Commissioner McQueen. He opened the floor to discussion on how to handle the findings of the Investigation.

MOVE: BASED ON THE INVESTIGATION FINDINGS OF THE GRAY ROBINSON INVESTIGATION THAT WE CONSIDER APPLYING A VIOLATION OF SECTION 8 OF OUR BYLAWS AND TO ISSUE A VERBAL REPRIMAND TO COMMISSIONER MCQUEEN.

MOTION: Burr
SECOND: Burr

Action on Motion: Upon Viva Voce Vote the motion failed with 2-2 vote, more than one opposing vote automatically fails the motion. In favor: Burr, Root

Opposed: Dalrymple, Kenney

Chairman Kenney read his Statement of Record into the minutes. “The East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District Board of Fire Commissioners having reviewed the investigative report dated 8th January 2020 prepared by the independent counsel Gray Robinson enters the following Statement of Record. On September 17, 2019 a complaint was filed by Assistant Chief George Bessler regarding Commissioner Tom McQueen at a public meeting. The complaint alleged that Commissioner McQueen created a hostile work environment for Assistant Chief Bessler and other administrative staff in violation of the district’s standard operating guidelines 233. A subsequent investigation occurred of certain SOG 233 violations along with the potential violation of SOG 101.2 Fire Commissioners Standard Operating Guidelines and Fire Commission By-Laws. The findings of the individual counsel are as follows:

Commissioner McQueen did not violate SOG 233, Commissioner McQueen did not interfere with district operations concerning his inquiry into employee benefits, in the district's hiring process or in his entry into Chief Bessler's office. Commissioner McQueen did interfere with district operations concerning the Safe Place and Safe Haven matters and in his communication directly with the bargaining unit agent about bargaining issues. On February 25, 2020 the Board of Fire Commissioners at the dually noted public meeting voted to adopt this statement of record. This matter is now closed."

MOVE TO ACCEPT THE STATEMENT OF RECORD AS READ.

MOTION: Dalrymple

SECOND: Root

Action on Motion: Upon Viva Voce Vote the motion passed 3-1.

In favor: Kenney, Dalrymple, Root

Opposed: Burr

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMISSIONERS

a. Mr. Patrick Wheeler, East Lake Resident discussed some of his personal feelings on the department for a second time.

MOVE TO ADJOURN AT 7:42 P.M.

MOTION: Burr

SECOND: McQueen

Action on Motion: Upon Viva Voce Vote the motion passed unanimously.

10. ADJOURNED TO THE MARCH, 31 BOARD MEETING AT 6:30 P.M.

Submitted by:

Katy Cunningham, Recording Secretary

Approved By:

David Root, Secretary