



**NORTH COLLIER FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

MINUTES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026 ■ 9:00 AM

1885 Veterans Park Drive ■ Naples, FL 34109

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christopher Lombardo called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. With five of five commissioners present (James Calamari, Christopher Crossan, Norman Feder, Christopher Lombardo, and Stephen Popper), quorum was met.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Chief Financial Office, Ben Van Klingerren requested Agenda Item *10G-Request Approval of 2026-2027 USAR HazMat MARC Grant Agreement*, be removed from the agenda.

Commissioner Feder moved to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 23, 2026 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

B. July 23, 2026 Budget Workshop for 2026/2027 Fiscal Year Budget

Commissioner Crossan moved to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Commissioner Feder seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

5. CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Eloy Ricardo, Deputy Chief Jorge Aguilera, Deputy Chief Kris Thomas, and Deputy Chief Michael Jimenez gave verbal reports. Chief Financial Officer Ben Van Klingerren gave comment.

Discussion ensued with general consensus of the Board for the District to begin coordinating education efforts for Amendment 3.

Chairman Lombardo directed Staff to conduct an analysis of the District's surplus land. He also directed Public Information Officer Heather Mazurkiewicz to present Bentley Village with a token of the District's appreciation for the firefighter academy scholarships.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. July 2026

Commissioner Calamari read prepared summary of financial highlights for July 2026 Treasurer's Report. Board accepted report as presented into record.



7. LABOR REPORT

Local 2297 President Adam Wilson gave verbal report.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Table 1: Expenditures for Board Approval

Category	Amount
General Fund Unbudgeted	\$19,198
General Fund Emergency Purchases	\$0
Addition of Fixed Assets	\$0
Deletion of Fixed Assets	\$70,833
Other	\$0

Commissioner Calamari moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Feder seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

Chairman Christopher Lombardo adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m. in order to begin the Budget Workshop meeting.

This meeting was called back to order at 10:41 a.m.

9. OLD BUSINESS

A. Procurement of Fire Apparatus and Equipment within Current Industry Trends (Recurring Discussion Item)

Deputy Chief Kris Thomas noted there were no updates for the month.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request Approval of Renewal of Firefighter Cancer Insurance for the Period of October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027

Commissioner Feder moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation to waive the competitive bidding process and approve the renewal of the cancer insurance policy with United Badges for the period of October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

Commissioner Calamari seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0



B. Request Approval of Renewal of Behavioral Health Services Agreement with Counseling Associates of America, LLC. for the Period October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027

Commissioner Crossan gave verbal comment regarding concerns related to service delivery by Counseling Associates. Discussion ensued. Chairman Lombardo moved to table this item until the September 24, 2026 Board meeting to allow staff sufficient time to follow up with Counseling Associates about the concerns. Commissioner Calamari seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

C. Request Approval of Amended Human Resources and Benefits Consulting Agreement with OneDigital for the Period of October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027

Commissioner Crossan moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation the proposed amendment to the Benefit Advisory and Consulting Service Agreement between the District and Digital Insurance/OneDigital, revising the compensation structure to per-employee-per-month (PEPM) model for the period of October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027. Commissioner Feder seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

D. Request Approval of New Employment Contract Between District and Fire Chief Eloy Ricardo

Discussion and Q&A ensued. Commissioner Crossan requested each Commissioner submit a performance goal to be included in the agreement and tracked annually.

Chairman Lombardo moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation the Employment Agreement between the District and Fire Chief Eloy Ricardo, effective October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2031, and to include five (5) performance goals to be submitted by the Commissioners. Commissioner Feder seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

E. Request Adoption of Resolution 26-005 Amending the Firefighter Pension Plan

Chief Financial Officer, Ben Van Klinger, gave verbal comment.

Commissioner Calamari moved to adopt as presented per staff recommendation Resolution 26-005, amending the Firefighter Pension Plan; updating Section 2 Definitions, replacing the mortality table used to determine actuarial equivalence. Commissioner Popper seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

F. Request Approval to Revise District Policy 202 Fund Balance and Reserve

Commissioner Calamari moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation amended District policy 202 (Fund Balance and Reserve) effective September 1, 2026. Commissioner Feder seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

G. Request Approval of 2026-2027 USAR HazMat MARC Grant Agreement

Per Agenda Item # 3, this item was removed.



H. Request Approval of Deputy Medical Director Agreement Renewal

Commissioner Feder moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation the renewal of Dr. Jeffrey Panozzo's Deputy Medical Director Contract. Commissioner Popper seconded.
MOTION CARRIED 5:0

11. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS & STAFF

Chairman Lombardo and Public Information Officer, Heather Mazurkiewicz, gave verbal comments.

12. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Calamari moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Feder seconded.
MOTION CARRIED 5:0 Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.