



FINAL PUBLIC HEARING/DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2024

Members of the public who wish to comment on matters before the District Board may do so in person at 1 East Drive, Key Largo, Florida or online. Members of the public who virtually participate in the meeting must mute themselves until called upon to speak. Virtual Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86268176300>

1. AGENDA

1a. *Call to Order*

Chairman Allen called to order the September 23, 2024 Final Public Hearing/District Meeting at 6:00 PM.

1b. *Pledge of Allegiance*

Commissioner Conklin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1c. *Roll Call*

Carol Greco called the roll. The following Commissioners were present: Anthony Allen, Frank Conklin, Kenny Edge, George Mirabella and Danny Powers. There was a quorum.

Also present in person or via Zoom were Carol Greco, Shauna Morris, Scott Robinson, David Garrido, C.J. Jones, Jason Mumper, Don Bock and Jennifer Johnson.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

2a. *Approval of September 23, 2024 Final Public Hearing/District Meeting Agenda*

Commissioner Mirabella made ***motion to approve the September 23, 2024 Final Public Hearing/District Meeting Agenda***. Commissioner Edge seconded, and the Board unanimously passed the motion.

2b. *Approval of September 9, 2024 1st Public Hearing District Meeting Minutes*

Commissioner Mirabella made ***motion to approve the September 9, 2024 District Meeting Minutes***. Commissioner Edge seconded, and the Board unanimously passed the motion.



3. PUBLIC COMMENT

R. Bleser commented on circumstances surrounding a 2017 water rescue lawsuit and a request to be reimbursed out of pocket legal expenses in defense of the litigation. Mr. Bleser provided some background surrounding the rescue and the existence of a wet team at the time of the incident. Several comments were made regarding the call; wet team and financial responsibility for Mr. Bleser's legal fees. Attorney Morris asked that Mr. Bleser submit his invoices for review.

4. CHAIRMAN REPORT

None

5. SECRETARY REPORT

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

6a. DISCUSSION: Status of Clerk Position Candidates [Greco]

A conversation regarding three applicants was had. The Board provided the clerk with instructions to redact the applicants' names and submit same for review. Additionally discussion was had regarding continued advertisement. The Board agreed to advertise the Clerk's position for an additional two weeks in the local papers.

6b. DISCUSSION: Status of Station 24 Building Project [Conklin]

Capt. Garcia provided a progress report. The Planning Committee approved the floor plan. Next steps includes meeting to discuss pre-bid application; design/development phase, construction documents to go out to bid to contractors. FDOT permit not required. Approval to move forward with meeting with county to start pre-bid application process.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7a. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL: Increase to Fire Department Funds Advance from \$100,000 to \$150,000 [Johnson]

Ms. Johnson came before the board requesting an advance from the Fire Department's Budget from \$100,000 to \$150,000 to address increasing of staff and insurance; end of month volunteer reimbursements.



KEY LARGO FIRE RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT

Seat 1: Tony Allen; Seat 2: Frank Conklin; Seat 3: Kenny Edge; Seat 4: George Mirabella; Seat 5: Danny Powers

Commissioner Conklin made a ***motion to approve the Increase of Fire Department Funds Advance from \$100,000 to \$150,000***. Commissioner Edge seconded, and the Board unanimously passed the motion.

7b. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL: Deposit for Fire Boat of \$150,000 MOU Funding From Monroe County before September 30, 2024 [Bock]

Chief Bock led a discussion regarding funding from the county for the deposit of the fire boat which appears to be moot as funding rolled over to September 2026 ILA discretionary sales tax. There is a total of \$750k; approximately \$150k has been used; there is a \$300k grant from the State Fire Marshall. Any unused funding can potentially be allocated to building, hydrants, etc.

8. LEGAL REPORT

None

9. FINANCE REPORT

9a. DISCUSSION: KLFREMS District FY 2024-2025 Proposed Budget [Johnson]

Ms. Johnson provides this is the Final Public Hearing for Budget. Changes were made to add 3 fire fighter positions; decrease retirement; ambulance decreased retirement by 10k.

Line 230 – 50% for dependent coverage; not included in ambulance corp. budget. Commissioner Powers made calls to approximately 11 departments regarding dependent coverage; employees pay \$50-\$100 per pay period for dependent coverage.

Discussions regarding overtime pay of \$4k week for EMS and Fire. Cannot run shifts as currently structured, i.e. a 40/hr. work week; minimum staffing; vacation; sick for coverage on shifts. Capt. Garrido provided information regarding other county/city departments who structure their professionals on a 28 day pay cycle; 312 hours, anything over that is OT. We are a private organization and have to go to 40 hr. work week. Anything after 216 hours is OT. The study currently in progress will address this issue. James Angle is awaiting email addresses for fire, ambulance, finance, legal to create OneDrive access for all documents so they can proceed with their study.

9b. DISCUSSION: Resolution 2024-005 - A Resolution of the Key Largo Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services District, Florida, Adopting the Final Levy of Ad Valorem Taxes for the District for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date [Johnson]



KEY LARGO FIRE RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT

Seat 1: Tony Allen; Seat 2: Frank Conklin; Seat 3: Kenny Edge; Seat 4: George Mirabella; Seat 5: Danny Powers

Line 1 – Millage Approved and Adopted for final operating millage rate for the District is 1.1975 mills, which is greater than the rolled-back rate of 1.696 mills by 12.06% for the allowance of the addition of 3 firefighters; step plan

Ms. Johnson read the resolution into the record, **A Resolution of the Key Largo Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services District, Florida, Adopting the Final Levy of Ad Valorem Taxes for the District for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.**

Commissioner Mirabella made a *motion to approve Resolution 2024-005 - A Resolution of the Key Largo Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services District, Florida, Adopting the Final Levy of Ad Valorem Taxes for the District for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025; Providing for Severability; and Providing an Effective Date.* Commissioner Conklin seconded and the motions passes by a 4-1 vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Allen	Yes
Commissioner Conklin	Yes
Commissioner Edge	No
Commissioner Mirabella	Yes
Commissioner Powers	Yes

9c. *DISCUSSION: Resolution 2024-006 - A Resolution of the Key Largo Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services District, Florida, Providing for Adoption of the Final Budget of the District for the Fiscal Year Commencing on October 1, 2024, and Ending on September 30, 2025; Providing for Severability: and Providing an Effective Date [Johnson]*

Ms. Johnson read into the record, **Whereas the Key Largo Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services District of Monroe County, Florida, set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$12,695,230.**

Commissioner Mirabella made a *motion to approve Resolution 2024-006 - A Resolution of the Key Largo Fire Rescue and Emergency Medical Services District, Florida, Providing for Adoption of the Final Budget of the District for the Fiscal Year Commencing on October 1, 2024, and Ending on September 30, 2025; Providing for Severability: and Providing an Effective Date .* Commissioner Conklin seconded and the motions passes by a 3-2 vote.



KEY LARGO FIRE RESCUE & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT

Seat 1: Tony Allen; Seat 2: Frank Conklin; Seat 3: Kenny Edge; Seat 4: George Mirabella; Seat 5: Danny Powers

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Allen	Yes
Commissioner Conklin	Yes
Commissioner Edge	No
Commissioner Mirabella	Yes
Commissioner Powers	No

10. AMBULANCE CORPS REPORT

None

11. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

None

12. COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Conklin commented on his attendance at the grand opening of Monroe County's Emergency Operations Center ("EOC") and how depicts generations of stories and the progression of the Marathon. Highly recommends anyone with the opportunity to view the center, to do so.

A contested and derogatory discussion on the Board Unity Policy ensued between board members and community attendees which erupted into accusations of violations of the policy by certain members. Legal provided that any complaints be addressed by legal to ensure no one's first amendment rights are being violated.

Board members are stewards of the district to ensure taxpayers money is not being overspent.

Chairman Allen called to order and ended the meeting at 7:03PM.

13. NEXT MEETING

Not addressed.

14. ADJOURN