



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

MINUTES

(APPROVED 02-26-2026)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 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

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 18, 2025 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

B. January 16, 2026 Special Meeting to Discuss ITB 25-002

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

5. CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Eloy Ricardo, Deputy Chief Michael Jimenez, Deputy Chief Jorge Aguilera, and Assistant Chief Ben Rohde gave verbal updates on various matters. It was noted that North Collier Fire Control and Rescue District won the 2025 Fire Training Center of the Year award at the Florida Fire Chief's Conference.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. December 2025

Commissioner Calamari read prepared summary of financial highlights for December 2025 Treasurer's Report. Board accepted report as presented into record. Chief Financial Officer, Ben Van Klingerren gave verbal comment.



7. LABOR REPORT

Local 2297 President, Adam Wilson, gave verbal report then introduced Ken LaMotte from Bentley Village to speak about the scholarship program Bentley Village is developing to benefit students of the NCFR/FSW Firefighter Academy.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Table 1: Expenditures for Board Approval

Category	Amount
General Fund Unbudgeted	\$41,000
General Fund Emergency Purchases	\$0
Addition of Fixed Assets	\$0
Deletion of Fixed Assets	\$18,422
Other	\$0

Commissioner Calamari moved to approve Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Feder seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

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.

B. Request for Additional Board Direction for Formation of Committees

Deputy Director Lori Freiburg gave comment that for the formation of the new committees, The Legislative Committee and the Security & Technology Committee, there are two options for the type of committee they could be: 1) fact finding committee or 2) a recommendation committee. It was noted that the recommendation committees fall under the Florida Sunshine Law, thus requiring proper noticing, minute-taking and agendas. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Feder moved to approve the Legislative Committee and the Security & Technology Committee both be recommendation committees. Commissioner Popper seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0



10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Nominations and Election of Board of Fire Commissioner Officers

Deputy Director Lori Freiburg gave comment. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Calamari moved to approve to keep Fire Commission Board Officers the same as calendar year 2025: Chairman – Commissioner Christopher Lombardo; Vice-Chairman – Commissioner Norman Feder; and and Secretary/Treasurer – Commissioner James Calamari. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

B. Request Acceptance of Florida Department of Financial Services Hazmat Grant Agreement

CFO Ben Van Klingerren gave verbal comment. Commissioner Calamari moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation that the Board approve the 2025-2026 USAR HazMat MARC Grant agreement – Contract Number FM1219 totaling \$55,000 for the period January 29, 2026 through June 30, 2026. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

C. Request to Open a New FL-FIT Cash Pool Account – Special Revenue Fund

CFO Ben Van Klingerren gave verbal comment. Commissioner Calamari moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation the opening of a new Special Revenue Fund cash pool account with FL-FIT. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0

11. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Popper, Commissioner Calamari, and Commissioner Crossan gave comment. Commissioner Crossan requested Staff add to the February agenda an item to discuss the possible formation of a Mental Health Committee. Discussion occurred regarding the overtime compensation matter originally raised by Labor at the December 18, 2025 Board of Fire Commissioners' meeting. Chairman Lombardo suggested that individual Commissioners may meet separately with CFO Ben VanKlingerren to review the financial and operational context of the issue to ensure a full understanding. No action was taken.

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

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Feder moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Popper seconded. MOTION CARRIED 5:0 Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.