



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

MINUTES

(APPROVED 01-29-2026)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025 ■ 9:00 AM

1885 Veterans Park Drive ■ Naples, FL 34109

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Christopher Lombardo called meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. With four of five commissioners present (James Calamari, Christopher Crossan, Christopher Lombardo, and Stephen Popper), quorum was met. Commissioner Norman Feder was absent from the meeting.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Commissioner Calamari moved to approve agenda as presented. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 4:0

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 20, 2025 Board of Fire Commissioners' Meeting

Commissioner Popper moved to approve minutes as presented. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 4:0

5. CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Eloy Ricardo and Deputy Chief Jorge Aguilera gave verbal reports. Discussion ensued. Chairman Lombardo gave direction for staff to develop ideas to maximize the District's presence in the 2026 Naples Christmas Parade, enlisting the help of scouts from the District's chartered scout programs. Additionally, Chairman Lombardo directed staff to schedule a meeting with District Counsel, Laura Donaldson, to discuss the Florida legislative initiative to reform property taxes, including the potential option to offset lost revenue through an increased sales tax.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. November 2025

Commissioner Calamari read a prepared summary for the November 2025 Treasurer's Report. Board accepted report as presented into record.



7. LABOR REPORT

Local 2297 President, Adam Wilson, advised the Board of a union concern related to overtime compensation paid during the transition to the new collective bargaining agreement. Discussion ensued. The Board acknowledged the matter and directed that the Chairman meet with the CFO to discuss the matter and its specific details.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Table 1: Expenditures for Board Approval

Category	Amount
General Fund Unbudgeted	\$8,420
General Fund Emergency	\$0
Purchases	
Addition of Fixed Assets	\$0
Deletion of Fixed Assets	\$348,358
Other	\$0

Commissioner Crossan moved to approve Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Popper seconded. MOTION CARRIED 3:0 (Commissioner Calamari was absent for the vote, having left the meeting temporarily.)

9. OLD BUSINESS

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

Fire Chief Eloy Ricardo noted he had no updates for the month.

Chairman Lombardo requested a break at 10:01 a.m. Chairman Lombardo resumed the meeting at 10:08 a.m.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual Appointments of Commissioners to District Committees for Calendar Year 2026

Deputy Director Lori Freiburg gave verbal comment. Discussion ensued with Board direction to Staff to form two new committees: a Security/Technology Committee and a Legislative Committee. After further discussion and Board consensus, Chairman Lombardo moved for 1) Commissioner Calamari to remain on the existing Recognition Committee; 2) Commissioner Crossan to remain on the existing Medical Insurance Committee; 3) the formation of the Security/Technology Committee and the appointment of Commissioner Popper to that committee; and 4) the formation



of the Legislative Committee and the appointment of Chairman Lombardo to that committee. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 4:0

B. Request Approval of Agreement Between District and Community Health Partners for Provision of Behavioral Health Services for January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026

Deputy Director Lori Freiburg gave verbal comment. Commissioner Calamari moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation the agreement from Community Health Partners for behavioral health services for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 4:0

C. Request Approval of Renewal of District's Auto, Property and Liability Insurance for the Period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026

Chief Financial Officer Ben VanKlingeren gave verbal comment. Commissioner Calamari moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation the combined policy of VFIS, Lloyd's of London and Wright Insurance for property, liability, and auto insurance with a modified building valuation for the period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 4:0

D. Request Approval to Engage Laura Donaldson of Florida Environmental, Fire, and Government Law, PA as District Legal Counsel of Record

Chairman Lombardo moved to approve, as presented per staff recommendation, the waiver of the bidding policy for legal services and to accept the proposal from Attorney Laura Donaldson and her firm, Florida Environmental, Fire, & Government Law, PA. Ms. Donaldson has previously served as the District's attorney with the firm Manson Bolves Donaldson Tanner and is opening her own law firm; this action formally documents the designation of both Ms. Donaldson and Florida Environmental, Fire, & Government Law, PA as the District's Legal Counsel of Record. Commissioner Popper seconded. MOTION CARRIED 4:0

E. Request Approval for Engagement of Florida Environmental, Fire, and Government Law, PA for 2026 Florida Legislative Session

Chairman Lombardo moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation the waiving of the bidding policy and the engagement of Attorney Laura Donaldson for District representation before the 2026 Florida Legislative Session. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 4:0

F. Request Approval of Selection of Contractor for Station 49 Construction

Deputy Chief Kris Thomas gave verbal report. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Calamari moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation to award the construction contract to Build, LLC and to authorize the Fire Chief to execute the



Agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$7,439,350.00 for the construction of Fire Station 49. Commissioner Popper seconded. MOTION CARRIED 4:0

G. Request Acceptance of 2024 Assistance to Firefighter Grant Award for Airpacks

Deputy Chief Kris Thomas gave verbal report. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Popper moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation to accept the 2024 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant award in the amount of \$1,118,181.81. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 4:0

H. Request Approval of District Policies

Chairman Lombardo gave verbal comment. Commissioner Calamari moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation new District Policy *109 Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use* with effective date of January 1, 2026. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 4:0

I. Request Approval of Board of Fire Commissioner Meeting Date Change for 2026 Schedule

Commissioner Calamari moved to approve as presented per staff recommendation the revisions to the 2026 Board of Fire Commissioner meeting schedule. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 4:0

11. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners gave verbal comments. Commissioner Calamari thanked the District for its support for a recent family emergency, and asked that his thank you be included in the record. Chairman Lombardo directed staff to ensure that the District's veterans were included in the 2026 American Constitutional Rights Union (ACRU) event.

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

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Calamari moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Crossan seconded. MOTION CARRIED 4:0 Meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.